

Society of the Social Sciences at UF Third Annual Conference of the Social Sciences

October 20, 2007
University of Florida

Opening Keynote Address
Stephanie Y. Evans, Ph.D.

Historic Scholarship, Identity, and Social Science: The Question of "Partisan Pleading" in Graduate Research

Abstract

In this address, Dr. Evans will present historic examples of research on race, gender, and higher education. Specifically, she will discuss how past researchers have formulated questions, definitions, methodologies, and findings relevant to social science research.

Through engaging the intellectual work of Anna Julia Cooper, W.E.B. Du Bois, Lucy Diggs Slowe, Charles Johnson, Marion Cuthbert, Harry Green, Jeanne Noble, Willa Player and other multi-disciplinary scholars, Dr. Evans will raise questions about best research practices and argue that sound social science research must reflect on historic research practices. In addition, researchers now as ever must resolve their relationship between individual identity and academic scholarship. Identity, politics, and identity politics must be acknowledged in today's academy and solutions for evaluative measure must be discussed despite profound disagreements in these areas.

Overall, Dr. Evans will use historic approaches to social science research to address implications regarding the identity of the scholar in relation to scholarship. This is a talk about subjectivity, objectivity, discipline, and profession.

Talk Outline

- ◆ Objectivity vs. the Subjectivity of "Partisan Pleading": Dr. Anna Julia Cooper
- ◆ Historic Scholars: From Dr. Cooper to Dr. Player
- ◆ Contemporary Social Science Guides: Four Perspectives
- ◆ Black Women in the Ivory Tower: Another Subjective Experience
- ◆ History, Identity, and Social Science Research: Questions