"The Changing Face of Houston and America: Tracking Responses to the Economic and Demographic Transformations through 33 Years of Houston Surveys"

Speaker: Stephen Klineberg
Founding Director, Kinder Institute
Professor of Sociology, Rice University

A graduate of Haverford College, with an M.A. from the University of Paris and a Ph.D. from Harvard, Stephen Klineberg is a Professor of Sociology at Rice University. In 1982, he and his students initiated the annual “Kinder Institute Houston Area Survey,” now well into its fourth decade of tracking the remarkable changes in the demographic patterns, economic outlooks, experiences and beliefs of Harris County residents. The recipient of twelve major teaching awards and a much sought-after speaker in the Houston community and beyond, Klineberg is completing a series of published reports (and soon a book) on this ongoing research, while also serving as founding-director of Rice University’s Kinder Institute for Urban Research.

Description of the lecture: The Houston region recovered from the collapse of the oil-boom in the 1980s to find itself in the midst of a fully global, high-tech, knowledge-based economy and a remarkable demographic revolution. These are the same trends that are refashioning the social and political landscape across all of urban America, perhaps nowhere more clearly seen than in the Houston context. We review the findings from more than three decades of systematic survey research to explore the way these transformations are unfolding, and to consider their implications for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Discussant: Bill Fulton
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