

2015
 WSSA
 Awards

Charles S. Johnson Award to be Presented to Earl Wright II



Earl Wright II is Professor of Africana Studies and affiliate faculty of Sociology at the University of Cincinnati. He has spent the majority of his career engaged in research on the contributions of early Black sociologists to the discipline. Specifically, his more than fifteen year research agenda has centered on the W. E. B. Du Bois led Atlanta Sociological Laboratory—the moniker bestowed on scholars engaged in sociological inquiry at Atlanta University (now called Clark Atlanta University) between 1895 and 1917. Professor Wright’s groundbreaking research has altered our understanding of the discipline’s formative years in this nation. Specifically, Professor Wright’s research brought to the discipline’s attention that the first American school of sociology was established at Atlanta University (1895-1917), not the University of Chicago (1915-1930). Also, he proved that the Atlanta Sociological Laboratory was the first American sociological unit to 1) institutionalize the use of insider researchers; 2) institutionalize the public acknowledgement of the limitations of one’s research; and 3) institutionalize method triangulation (or mixed methods). Despite these accomplishments, the Atlanta Sociological Laboratory remains largely unknown by most American sociologists. He sincerely hope that his receipt of the Charles S. Johnson Award will increase awareness of this sociological school and eventually lead to its canonization within the discipline.

Send your comments, suggestions, or materials for *The Southern Sociologist* to the editor Bob Freymeyer
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