2010 Annual Distinguished Lecture in Multicultural Psychology
Consortium for Multicultural Psychology Research
Department of Psychology, Michigan State University

Friday, March 19, 2010
3:30-5:00 pm, Psychology Room 118
(Reception, Room 230, 5:00-6:30 pm)

Intelligence and how to get it:
Why schools and cultures count

Professor Richard Nisbett
Theodore M. Newcomb
Distinguished University Professor
University of Michigan

Dr. Richard Nisbett is Theodore M. Newcomb Distinguished University Professor at the University of Michigan and is the first psychologist in his field in a generation to be elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Nisbett is one of the world’s foremost authorities on how culture and social context affect thinking, perception and behavior. In his recent book, The Geography of Thought, Professor Nisbett looks at how Asians and Westerners think differently and why. In his new book, Intelligence and How to Get It: Why Schools and Cultures Count, Dr. Nisbett challenges the prevailing idea that biology and especially genetics determine intelligence. Instead, he emphasizes the role of culture in determining intelligence and he gives us new tools for understanding and fostering the kind of success for which we use ‘intelligence’ as an indicator. A Research Professor at the Research Center for Group Dynamics at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, Dr. Nisbett also studies group decision making, conformity and independence, and social factors affecting school performance, among other subjects. He has also received the Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award from the American Psychological Association as well as the William James Fellow Award from the American Psychological Society.