



## ***MID-CAREER CRITICAL MASS***

**WHAT?** The *Mid-Career Critical Mass*, inaugurated at the WAM 2015 Meetings, attempts to recreate the experience of discussion and dialogue seminal to our doctoral studies. *The Mid-Career Critical Mass* provides a unique opportunity to discuss key topics and issues separate from the conference symposia, panels and paper presentations. The three-hour event focuses on “Better Methods” and/or “Better Questions” with the goal of “Better Understanding”.

We have appropriated the term “critical mass”, which is a bicycle ride that takes place on the last Friday of each month at the close of business around the world. Formally defined, “critical mass” is the smallest amount of fissile material needed for a sustained nuclear reaction. We are defining *Critical Mass* as colleagues coming together for a sustained, oftentimes freewheeling, but always catalyzing dialogue.

**WHO?** It is open to those of us – yes, those of us well into our careers as academics – who seek the space and time to engage ideas and methodologies among peers and discuss heretofore unresolvable issues that often predate our studies as doctoral students.

**HOW?** The session will embrace the conference theme of “initiative” by asking those participating in the critical mass session to prepare to discuss the following:

- [1] Some method or theory learned by your more junior (recently minted Ph.D.) colleagues that was missed or neglected in your own doctoral studies;
- [2] Some method or theory learned in your doctoral studies that apparently was missed or neglected in the doctoral studies of your more junior (recently minted Ph.D.) colleagues; and
- [3] The “best” article you read from 2015 or 2016 and *why* it was the “best”.

Session Provocateurs: Sally Baack, San Francisco State University  
Richard Stackman, University of San Francisco  
Thomas A. Wright, Fordham University

**WHEN and WHERE?** Thursday, March 23 from 1p to 4p.

Please note that attendance will be capped at 15 participants. To sign up please send a message to Richard Stackman at [rwstackman@usfca.edu](mailto:rwstackman@usfca.edu).

**AND?** We are open to any suggestions that will improve the participants' experience for mid-career professionals while retaining the ever-important “WAMiness”.

Questions can be directed to Sally Baack ([sbaack@sfsu.edu](mailto:sbaack@sfsu.edu)) or Richard Stackman ([rwstackman@usfca.edu](mailto:rwstackman@usfca.edu)).