

APR17-2016-020088

Abstract for an Invited Paper  
for the APR17 Meeting of  
the American Physical Society

**Educational pathways of Black women physicists: Stories of experiencing and overcoming obstacles in life.<sup>1</sup>**  
KATEMARI ROSA, Federal University of Campina Grande

This talk presents an empirical study on the underrepresentation of people of color in scientific careers. Grounded in Critical Race Theory, the presentation examines the lived experiences of six Black women physicists in the United States, addresses obstacles faced in their career paths, and strategies used to overcome these obstacles. Data for this study were collected through semi-structured interviews and coded for emergent themes, which are invitation to engage in science, communities of science practices, and isolation in the academy. The findings reveal that college recruitment and funding were fundamental for these women to choose Physics over other STEM fields. The analysis shows Physics can be a hostile environment for these women. In addition, Black women experience unique challenges of socialization in Physics, particularly by exclusion of study groups. In this talk, suggestions will be presented to make Physics departments a more inclusive space to support Black women in science.

<sup>1</sup>This presentation is based on work supported by the Brazilian government through CAPES (BEX1907-07-7), the Fulbright Program, Comisso Fulbright Brasil, and the Office of Diversity at Teachers College, Columbia University.