



CHANGE THE WALLPAPER

"A provocative, enlightening read and an indispensable guide for anyone ready for the challenge of fixing our unfair world."
—LAURIE SANTOS,
HOST OF THE HAPPINESS LAB PODCAST

Transforming Cultural Patterns
to Build More Just Communities

NILANJANA DASGUPTA



Change the Wallpaper: Transforming Cultural Patterns to Build More Just Communities Nilanjana Dasgupta, Ph.D.

Provost Professor of Psychology and the founding Director of the Institute of Diversity Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Jerry Kang

Ralph and Shirley Shapiro Distinguished Professor of Law and Distinguished Professor of Asian American Studies at the UCLA School of Law.

Register: www.bit.ly/DasguptaFANWebinar

PLUS: After-Hours Event!

Purchase a copy of *Change the Wallpaper* from FAN's partner bookseller The Book Stall to receive a link to an interactive "After-Hours" event hosted by Dasgupta. Details on the Zoom registration form.

This event is #freeandopentothepublic and will be recorded.

Suitable for youth 12+

Presented by FAN and 55 of our member schools and organizations.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NILANJANA DASGUPTA, Ph.D. - ON ZOOM

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Monday, May 5, 2025, 7:00 PM CT, Change the Wallpaper: Transforming Cultural Patterns to Build More Just Communities, a FAN webinar featuring Nilanjana Dasgupta, Ph.D. in conversation with Jerry Kang. REGISTER: www.bit.ly/DasguptaFANWebinar

BONUS AFTER-HOURS EVENT: Attendees who purchase a copy *Change the Wallpaper* from FAN's partner bookseller The Book Stall are invited to attend an AFTER-HOURS event hosted by Dasgupta that will start immediately after the webinar. Details on the webinar registration page.

How can ordinary people fight for social justice? Can individual actions change structural inequality? In ***Change the Wallpaper: Transforming Cultural Patterns to Build More Just Communities***, social psychologist **Nilanjana Dasgupta, Ph.D.**, offers a science-driven approach to achieving social change, arguing that small changes to the “wallpaper”—the local cultures around us—are far more effective in producing structural change locally than seeking change through bias awareness training, symbolic acts, or relying solely on good intentions.

By integrating knowledge across diverse fields—including psychology, neuroscience, education, sociology, economics, public health, urban studies, cultural geography, and landscape architecture—Dasgupta shows how attitudes and beliefs take root in our mind based on what we see and hear every day. This wallpaper nudges our behavior to create or reinforce small inequalities that go unnoticed and accumulate over time. Disrupting these patterns and habits requires creating opportunities for social mixing across lines of difference, allowing new relationships to form, and promoting a better understanding of unfamiliar others' experiences, followed by organizing and collective action. Together, these types of experiences and actions bring real change within our reach—in workplaces, in neighborhoods, in cities and towns. Dasgupta provides fresh, actionable approaches for everyone interested in working toward justice for all.

Dasgupta is a Provost Professor of Psychology and the founding Director of the Institute of Diversity Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She will be in conversation with **Jerry Kang**, the Ralph and Shirley Shapiro Distinguished Professor of Law and Distinguished Professor of Asian American Studies at the UCLA School of Law.

This event suitable for youth 12+. It will be recorded and available on FAN's website and YouTube channel.

Sponsored by **FAN**, in partnership with The Alliance for Early Childhood, The Avery Coonley School, Baker Demonstration School, Beacon Academy, Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School, Brickton Montessori School, British International School of Chicago/Lincoln Park, British International School of Chicago/South Loop, Catherine Cook School, Chiaravalle Montessori School, Chicago Jewish Day School, Compass Health Center, Connections for the Homeless, Countryside Day School, Evanston Scholars, Evanston Township HS D202, The Family Institute at Northwestern University, Family Service Center, Foundation 65, The Frances Xavier Warde School, Francis W. Parker School, Glencoe D35, Glenview Public Library, Gorton Center, Haven Youth and Family Services, Hyde Park Day School, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Kenilworth D38, Lake Bluff D65, Lake Forest Academy, Lake Forest Community High School D115, Lake Forest Country Day School, Latin School of Chicago, Leo Catholic High School, Lycée Français de Chicago, Morgan Park Academy, Near North Montessori School, New Trier High School D203, North Shore Country Day, Northwestern University Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations, Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy, Pope John XXIII School, Psychgeist Media, Regina Dominican High School, Resurrection College Prep High School, Rogers Park Montessori School, Roycemore School, Santa Clara University School of Law, Science & Arts Academy, The Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School, Stevenson High School D125, Township High School D113, UChicago Network for College Success, Wilmette Public Library, Youth & Opportunity United.