

Race, Ethnicity, and Place
Early Career Mentoring Workshop
October 23, 2018

Panelist Questions

Roundtable Discussion on
“Thriving in the Academy: Addressing Issues of Academic Identity; Race, Gender, and Ability in the Academy/Classroom; Work-Life Balance; and Navigating Institutional Politics.”

1. Let’s begin with who you are as academics. How do we integrate our multiple roles – at that same time that we are geographers, anthropologists or interdisciplinary scholars; we are also activists, public scholars, educators, researchers, media practitioners, digital humanists, etc. How do you define yourselves? And what advice do you have for young scholars trying to make their academic identities legible to their institutions and their peers?
2. Continuing with the question of identity, for a lot of us, our social identities—race, gender, gender expression, sexuality, ability—make us outliers in the homogenous space of the traditional academy. How do you make yourself heard when you’re one of few or maybe even the only one in the room? How do you assert yourself in ways that may be in conflict with the traditional values of the institution or challenge those in power over you?
3. How do you deal with topics of identity in the classroom and beyond (e.g., in your publications or presentations)? How do you manage everyday microaggressions and what advice do you give students? How do you work to facilitate an inclusive classroom?
4. Work-life balance is a common concern for many in the academy. With all the demands of academic life, often balance seems like an unachievable goal. What strategies do you use to achieve work-life balance? Does gender identity impact how that work-life balance around performance is perceived?
5. What is the ‘political landscape’ of academia, and what advice do you have for successfully navigating institutional politics? How do you know when to pick your battles? What are some common mistakes that can be avoided?