
RESEARCHER'S WORKSHOP PROGRAM 2025



The Researcher's Workshop provides informative interactive venues for scholarly research information and consultation while addressing the unique experiences and concerns of diverse and diversity researchers. We offer the opportunity for collaborative networking and community founded in the productive work of our MSU scholars. We welcome all to explore the day with us and listen to speakers and panels. DRN members are welcome to register for a statistical or grant consultation.

REASERCHER'S WORKSHOP AGENDA

Friday, January 31, 2025

Agenda

8:30 am – 8:45 am **Opening Remarks**
Dr. Deborah J. Johnson, Director – Diversity Research Network, MSU

Presentations and Panels

8:45 am – 9:40 am **Best Approaches for Grant Writing**
Sara Steenrod and Lauren Aerni-Flessner, Research Development Specialists – Office of Research and Innovation, MSU

9:40 am – 9:45 am TRANSITION

9:45 am – 10:40 am **Domestic and Transnational Research: Challenges and Tips on Success**
Robin Lin Miller, Professor and Area Director – Doctoral Training, Ecological-Community Psychology, MSU
Estrella Torrez, Associate Professor and Co-Director – Indigenous Youth Empowerment Program, MSU

10:40 am – 10:45 am TRANSITION

10:45 am – 11:40 am **Editors Perspectives on Single Authored Books and Edited Volumes**
Sara Daskow, Senior Editor, University of Chicago Press

11:40 am – 11:45 am TRANSITION

11:45 am – 12:40 pm **Anticipating and Managing a New Climate for Teaching and Research: Considerations and Policy Expectations**
Andrea Hunter, Professor and Chancellor's Fellow – Campus Climate, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Matt Olovson, Director – Equity and Compliance, MSU

12:40 pm – 12:45 pm **Closing Remarks**

Zoom Registration Link – Presentations and Panels

Register to obtain the Zoom meeting Link	Registration Link: https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtceihqD8uGdxhcChxX87htqlqJKogYvps	Zoom Meeting ID: 970 6196 4438 Passcode: DRN
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Grant Consultation Registration and Zoom Meeting Links

Register for a 30-minute slot then join your consultant's Zoom meeting	Consultation Sign-up Link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AAAAA2EA6F8C43-53639975-drnresearchers#/	Lauren Aerni-Flessner	Meeting ID: 269 426 2823 Passcode: grants
		Sara Steenrod	Meeting ID: 367 462 3216 Passcode: GRANTS

Speakers & ORI Grant Writing Consultants

Grant Writing: Best Approaches for Grant Writing

8:45 am – 9:40 am



Sara Steenrod, Research Development Specialist, Office for Research and Innovation, MSU

Sara Steenrod received her BA in Psychology from Carleton College, her Ph.D. in neuroscience from Columbia University, and then completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Rockefeller University. Dr. Steenrod is available to meet with investigators individually or in small groups to discuss funding opportunities, current grant projects, or grant editing. Dr. Steenrod has been assisting researchers with submissions to a number of agencies, while also developing expertise on MSU's ability to support the

Broader Impacts requirements for NSF proposals.



Lauren Aerni-Flessner, Research Development Specialist, Office for Research and Innovation, MSU

Lauren Aerni-Flessner, Ph.D. is a Research Development Specialist in the Office of Research & Innovation at Michigan State University. In this role, she helps faculty prepare competitive grant proposals to federal and foundation granting agencies through proposal editing, consultations, and pre-submission proposal reviews. She also organizes professional development seminars on grant-related topics for early career faculty. She holds a Ph.D. in molecular cell biology from Washington University in St. Louis and a master's degree in business administration from the

University of Michigan.

Speakers and Panelists

Domestic and Transnational Research: Challenges and Tips on Success

9:45 am – 10:40 am



Robin Lin Miller, Professor and Area Director, Doctoral Training, Ecological-Community Psychology, MSU

Dr. Robin Lin Miller is Professor of Psychology, director of doctoral training in ecological-community psychology, and associate director of training in program evaluation at Michigan State University. She served as lead evaluation specialist for Gay Men’s Health Crisis in the early years of the HIV epidemic and established its first Department of Evaluation. She specializes in evaluating community-designed and led programs, including human rights interventions to promote access to HIV care and reduce structural stigma. Her evaluations – principally conducted in the United States, Africa, and Caribbean – focus on adolescent and Black gay and bisexual men, bisexual girls, transgender women, and male sex workers. She served as lead scientist on the American Psychological Association’s Task Force on Therapeutic Approaches to Sexual Orientation Distress, which is routinely cited in legislation banning conversion therapy practices. Awards include the 2023 Alva and Gunnar Myrdal Evaluation Practice Award from the American Evaluation Association for substantive cumulative contributions to the development of LGBTQ evaluation practice, and the 2022 Exemplary Project W. K. Kellogg Foundation Community Engagement Scholarship Award for evaluating human rights advocacy for LGBTQ people in Africa and the Caribbean. She is author of *Breaking Barriers: Sexual and Gender Minority-led Advocacy to End AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean*, published by Oxford University Press, co-authored with activist-scholar George Ayala. Past funders include AmFAR, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute of Mental Health, National Institute of Drug Abuse, and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Development. She is currently supported by a grant from the U. S. Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.



Estrella Torrez, Associate Professor and Co-Director – Indigenous Youth Empowerment Program, MSU

Estrella Torrez, PhD, is a community-based scholar of Latinx and Indigenous education. She is an Associate Professor at MSU’s Residential College in the Arts and Humanities (RCAH) and a core faculty member in Chicano/Latino Studies and American Indian Indigenous Studies. Her research centers on equity and justice, particularly language politics and community-based knowledge among rural Latinx and urban Indigenous communities. Her teaching focuses on community literacies, intergenerational community engagement, youth participatory action research, and language and culture.

Editors Perspectives on Single Authored Books and Edited Volumes

10:45 am – 11:40 am



Sara Duskow, University of Chicago Press

Sara Duskow is senior editor for books in politics and law at the University of Chicago Press. She has worked in scholarly book publishing for more than 10 years and was previously a politics and sociology editor at Cambridge University Press. Sara looks for books--scholarly, trade, and crossover--that tackle big questions and that combine insights and tools from across the social sciences.

Anticipating and Managing a New Climate for Teaching and Research: Considerations and Policy Expectations

11:45 am – 12:40 pm



Andrea Hunter, Professor and Chancellor's Fellow for Campus Climate, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Andrea Hunter is a Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at UNC Greensboro and is the Chancellor's Fellow for Campus Climate. Her research focuses on the influences of race, gender, social class, and culture on family life, development, and individual well-being, primarily focusing on Black families. In her public scholarship, Dr. Hunter explores race, culture, and politics through the prism of identity, history, and memory. She is the writer and producer of the limited podcast series *A Colored Girl Speaks: Meditations on Race and Other Magical Things*. She has also served in various leadership roles to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion in higher education.



Mathew J. Olovson, Director of Equity and Compliance, MSU

Matt Olovson is the Director of Equity and Compliance for the Michigan State University. In this role, he serves as the institution's Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Officer, responsible for administering programs and activities designed to ensure adherence to equal opportunity requirements of law and related university policies. Prior to appointment with MSU, Matt served on four other university campuses administering civil rights programs and serving as university counsel.