WASHINGTON, October 27, 2011—Gloria J. Ladson-Billings, Kellner Family Chair in Urban Education and Professor of Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Policy Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and 2005-2006 AERA President, will present the 2011 Brown Lecture in Education Research on October 27 in Washington, D.C.

The 2011 AERA Brown Lecture takes place tonight in the amphitheater of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center at 6:00 p.m. It is a public lecture, inaugurated in 2004 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ladson-Billings’ robust research anchors on the pedagogical practices of teachers who are successful with African American students, and extends to educational anthropology, cultural studies, and the application of critical race theory to education. Her address, "Through a Glass Darkly: The Persistence of Race in Education Research" raises fundamental issues about the connections between research and data and issues of social inequality and education in society.

About the Lecture, Ladson-Billings says, “I chose the title because I believe much of what we do in education research regarding race is cloudy and imprecise. We are using crude measures to sort and slot people into categories—Black, White, Latino, immigrant, English-Speaking, low income, disabled, first generation, etc.—as if we don’t live our lives across multiple categories....”

AERA President Arnetha F. Ball, Stanford University, will preside at the Brown Lecture. William H. Watkins, who, as chair of AERA’s Social Justice Action Committee (SJAC) also chaired the 2011 Brown Selection Committee, will introduce the lecturer. Other Selection Committee members were Tabbye Chavous and James Earl Davis, SJAC members; Kris D. Gutiérrez, AERA President (now Immediate Past President); Arnetha F. Ball, President Elect (now President); Felice J. Levine, AERA Executive Director; and George L. Wimberly, AERA Director of Social Justice and Professional Development.

As the 2011 Brown Lecturer, Ladson-Billings joins a highly distinguished list of scholar/speakers who have been so honored. Edmund W. Gordon (Columbia University) gave the inaugural Lecture in October 2004, followed by Claude M. Steele (Stanford University) in 2005, Linda Darling-Hammond (Stanford University) in 2006, Margaret Beale Spencer (University of Chicago) in 2007, Stephen W. Raudenbush (University of Chicago) in 2008, Luis C. Moll (University of Arizona) in 2009, and Kenji Hakuta (Stanford University) last fall.

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The American Educational Research Association (AERA) is the national interdisciplinary research association for approximately 25,000 scholars who undertake research in education. Founded in 1916, AERA aims to advance knowledge about education, to encourage scholarly inquiry related to education, and to promote the use of research to improve education and serve the public good.