In contemporary Nigeria, the performance of masculinity requires money. Yet the need to have and spend money sits uneasily with widely shared values regarding intimacy and sociality. Drawing on his book about masculinity in Nigeria, in this talk Professor Daniel Jordan Smith uses the concept of conspicuous redistribution as lens to understand Nigerian men’s behavior as they navigate the complex geometry of money and intimate social relations in their everyday lives.

Daniel Jordan Smith is the Charles C Tillinghast, Jr ’32 Professor International Studies and Professor of Anthropology at Brown University. Smith conducts research in Nigeria focusing on a range of issues, including population processes, political culture, kinship, gender, and health.

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