



IB DEIA Committee Newsletter

April 2021

What you'll find in this month's newsletter:

Committee News, OBA DEIA Seminar Series, Spotlight: B.E.S.T., DEIA Events around the BSD and Beyond

Committee News

We are seeking nominations for our next faculty and student representatives!

The official nominations form will be sent via email soon, so keep your eyes on your inbox, but until then please consider who you would like to see in these positions.

This quarter's **office hours** will be the last Thursday of each month (4/29, 5/27, and 6/24) from 10:30 – 11:30 AM via this [Recurring Zoom Link](#).

There will be a waiting room for OH, so we can listen to comments and suggestions one at a time. (We understand that not everyone can make this timeslot, so if you cannot make it but want to chat with us, just send us an email at ib-deia@lists.uchicago.edu and we can find another time to meet)

Thank you to everyone who attended the OBA-all meeting! For those who couldn't attend, **meeting minutes** can be found [here](#). Additionally, as a committee we are trying to increase transparency regarding what happens during our biweekly meetings, so we will now be taking minutes which can be found [here](#). Meeting minutes will also be uploaded onto the DEIA subpage of the IB Program website in the future.

OBA Seminar Series on the History of Racism and Systemic Bias in Science

Tomorrow, on **Tuesday, April 6th at 2 PM (CDT)**, we are excited to welcome Dr. Lennard Davis for a presentation on "Concepts and Controversies in Disability Studies"



The OBA Seminar Series on the History of Racism & Systemic Bias in Science presents:

Lennard J. Davis

April 6th, 2 pm CDT

Concepts and Controversies in Disability Studies



The talk will cover some of the basic tenets of disability studies and then consider some controversial flashpoints around the issues of prenatal genetic testing, cochlear implants, assisted suicide, and facilitated sex.

Please contact ib-deia@lists.uchicago.edu if you require accommodations.

Sponsored by Grad Council



Dr. Davis is the Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts & Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago, in the departments of English, Disability Studies and Human Development, and Medical Education. His talk will cover some of the basic tenets of disability studies, and then consider some

controversial flashpoints around the issues of prenatal genetic testing, cochlear implants, assisted suicide and facilitated sex.

Please pre-register for the seminar [here](#). If you have any questions about the event or will require accommodations, please email ib-deia@lists.uchicago.edu.

Please contact [Vish](#), [Kelsey](#), and [Rossey](#) with any speaker recommendations for upcoming events.

If you are interested in being a part of the seminar series team next academic year, let the DEIA Committee know!

Spotlight: the Bias Education Support Team (BEST)

This month, we want to highlight an existing campus resource that is not very well known within our program – [BEST!](#) BEST is a team comprised of staff members from across the University, including the Center for Identity and Inclusion, Equal Opportunity Programs, UChicagoGRAD, and more. Members of the team have undergone extensive training on campus culture, responding to bias and microaggressions, restorative and transformative practices, and conflict management.

Bias incidents that can be addressed by BEST include any actions motivated by bias, even if they do not include the elements required to prove a hate crime or a violation of University policy.

| Within the scope of BEST: | Not within the scope of BEST: |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confidentially reporting concerns about behavior by a member of the University community• Creating space for students to process their experience and get support for their decision, whatever it may be• Identifying University resources for matters implicating University policies• Identifying campus and community resources for education and other supportive services• Coaching students through difficult conversations and/or written correspondence• Facilitating listening sessions and healing circles as the situation necessitates• Providing educational and training opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acting as a disinterested third-party• Giving legal advice• Mediating any contractual disputes• Providing services for issues or matters pertaining exclusively to staff and/or faculty• Engaging in educational conversations that are not deemed to be productive, based on assessment and consultation• Acting in a role in lieu of appropriate University admin response |

[Submit reports to BEST here.](#)

How will BEST respond to a submitted report?

For all reports with contact info, a BEST member will contact the reporting person and, if desired, offer a meeting to discuss the incident to explore a plan for resolution. During such a meeting, the reporting person can expect to receive information about related University policies, procedures, and resources. BEST may also consult with other offices as needed to ensure a proper response.

Helpful Definitions: (from the [BEST website](#))

Bias: “Bias is a pre-formed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of persons who possess

common characteristics, such as skin color, or cultural experiences, such as religion or national origin.”

Bias incident: “A bias incident involves actions committed against or directed toward a person or property that are motivated, in whole or in part, by a bias against race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, age, status as an individual with a disability, protected veteran status, genetic information, or other protected classes as required by law and that interferes with one's educational opportunities or disrupts the learning environment.”

DEIA Events around the BSD and Beyond

Below you'll find flyers and information for the various DEIA related events happening (virtually) around campus:

Art and Imagination Inside Prisons – Tuesday, April 6th from 6 – 7:30 PM

This event is a virtual roundtable with artists Jesse Krimes, Damon Locks, Michelle Daniel (Jones), Carole Alden, and Renaldo Hudson exploring art-making inside the prison industrial complex.

“This conversation will explore art-making inside the prison industrial complex as a practice of freedom by incarcerated artists. Panelists will discuss artworks crafted behind the prison wall and the creative processes involved in making, learning, and teaching art behind bars.

