

**Title:** Gendered Reality, Professional Identity and Women of Color in Higher Education

**Status:** In Press (A Book Chapter in "When Minorities are Strongly Encouraged to Apply")

### **Abstract**

Women of color learn quickly that it is often not the quality of our education or even the content of our character that will be used by others to describe our life history. It is therefore essential to tell our own stories and document them in ways that may facilitate constructive change. Such insider perspectives can and do help others understand, analyze, and interpret the complexity of our experiences. Sharing knowledge endemic to both our personal and professional lives also encourages more meaningful dialogue about our careers. Nevertheless, there are risks involved in doing so, which are not typically addressed (at least not openly) and which reflect concerns deeply embedded among people and place that may easily distort the images so generously shared.