Keynote Address 2014 Graduate Student Symposium Federation of North Texas Area Universities Texas Womans University Denton, TX April 25, 2014

What Does it Mean to Be a Responsible Researcher?

Researchers must learn how to be responsible in new ways. The old model held that one is only responsible to one's community of disciplinary peers: if you conduct sound research that is published in peer-reviewed journals, then you have fulfilled your obligations. Increasingly, and across the academic spectrum, that is no longer good enough. Ours is an age of accountability, where society demands from its researchers that they do more than pursue knowledge for knowledge's sake. This new terrain of research is perilous, but it is also full of possibilities to rethink your professional identity and your role in society. Rather than retreat into the ivory towers (which are fast eroding) we should own up to this new era of responsible research. The emerging practice of "field philosophy" at UNT is one example.

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