This is the second event in a three-part series. We encourage you to register for Freedom-Making in an Age of Mass Incarceration (4/13) as well.

This series is a prelude to Death By Life, a virtual opera presented by White Snake Projects, which explores the intersection of systemic racism and mass incarceration.

[Register here!](#)

THRIVE: Navigating Feedback and Criticism – Thursday, April 8th from 1 – 3 PM

This event is hosted by UChicagoGRAD. Unfortunately, there is no description for this event. Based on the name alone, it is likely a topic of interest for students and trainees.

[RSVP here!](#)

Medical Apartheid Goes Viral: History, Ethics and the COVID-19 Pandemic – Thursday, April 8th from 5 – 6 PM

“Attend the Pritzker School of Medicine's Bowman Lecture, Medical Apartheid Goes Viral: History, Ethics and the COVID-19 Pandemic, featuring Harriet Washington, author of Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Experimentation from Colonial Times to the Present, which won a National Book Critics Circle Award, the PEN/Oakland Award, and the American Library Association Black Caucus Nonfiction Award, and five other well-received books, including the forthcoming Carte Blanche: The Erosion of

Informed Consent in Medical Research (2021, Columbia Global Reports); and A Terrible Thing to Waste: Environmental Racism and Its Assault on the American Mind.”

[Register here!](#)

Freedom-Making in an Age of Mass Incarceration – Tuesday, April 13th from 6 – 7:30 PM

“Join the Pozen Center Human Rights Lab and White Snake Projects for a panel discussion about what freedom-making means within the deeply carceral context of contemporary America. A Q&A will follow the moderated conversation.”

This is the final event in a three-part series. This series is a prelude to Death By Life, a virtual opera presented by White Snake Projects, which explores the intersection of systemic racism and mass incarceration.

[Register here!](#)

Diversity Dialogues with Meeta Kumar and Khanh Nghiem – Friday, April 16th from noon – 1 PM

“Diversity Dialogues are designed to bring together individuals from the University to learn about and act upon issues related to diversity and inclusion. This session, titled Supporting Mental Health Needs of Diverse Students in Higher Education, will feature Dr. Meeta Kumar, a psychologist and the Director of Student Counseling at UChicago Student Wellness, and Dr. Khanh Nghiem, a psychologist and the Associate Director of Diversity, Inclusion, and Outreach at UChicago Student Wellness”


Register [here!](#)


Sexual Citizens: A Conversation about Sexual Assault with the Authors – Tuesday, April 20th at 5 PM

REGISTER BY MARCH 18 FOR A FREE COPY OF THE BOOK!

"Profoundly eye-opening....Hirsch and Khan present a novel model for explaining and responding to campus sexual assault." - Science Magazine

SEXUAL CITIZENS
a conversation about sexual assault with the book's authors

 **SHAMUS KHAN**

 **JENNIFER HIRSCH**

APRIL 20TH AT 5PM CST
REGISTER AT [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/SEXUALCITIZENSUCHICAGO](http://tinyurl.com/sexualcitizensuchicago)

If you have any questions or need any accommodations, please email us at titleix@uchicago.edu

APRIL IS
SEXUAL ASSAULT
AWARENESS MONTH

The Office of the Provost's Sexual Misconduct Student Advisory Board is planning an event called "Sexual Citizens: A Conversation about Sexual Assault with the Authors" for Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April.

This event is a Student-led Q&A with the authors of this groundbreaking book on campus sexual assault.

Register [here!](http://tinyurl.com/sexualcitizensuchicago)

**Becoming A Resilient Scientist Series
Part V: Developing Feedback Resilience**

Webinar: Tuesday, April 20th from 1 – 3 PM (or watch later)

Group Meeting: Wednesday, April 28th from 11:00 – 12:30 PM

"We all need feedback to grow and learn but we often become defensive and are unable to learn from the feedback we receive, even if it is delivered well. In this webinar, we will talk about why receiving feedback is so difficult and explore ways to stay calm and engaged when receiving feedback. We will also talk about giving feedback in a calm and assertive way so that our voice can be heard."

"Navigating research training, the career exploration process, research environments, and the stress of life can seem overwhelming and lead us to doubt ourselves just when we need confidence the most. The goal of this series

is to help you develop the resilience you need to navigate challenging situations in school, work and life. The series will consist of six webinars, each followed by a small group discussion the following week. The webinars will highlight emotional intelligence competencies needed for academic success and for thriving in research careers. We will discuss the cultivation of skills to help you realize resilience and identify and deal with obstacles that get in your way. While you may participate in any of the webinars, it is best to participate in the entire series as the material relates and concepts will be developed throughout the series. *Webinars will be led by the NIH Office of Intramural Training & Education, while group meetings will be led by local UChicago facilitators and attended by only UChicago trainees.*"

If you missed Part 1: An Introduction to Resilience or Part 2: Understanding Cognitive Distortions, Imposter Fears, and Stereotype Threat, Part 3: Emotions and Emotional Intelligence in the Workplace, or Part 4: Self-Advocacy and Assertiveness for Scientists, you can watch the recordings [here](#) (you'll need to register before watching).

