# Mapping Your Research Agenda

Discussion Session

Time: 60 minutes

Scholars should continually look for ways in which their activities contribute to an overall portfolio of academic scholarship. Understanding the extent to which an interdisciplinary project contributes to a broad research agenda can facilitate the justification of a project when working towards goals such as tenure and promotion. In this session, trainees will learn about mapping out research activities in the broader scope of scholarly careers followed by small group discussions to start constructing individualized plans to achieve your research goals.

Materials:

* Mapping your research agenda slides
* Mapping your research agenda worksheet

A facilitator should walk trainees through the brief presentation provided in the materials. Take time for questions but attempt to provide as much time as possible for individual discussion of research plans. After the large group introduction to mapping a research agenda, split trainees into small groups of individuals at similar stages in their careers and/or similar scholarly interests. It is most effective when these groups are as small as possible; ideally, one trainee would be paired with one psychological scientist, but dyads of trainees with one psychological scientist can work as well. The remaining time should be spent for individualized discussion of what a proposed research plan might look like in the broader scope of one’s scholarly trajectory.