

FACULTY

LAURA L. CARSTENSEN, PHD

As a member of the Psychology Department at Stanford University, Dr. Laura Carstensen is also the founding director of the Stanford Center on Longevity and the Fairleigh S. Dickinson Jr. Professor in Public Policy. For more than 20 years her research has been supported by the National Institute on Aging, and in 2005 she was honored with a MERIT award. Carstensen is best known for socioemotional selectivity theory, a life-span theory of motivation. With her students and colleagues, she has published over 125 articles on life-span development. Her most current empirical research focuses on ways in which motivational changes influence cognitive processing.

Dr. Carstensen is a fellow in a number of professional organizations including the Association for Psychological Science, the American Psychological Association and the Gerontological Society of America. She has chaired two studies for the National Academy of Sciences, resulting in *The Aging Mind* and *When I'm 64*. In 2009, she authored *A Long Bright Future: An Action Plan for a Lifetime of Happiness, Health, and Financial Security*.

The recipient of numerous professional honors, she has been selected as a Guggenheim Fellow, received the Richard Kalish Award for Innovative Research and the Distinguished Career Award from the Gerontological Society of America, as well as Stanford University's Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching. She is a member of the MacArthur Foundation's Research Network on an Aging Society. Professor Carstensen received her BS from the University of Rochester and her PhD in Clinical Psychology from West Virginia University.

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