



**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS for
2017 SWS Distinguished Feminist Lecturer Awardee Campus Visit**

**Visitation Window: 2019
2017 SWS Distinguished Feminist Lecturer Awardee: Dr. Julia McQuillan**

Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) is delighted to acknowledge our 2017 Feminist Lecturer Awardee Dr. Julia McQuillan who is prepared to visit a campus in the coming months to meet with students and deliver a talk, entitled: *"I just want to be a scientist": Real life conundrums and institutional transformation.*

Overview of Dr. McQuillan's Lecture

For nearly two decades, the National Science Foundation (NSF) ADVANCE Institutional Transformation (IT) program has funded efforts to produce gender equity in academic Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) departments. Social scientists and their theories and methods – usually grounded in feminist perspectives – have been central to these efforts. As a member of an ADVANCE IT team, Dr. McQuillan confronted conundrums applying theories in real life. The team efforts focused on identifying and changing institutional (e.g. policies and practices), cultural assumptions, and interpersonal (e.g. social network connections) barriers and facilitators to gender equity.

In this talk, she will discuss prior research, theories, and rigorous evaluation data from the Nebraska ADVANCE program. She will focus on conundrums that emerged in real life efforts to change their own institution. For instance, what does it mean to talk about greater inclusion of women when categories for gender are starting to move beyond binaries? The goal of this feminist lecture is to describe these conundrums and instigate conversations to increase understanding of challenges, failures, opportunities, successes and realities of feminist institutional gender equity change. No *easy* answers to the challenges of face-to-face gender equity institutional transformation work emerged, yet the team did have some successes at one institution that will be a focus of this talk.

Application Details

SWS pays transportation costs for Dr. McQuillan's visit (up to \$750 for domestic and up to \$1500 for international) and the host campus provides room and board. If you are interested in hosting a campus visit, please submit an application by December 1, 2018, by email to Distinguished Feminist Lecturer Award Committee Chair, Dr. Laura Logan (llogan@hastings.edu). An application should include the following: (1) An explanation of your interest in hosting Dr. McQuillan's visit and the merits of awarding

a campus visitation to your school (2) A description of activities you will arrange for Dr. McQuillan's visit on your campus (3) The number of days you would like Dr. McQuillan to stay & tentative dates, with alternatives (4) Your target audience for the presentation (5) A description of how you will financially provide room and board (NOTE: If you prefer to provide an at-home stay with meals included, that is acceptable if the awardee agrees.)

The selection committee especially favors campuses committed to gaining the widest possible audience for the visits and values collaboration with other departments or programs on campus, multiple-campus cooperation, and community partnerships.

Dr. Julia McQuillan is Professor and Chair of Sociology at the University of Nebraska. She earned her Ph.D. in Sociology in May of 1998 from the University of Connecticut and started her first and only faculty position at the University of Nebraska in the same year. As a co-principal investigator on the ADVANCE-Nebraska NSF grant (<http://advance.unl.edu/>), she has brought sociological perspectives to efforts to recruit, retain, and promote women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) departments. Her research focuses on social inequality, with special emphasis on changing structures and practices to increase equity and wellbeing. She was fortunate to work with the team (including Lynn White, David Johnson, Arthur L. Greil, Mary Casey Jacobs, Naomi Lacy, and Laurie Schauble) who created the two-wave, public use dataset called the *National Survey of Fertility Barriers*. She also combined her interests in social inequality and health to work on informal science education as a vehicle for engaging youth with science and meaningful careers. She led the learning science research for the National Institutes of Health Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) with Dr. Judy Diamond and Charles Woods on the "Biology of Human." This project emerged from prior collaboration on the "World of Viruses" project (<http://worldofviruses.unl.edu/>). Also with team members Patricia Wonch Hill and Amy Spiegel they conducted a four-wave Science Identity Study on middle-school youth. In addition to publications from this project, she was honored that the TEDxYouthLincoln team (<http://www.tedxlincoln.com/>) invited her to give a talk ("How do we find science kinds of people?") at the 2017 youth event. She is leading a new SEPA project, Worlds of Connections (www.worldsofconnections.com) that will engage youth with network science for health research for bio-behavioral and biomedical careers. In addition to enjoying research collaborations that bring sociological perspectives to a variety of questions and fields, Dr. McQuillan is passionate about supporting learning experiences for undergraduate and graduate students She enjoys teaching courses that help students to see the tremendous value of Sociology for making contributions to improving the lives of those who are less advantaged, for example Introduction to Sociology and courses on Social Psychology, Research Methods, Health, Family and Gender. Her publications are available, with all University of Nebraska Sociology publications, in the university digital commons archive: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/sociologyfacpub/>