



MID-CAREER CRITICAL MASS

WHAT? The *Mid-Career Critical Mass*, inaugurated at the WAM 2015 Meetings as the Mid-Career Retrofit, 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 “Better Questions” with the goal of “Better Understanding”.

As for the name change, *Critical Mass* 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, 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 unresolvable issues that predate our studies as doctoral students.

HOW? The session will embrace the conference theme of “alternative mainstreams” and the notion that alternatives to a traditional, singular mainstream need not remain niches but can grow, thrive, and coexist with the traditional approach. A key question is: What alternative mainstreams could be created to ensure our academic lives flourish?

Reflecting doctoral seminar preparation, there will be assigned readings [TBA] for the participants to complete *prior* to the session.

Session Provocateurs: Sally Baack, San Francisco State University; Thomas A. Wright, Fordham University

WHEN and WHERE? Thursday, March 10 from 1p to 4p. Room [TBA]

Interested participants can sign up when they register for the conference. Please note that attendance will be capped at 15 participants.

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) or Richard Stackman (rwstackman@usfca.edu).