



Mitchell Stevens

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

STEINHARDT SCHOOL OF CULTURE, EDUCATION, & HUMAN DEV.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

"Five Higher Educations"

WEDNESDAY,

JANUARY 16

10:00 – 11:00 A.M.

Tribute Room (1322)

School Of Education

Dr. Stevens will review the primary metaphors social scientists have invoked or implied in scholarship on U.S. higher education over the last fifty years: a sieve for sorting and stratifying populations; an incubator for the development of competent individual actors; and a temple for the legitimation of official knowledge. While these metaphors have been enormously generative, their utility is limited. Drawing on recent empirical and theoretical work across the social sciences, Dr. Stevens suggests two additional metaphors for the study of higher education: hub and welfare.

Biographical Sketch:

Mitchell Stevens (B.A., Macalester College, 1988; M.A. 1989 and Ph.D., Sociology, Northwestern, 1996) is Associate Professor of Sociology and Education. He is an organizational sociologist with specific interests in higher education and the quantification of academic accomplishment. He is the author of *Creating a Class: College Admissions and the Education of Elites* (Harvard University Press, 2007). His first book, *Kingdom of Children* (Princeton University Press, 2001), is a widely-acclaimed critical sociology of the U.S. home education movement.