



IB DEIA Committee Newsletter

October 2021

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

Committee News, Spotlight: New Committee Members, DEIA Events around the BSD and Beyond

Committee News

Welcome to the first IB DEIA newsletter of the 2021-2022 academic year! You might notice that the newsletter is not from Hannah. This year, I'll be trying my best to create newsletters that are as high quality as hers, but the standard has definitely been set quite high!

If you missed the last OBA-all meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year, you may not have been introduced to the newest members of the 2021-2022 IB DEIA Committee. Check out our spotlight below to hear all about them.

Due to low turnout (everyone in this department is busy, so it's certainly hard to find a time that works for a plurality), we will not be holding office hours this academic year. We may bring them back if there is sufficient demand, but in the meantime, if you want to chat with us, just send us an email at ib-deia@lists.uchicago.edu. All committee members (Marcy Hochberg, [Matt Kaufman](#), [Stephanie Palmer](#), Hannah Farrell, and Laura Hunter) receive emails sent to this address. Or, if you prefer, reach out to committee members individually and we will meet to anonymously handle any concerns to the best of our abilities.

Curious what we talk about in our biweekly meetings? **Autumn quarter meeting minutes** can be found [here!](#)

Spotlight: Welcome, New Committee Members!



Stephanie Palmer is an Associate Professor in OBA. She has a PhD in theoretical physics, and works on questions at the interface of neuroscience and statistical physics. Her recent work explores the question of how the visual system processes incoming information, to make fast and accurate predictions about the future positions of moving objects in the environment. Starting during her undergraduate years at Michigan State University, Stephanie has been teaching chemistry, physics, math, and biology to a wide range of students. Here at the University of Chicago, she founded and runs the Brains! Program, which brings local middle school kids from the South Side of Chicago to her lab to learn hands-on neuroscience.



Laura Hunter is a second-year student in the Alemseged lab. After graduating from Columbia University in 2017, she spent time working with museum programs and non-profit organizations that served to foster scientific interest and opportunities for youth from underserved communities and non-traditional backgrounds. She hopes to use her time on the DEIA committee to help build an environment where all students feel comfortable and that their needs are met.

DEIA Events around the BSD and Beyond

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

UChicago Student Recovery Group

The mission of the Student Recovery Group is to provide fellowship and support for University of Chicago students who are in recovery or exploring sobriety. This group will hold peer-led discussion meetings and host social gatherings throughout the year to provide fellowship and community for students in recovery. They will also host educational events on campus to raise awareness and educate the University of Chicago community on substance use disorders and how they can best support students currently in or seeking recovery.

For more information about group membership, email Elizabeth Webb (mewebb@uchicago.edu).

UChicago Student Wellness Support Spaces

For students of color: This is a semi-structured support space to build community and learn resiliency and coping strategies. This month, meetings will be virtual and in-person on alternating weeks. You can view the [October schedule here](#).

The first session of the month is an in-person event.

To sign up for the first session of the month on **October 12th from 5:30-6:30pm**, [register here](#).

Faculty Career Advancement Grants & Small Grants Program

Applications are now open for the Faculty Career Advancement Grants and for the Small Grants Program, both of which are sponsored by the BSD's Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, with each deadline falling on the third Friday of the month. The next deadline is **Friday, October 15th**.

For more information, email diversityoffice@bsd.uchicago.edu or [apply here](#).

Resilience in Diversity

This virtual therapy group is a safe and confidential space to discuss topics related to return to in-person learning, cross-cultural adjustment, minority stress, academic performance, interpersonal relationships, and other important aspects of life. Members have the opportunity to receive mutual support, form meaningful connections, and learn ways to foster resilience and self-care.

This is a virtual group.

For more information or to sign up, email Yu-Yun Liu (yyliu@uchicago.edu).

Inclusive Teaching Course: October 13th to November 25th

The [Inclusive STEM Teaching Project](#) is hosting a 6-week course via edX, which aims to teach how to: 1) advance awareness, self-efficacy, and ability to cultivate inclusive classroom environments, 2) support development as a reflective, inclusive practitioner, 3) engage in reflection and discussion around topics of equity and inclusion cross a variety of institutional contexts, and 4) implement inclusive teaching methods in classes which will remove common barriers and enhance learning in STEM for all students.



This is a virtual course.

To sign up for this course, [register here](#).

Exploring the Impact of Mass Incarceration: October 13th, 5pm to 7pm

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History is hosting a workshop with Pozen Family Center for Human Rights Lab Director Alice Kim and Senior Director of Logan Center Community Arts Emily Hooper Lansana. This workshop will explore how storytelling projects with system-impacted individuals and communities offer a unique lens into the social injustices caused by mass incarceration.

This is a virtual event.

To attend this event, [register here](#).

Building Queer Alliances Graduate Student Mixer: October 13th, 6pm to 7:30pm

Join incoming and returning LGBTQ+ students for an opportunity to build community over dinner and hear representatives from various student groups and Q-groups share information about how to get involved this quarter.

This is an in-person event.

To attend this event, [register here](#).

OMSA Heritage Series Presents Erika L. Sánchez: October 14th, 6pm to 7pm

The Office of Multicultural Affairs is kicking off its Autumn 2021 Heritage Series with Erika L. Sánchez, who will discuss her work and experience as a Latina in higher education.

This is a hybrid event.

To attend this event, [register here](#).

PANORAMA Identities Intertwined Panel: October 27th, 7pm to 8:30pm

Join leaders from all five UChicago Alumni Affinity Groups for a panel discussion that focuses on how our individual and group identities influence how we support each other, make decisions about our personal and professional lives, and champion social change.

This is a virtual event.

To attend this event, [register here](#).

Conducting Challenging Conversations: November 4th, 11am to 12:15pm

A discussion of the benefits and struggles associated with having difficult dialogues. This discussion will consider some strategies for creating conditions to have productive conversations. Approaches for dealing with the unexpected will also be shared.

This is a virtual event.

To attend this event, [register here](#).

D+I Planning Toolkit Info and Support Session: November 4th, 1pm to 2pm

Join staff from the D+I Studio for an informal session on using the University's Diversity & Inclusion Planning toolkit.

This is a virtual event.

To attend this event, [register here](#).

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)