

Program and Event Descriptions

Join us for a series of free talks, conversations, and interactive skills-based workshops that explore solidarity and equitable sustainability.

Inclusion week: Building & Sustaining Equitable and Caring Futures

Who gets to rest during a time of crises that are disproportionately impacting systemically marginalized communities?

Description:

In our intentional quest for equitable, just, and caring futures, we ponder how to safeguard the wellness of those who bear the brunt of inequities and harms. As we continue to work, learn and build, we aim to prioritize the sustainability of these communities, social movements, and individuals.

The Covid-19 pandemic, growing income inequality, political polarization, climate change, and ongoing struggles for racial justice, disproportionately impact specific communities. Now more than ever, the importance of cooperation amidst great divides and uncertainty highlights our global interdependence and the vital role it plays for people to collectively envision and create more equitable and caring futures.

Join us for these important conversations at this year's Inclusion Week series. Our series of free talks, conversations and interactive skills-based workshops that explore solidarity and equitable sustainability, particularly in the context of solidarity, allyship, and liberation.

Day 1 - February 28, 2022, 11am-12:30pm ET
Title: Orienting Yourself to Allyship (Part 1)*

Event Theme Description:

In recognition of Black History Month and as the kick of event of Inclusion Week, 2022, this session offers a series of engaging activities and reflection exercises that challenge participants to:

- Contextualize their social location based on their identity.
- Deepen their understanding of allyship in a personal and institutional setting.
- Practice active allyship and develop strategies to have brave conversations.

This workshop is developed and delivered in partnership with Student Community Leadership and Development (SCLD). *This session is a pre-requisite to the March 3 session: The Ecology of Allyship, Part II

Register here:

https://yorku.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkduGsgTkvH9dNe2aq4_5LLKxF_nlerhvo

Day 2 - March 1, 2022, 2-3:30 PM ET

Title: Who gets to rest?

Panelists: Prof. Soma Chatterjee, Prof. Ethel Tungohan, Alanah Broomfield and Olamide Olatoye, Co-Presidents of York University Black & Indigenous Varsity Student Athlete Alliance (BIVSAA)

Event Theme Description:

Labour is political, and so is rest. This panel invites speakers to engage in a thoughtful conversation about the question: “Who gets to rest?” through various critical perspectives.

- How does how we work today shape how we rest?
- What are the harms that come from current patterns of rest?
- What happens when care work gets counted/valued as productive work? What happens when it isn't counted/valued?
- What do these institutional narratives of working from home and faculty resilience assume? Who do they silence and make invisible, and at what cost?
- What are some best practices for self-care/community care in the face of racial battle fatigue?

Soma Chatterjee an Associate Professor at the School of Social Work (cross appointed to Interdisciplinary Studies), York University. Soma is broadly interested in migration and mobility, sovereignty and borders, and their ideological and material implications for contemporary Western nation building. She works at the disciplinary intersections of sociology (studies of nationalism and the diaspora), education (specifically, Adult and Higher Education), social work (social policy and global justice) and geography (migration & mobility studies).

Ethel Tungohan is the Canada Research Chair in Canadian Migration Policy, Impacts and Activism, and Associate Professor of Politics and Social Science at York University. She has also been appointed as a Broadbent Institute Fellow. Previously, she was the Grant Notley Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Alberta's Department of Political Science. She received her doctoral degree in Political Science and Women and Gender Studies from the University of Toronto. Her research looks at migrant labor, specifically assessing migrant activism.

Alanah Broomfield is in her fourth year with the York Lions Track and Field Team, where she is one of the captains. Aside from majoring in French Studies and obtaining a certificate in law and social thought, Alanah is the current co-president of the Black and Indigenous Varsity Student Athlete Alliance.

Olamide Olatoye is a fifth year health studies student, specializing in health policy. She is on the York Varsity Women's Soccer team and an 2019 OUA champion. She is now the co-president of the Black and Indigenous Varsity Student Athlete Alliance.

Through BIVSAA, Ola and Alanah have actively contributed to the creation of ROAR (Resisting Oppression and Advancing Rights), an online module by the Centre for Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion (REI) to promote EDI in athletics.

