



Patricia White, Ph.D.

**Assessing and Funding Qualitative
Research: Perspective from a
"Science" Agency**

Patricia White is Program Director for the Sociology Program, Division of Social and Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation (NSF), where she has been employed since 1988. During 2011 she served as a Visiting Senior Research Scientist at the University of Maryland College Park. Dr. White has held several positions at NSF. She was coordinator of the Social and Political Sciences Cluster, served as a senior analyst in the NSF's Division of Science Resources Statistics, and also held Program Officer positions in the Methodology, Measurement and Statistics, and Law and Social Science programs.

Recognizing that many scholars did not know that NSF supports research that uses qualitative methods, Dr. White has taken a leadership role in communicating "scientific standards" for qualitative research in the social sciences for both investigators developing proposals and reviewers evaluating the merit of the research. She has co-authored two reports on the topic, *Scientific Foundations of Qualitative Research with Charles Ragin and Joane Nagel* and *Interdisciplinary Standards for Qualitative Research with Michele Lamont*.

While managing the NSF Sociology Program, Dr. White engages research that closely aligns with her responsibilities at NSF. Currently, she is studying how social science research is used in public policy and practice and completing a collaborative study with the American Sociological Association (ASA) on graduate student mentoring and professional outcomes. She represents NSF on several project boards -- the General Social Survey, the International Integrated Micro-Data Series (IPUMS-International), the School Attendance Boundary Information System and Luxemburg Income Study. She is also active in the ASA having recently served on the Committee on Nominations, the Annual Meeting Program Committee, and award committees for the Public Understanding of Sociology and Sociological Practice. Dr. White received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the Ohio State University.

Monday, February 20, 2012; 11:30 a.m. – 1:20 p.m.

210 Prospect Street, Room 203

Workshop in Urban Ethnography