Information about the full series including [future dates and all registration links can be found here](#).

We Who Believe in Freedom: The Long History of Struggle in Illinois Prisons & Beyond – Thursday, April 22nd from 4 – 5 PM

"Join the Mass Incarceration Working Group in welcoming activist Nancy Kurshan and historian Toussaint Losier for a discussion of the enduring histories of struggle and coalition-building by those inside and outside Illinois prisons to create movements against political repression, abolish the death penalty, and close supermax prisons. Together, we will reflect on the importance of that legacy to ongoing struggles in the present moment. This is the third event in the Mass Incarceration Working Group series, "More Beautiful and More Terrible: Prison Organizing and Abolition in Unsettled Times."

[Learn more and register here!](#)

First Annual BSD Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Retreat – Friday, April 23th from 1:30 – 6 PM

"Our guest speaker is Valerie Jarrett, former Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama, who oversaw the Offices of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs. Jarret is a senior advisor to the Obama Foundation and a distinguished senior fellow at the University of Chicago Law School. She is also the daughter of the late Dr. James E. Bowman, Professor of Pathology and Genetics at the University of Chicago, the first tenured African-American professor in the BSD.

The primary goal of the retreat is to convene the many different groups (both formal and less formal) who are discussing and organizing DEIJ efforts, so we can learn about one another's ongoing and planned initiatives and leverage each other's activities."

Please register in advance for the retreat:

<https://uchicago.zoom.us/j/94567890123>

Darwinian Mental Health Check-in – every other Wednesday from 1-2 PM

Join Sophia and Katie with a cup of tea (or other hot beverage) for a nice chat! The Mental Health Check-ins happen every other Wednesday during spring quarter (4/14, 4/28, 5/12, 5/26, and 6/9) and you can join by clicking on the recurring Zoom link below.

Link: [https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://uchicago.zoom.us/j/98686336518?pwd=U3MzRzZVQzJ3Y3RMNnBLbEiXa05ldz09__!!BpyFHLRN4TMTrAlrchKu4DXljt0mAPnFcXcs6Jzw9QfghFf_PiSTyg8-wGtbeiByCXudZ5JaSASR9XEnUjDuQc\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://uchicago.zoom.us/j/98686336518?pwd=U3MzRzZVQzJ3Y3RMNnBLbEiXa05ldz09__!!BpyFHLRN4TMTrAlrchKu4DXljt0mAPnFcXcs6Jzw9QfghFf_PiSTyg8-wGtbeiByCXudZ5JaSASR9XEnUjDuQc$)

¡Evolución y Español! – Thursdays at noon

“In the past, Darwinian students informally gathered together in the CEB conference room for weekly chats in Spanish. It was a fun way for both native and non-native speakers to practice speaking and comprehension in Spanish, but has since fallen through during the pandemic. In an effort to revive this event and widen its scope, Darwinian GRIT reps thought it would be fun to make this a weekly lunch event where students and professors can gather to listen and speak Spanish. ALL levels would be welcome, from native speakers to beginners. (Personal testimonial: I joined as a rusty French speaker, realized I understood more than I thought, have since taken two Spanish classes for fun, and now enjoy carrying on conversations with fellow students). We hope this will be an opportunity for meeting new people, building community, and expanding language and cultural interests for those interested!”

Keep an eye out for this week’s link!

Contact the Darwinian GRIT Reps with any questions about this event ([Caroline Abbott](#), [Megan Kennedy](#), and [Isaac Magallanes](#))

Center for Identity and Inclusion Spring Quarter Office Hours:

Join CI+I for Virtual Office Hours!



OMSA, SSS, and LGBTQ Student Life will be hosting open virtual office hours. Please see below for weekly times/dates. We're here for you if you'd like to chat and check in.

OMSA

Tuesdays 2-3pm CST

Chat with staff at the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs for group office hours!
bit.ly/vomsagroup2

Thursdays 9-10am CST

Chat with staff at the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs for group office hours!
bit.ly/vomsagroup

Student Support Services

Wednesdays 3-5pm CST

Speak with a Student Support Services staff member individually to learn more about what programs and resources our office offers or simply to chat. bit.ly/SSSIndividual.

Fridays 2-4pm CST

Come hang out with SSS staff, graduate assistants, and other students. We can share more about our office, give helpful resources, or just chat! bit.ly/SSSGROUP

LGBTQ Student Life

Tuesdays 1-2pm CST

Chat with staff at Office of LGBTQ Student Life for group office hours! This is an opportunity to ask questions or simply chat.
bit.ly/OHG_LGBTQ

Tuesdays 2-4pm CST

Chat with staff at Office of LGBTQ Student Life for individual office hours! This is an opportunity to ask questions or simply chat.
bit.ly/OH1_LGBTQ



"If you have any questions, please email the staff member you are trying to reach, or you can email us at inclusion@uchicago.edu"

Do you know of an event you would like us to share with the community? Send us an email and let us know!

Contact Us: ib-deia@lists.uchicago.edu

(All committee members receive the emails sent to this address)