



# Events

## ABIGAIL STEWART

Psychology and Women's Studies  
University of Michigan

Saturday, May 9, 2015  
4:30-6:30pm  
Communications 226

### Judging Others in the Academy: Implications of Uncertainty and Bias

In this talk, Abigail Stewart focuses on social-science research suggesting that there are two major reasons for us to have far less confidence than we do in our judgments of one another in the academy: (1) the uncertainty associated with forecasting future behavior; and (2) evidence that our judgments are based on many factors other than the criteria we believe are relevant and appropriate. While these other factors are usually discussed as reflecting "bias," Stewart believes that term does not adequately summarize several known threats to the validity of our judgments. Stewart also outlines what is known about how to reduce these threats to validity in a variety of contexts: faculty hiring, faculty evaluation for tenure and promotion, assessment of grant applications, and selection of individuals for a variety of honors.

**Abigail Stewart** is Sandra Schwartz Tangri Distinguished University Professor in Psychology and Women's Studies and Director of the ADVANCE Program at the University of Michigan. She has published many scholarly articles and several books on the feminist theory and psychology of women's lives, personality, and adaptation to personal and social change. Her current research, which combines qualitative and quantitative methods, includes the comparative analyses of longitudinal studies of educated women's lives and personalities; a collaborative study of race, gender, and generation in the graduates of a Midwest high school; and research on gender and science and technology with middle-school-age girls, undergraduate students, and faculty. She is the former director of the Women's Studies Program and the founding director of the Institute for Research on Women and Gender. As Director of U-M ADVANCE, she is involved in a multi-level program to improve the campus environment for all faculty—particularly women and underrepresented minorities—in terms of recruitment, retention, climate, and leadership.

This lecture is a keynote for the 2015 Joint Meeting of the **Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable** and the **European Network for the Philosophy of the Social Sciences**. Hosted by the Simpson Center for the Humanities. Sponsored by Philosophy, the Science Studies Network, and the Certificate in Science, Technology & Society Studies.

