Sunday, March 20, 2016, 3pm
Zellerbach Hall

Reid Hoffman

In Conversation with Chancellor Nicholas B. Dirks

Cal Performances’ 2015–2016 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.
BERKELEY TALKS is a new series of conversations that brings together international thought leaders, public scholars, creators, and innovators to examine the distinctive issues of our time. These luminaries will engage in dialogue at the sometimes surprising nexus between their area of expertise and the University’s core mission, celebrating the Chancellor’s vision of a vibrant, engaged, and forward-looking campus culture.

Reid Hoffman, an accomplished entrepreneur, executive, and investor, has played an integral role in building many of today’s leading consumer technology businesses.

In 2003, Hoffman cofounded LinkedIn, the world’s largest professional networking service. Today, LinkedIn has more than 300 million members in 200 countries and territories around the world.

In 2009, Hoffman joined Greylock Partners, a leading Silicon Valley venture capital firm. His investments include Airbnb, Mozilla (Firefox), Edmodo, Shopkick, Swipely, Wrapp, Coupons.com, and Groupon. Prior to Greylock, he personally invested in dozens of internet companies including Facebook, Flickr, and Zynga. He serves on a number of not-for-profit boards, including Kiva, DoSomething, and Endeavor.


Hoffman earned a master’s degree in philosophy from Oxford University, where he was a Marshall Scholar, and a bachelor’s degree with distinction in symbolic systems from Stanford University.

Nicholas B. Dirks became the 10th chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley, on June 1, 2013. An internationally renowned historian and anthropologist, he is a leader in higher education and is well-known for his commitment to and advocacy for accessible, high-quality undergraduate education in the liberal arts and sciences, to the globalization of the university, and to innovation across the disciplines as well as in applied and basic fields.

Before coming to Berkeley, he was the executive vice president for the arts and sciences and dean of the faculty at Columbia University, where, in addition to his work on behalf of undergraduate programs, he improved and diversified the faculty, putting special emphasis on interdisciplinary and international initiatives. The Franz Boas Professor of Anthropology and History, Chancellor Dirks joined Columbia in 1997 as chair of the anthropology department. Prior to his appointment at Columbia, he was a professor of history and anthropology at the University of Michigan for 10 years, before which he taught Asian history and civilization at the California Institute of Technology.

Chancellor Dirks has held numerous fellowships and scholarships and received several scholarly honors, including a MacArthur Foundation residential fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, a Guggenheim fellowship, and the Lionel Trilling Award for his book Castes of Mind. He serves on numerous national and international bodies, as adviser or member of the board, and is a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.