The presentation will first focus on race and ethnic response change patterns in the United States. A person’s racial or ethnic self-identification can change over time and across contexts, which is a component of population change not usually considered in studies that use race and ethnicity as variables. To facilitate incorporation of this aspect of population change, we show patterns and directions of individual-level race and Hispanic response change throughout the United States and among all federally recognized race/ethnic groups. The second part of the presentation will focus on racial and socioeconomic context and the permeability of group boundaries. A variety of factors shape racial identity including interactions between people; racial and ethnic groups; and individuals and structures. Neighborhoods are central to these types of interactions. Research has shown that environmental context influences racial identity. However, little is known about the relationship between neighborhood context and racial and ethnic response change. We use unique restricted-access linked 2000 and 2010 decennial census data to investigate the relationship between neighborhood context and racial and ethnic boundary crossing.

Speaker Bio

Sonya R. Porter is the Assistant Center Chief of Research in the Center for Administrative Records Research and Applications at the U.S. Census Bureau. Her research focuses on racial and ethnic identification and identity and racial and ethnic inequality and mobility. Her current projects also include using linked administrative records and census data to study correlations and determinants of intergenerational mobility, to answer key questions related to educational policy, and to study social and economic pre- and post-incarceration experiences of ex-offenders.