

# **Joint Math Colloquium**

**Millersville University and Franklin & Marshall College**

**Speaker: Dr. Carrie Smith, Associate Professor of Sociology  
Department of Sociology  
Millersville University**

**Title: Interviews and Ethnography and Numbers, Oh My!  
Why and How Sociologists Use Statistics**

**Date: November 09, 2017 (Thursday)**

**Time: 4:15 pm – 5:15 pm**

**Place: Room 201, Wickersham Hall, Millersville University**

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## **Abstract:**

Sociology is the scientific study of society, focusing on social interactions, organizations, large-scale institutions, and social change. We use rigorous research methods to collect empirical data and to test hypotheses, including in-depth interviews, ethnography, and statistics. Many people are unaware that statistical analysis has become an integral part of the discipline of Sociology. In this colloquium, I explain why and how sociologists use statistical analysis to conduct research, and more importantly, how we interpret and communicate the implications of our findings. I provide an overview of data sets that sociologists commonly use, and also discuss the creation of original data sets. Finally, I conclude with some thoughts on the current and future role and place of statistical analysis in the discipline of Sociology.

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