

**W. E. B. Du Bois at the Center:  
From Science, Civil Rights Movement, to Black Lives Matter**

**Aldon Morris**

W.E.B. Du Bois was one of a handful of scholars of the 20th century with a sustained global impact on sociological, literary, and political knowledge. In this talk, Morris will draw on evidence from his forthcoming book with the University of California Press to demonstrate that Du Bois was the founding father of scientific sociology in the United States; that is, American scientific sociology was founded in a segregated black university by a black man. This research disconfirms the accepted wisdom that American scientific sociology was founded solely by white sociologists in elite white universities. This talk will explore the methods Du Bois pioneered and his novel theorizing that laid the foundations for subsequent sociological analyses. Morris will offer an account of the dynamic forces that generate scientific schools of thought and that undergirded knowledge production in social science during Du Bois' era.