Jennifer A. Richeson, PhD

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Jennifer A. Richeson is the Philip R. Allen Professor of Psychology and Director of the Social Perception and Communication Laboratory at Yale University. For over 20 years, she has conducted research on the social psychology of intergroup relations. Specifically, she examines processes of mind and brain that influence how people experience racial and other forms of societal diversity, be it efforts to navigate one-on-one interracial interactions or the political consequences of the increasing racial/ethnic diversity of the United States. Much of Professor Richeson’s recent research considers how people reason about and respond to societal inequality and injustice.

Professor Richeson’s empirical and theoretical work has been published in numerous scholarly journals and has been featured in popular outlets such as The Economist and The New York Times and The Ezra Klein Show. She has been recognized with many honors and awards, including a MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship for her work "highlighting and analyzing major challenges facing all races in America and in the continuing role played by prejudice and stereotyping in our lives." Professor Richeson is also the recipient of the Distinguished Scientific Award for Early Career Contributions to Psychology from the American Psychological Association (APA), the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, and the Career Trajectory Award from the Society of Experimental Social Psychology. Professor Richeson is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and, in 2019, received an honorary doctorate from Brown University for work that “expands the boundaries of knowledge on interracial interaction and the living contexts of diversity.”

Richeson was born and raised in Baltimore, MD. She earned a Bachelor of Science in psychology from Brown University, and a MA and PhD in social psychology from Harvard University. Prior to joining the Yale faculty in 2016, Richeson was the MacArthur Professor of Psychology at Northwestern University, where she was also a Faculty Fellow at the Institute for Policy Research. Before Northwestern, Richeson taught in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Dartmouth College for five years, and was a visiting fellow at Stanford University’s Research Institute of Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity.

Through her teaching and research, Richeson hopes to contribute to a better understanding of intergroup relations, including how best to foster culturally diverse environments that are both cohesive and just.
Selected Recent Publications


