Publicized acts of bigotry and hate speech have given rise to a national conversation about the need for “safe spaces” in higher education. Even before that, many social science researchers, educators, and others paid careful attention to assessing and creating “safe spaces” for students, faculty, and staff. To date, however, much of the attention has been on psychological safety. And for good reason. Psychological safety—feeling included, welcomed, liked, respected—promotes sense of belonging, which in turn promotes academic achievement and persistence. Here, we focus on physical safety. We consider whether and how physical safety is related to sense of belonging, and whether physical safety concerns contribute to gender- and race-related gaps in belonging at elite institutions.

Monday, May 1, 2017
3:30 p.m.
Gilmer 190

Coffee at 3:15 pm.
Reception will be held after the talk.