Register here: https://yorku.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_T8-db1hcQMapMqliMP2k1Q

Day 3 - March 2, 2022, 12-1PM ET

Title: The Call to Solidarity: Contingencies and Incongruities in Working Toward Justice

Insights: A speaker series on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) - This event is presented in partnership with the Office of the VP Equity, People and Culture

Speaker:

Rubén A. Gaztambide-Fernández is Professor of Curriculum and Pedagogy and Editor-in-Chief of the international journal Curriculum Inquiry at OISE, University of Toronto. His theoretical work focuses on the relationship between creativity, decolonization, and solidarity, and he has published widely on the topics of the arts in education, the sociology of elites, and pedagogies of solidarity.

His research and scholarship are concerned with questions of symbolic boundaries and the dynamics of cultural production and processes of identification in educational contexts. He draws on cultural studies, decolonial/postcolonial and feminist theory, and critical sociology to inform his understanding of curriculum and pedagogy as encounters with difference. He is the Director of the Youth Research Lab at the Centre for Urban Schooling of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, where he oversees and supports youth-oriented and community-based research projects with a focus on school-based youth participatory action research.

Event Description:

Solidarity has figured prominently in the wide range of responses to the many crises of recent years, including the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing anti-Black racism, colonization, climate catastrophe, and vast economic inequality. Calls to solidarity appeal to our sense of moral duty, group cohesion, and social justice, yet such calls are usually vague about what solidarity entails and abstracted from the realities of doing social justice work. What are the meanings of solidarity, and how might solidarity figure as a framework for working toward just, caring, equitable, and sustainable futures?

Register here: https://yorku.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AgmrXdCLRjWr5QxaYlwZ0g

Day 4 -Thursday, March 3, 2022, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM ET
Title: The Ecology of Allyship (Part 2)

Event Theme Description:

In this interactive workshop, we deepen our exploration of concepts of allyship and solidarity. This is the second part of the Allyship session presented in collaboration with SCLD.

Please note, this is not an introductory or beginners' workshop. To join this one, you must have attended an Orienting Yourself to Allyship Part 1 session (most recently offered on February 28th) or have previous organizing experience across lines of shared identities. Please email us with any questions/inquiries at chrwkshp@yorku.ca

In this interactive workshop, we deepen our exploration of concepts of allyship and solidarity.

Register here: <https://yorku.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcrf-ysrjlpGNBsoWcyxFlycvyiWlrCBtxn>

March 3, 2022, 2-3PM ET
Title: Solidarity and Liberation

A panel discussion with activists and scholars

Event Theme Description:

Struggles for racial justice and liberation are made possible through the efforts of organized and dedicated people who identify overlapping interests and find common cause, even when their perspectives may differ. Beyond holding a belief that a better world is possible, struggles undertaken in solidarity involve dialogue, mutual support, and the recognition of interdependence.

This panel discussion on solidarity will include explorations of historic and current, global and local efforts toward building more equitable and caring futures.

- How do you organize across different and divergent identities?
- How can working in and across affinity groups (of shared identities) support solidarity efforts? How can people work for shared liberation that also recognizes inherent internalized oppressions and intersectional oppressions that emerge under white supremacy (anti-Black racism, classism, ableism, erasure of Indigenous struggles, sexism)?
- What are the possibilities of solidarity groups and what kind of self-reflection and dialogue can solidarity projects undertake to strengthen their work?
- What are the tensions of centering those most impacted by harm when power continues to be inequitably distributed?
- How can shared leadership, Indigenous knowledges, and more democratic decision-making structures support solidarity efforts?

Shanese Indoowaaboo Steele is an Afro-Indigenous, Fat Femme living and learning on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg people and the Dish With One Spoon Wampum. With a Black father from Trinidad, with roots in Carriacou, Grenada and a Mixed mother of French and Native ancestry with ties to Nipissing First Nation and the Red Sky Independent Métis Nation, Shanese navigates the world as an Afro-Anishinaabe Kwe. Being Black, Native, Queer and Fat in a world that says all of these things should not exist. A published writer, Shanese uses writing as an outlet to express her fears, joy and dreams. She has also spent the last 10 years as an activist facilitating workshops, creating curriculum, delivering training and guest speeches on Black and Indigenous Issues. Founder of the non-profit Aazhganan Project, Shanese works to educate Racialized and Indigenous peoples on their shared histories.

Wazhmah Osman is Assistant Professor at Temple University, and also a writer and filmmaker. Wazhmah's research focuses on global and transnational media. She has written on how Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian (MENASA) people and African Americans can create solidarity and unified movements in the face of the US military-industrial complex and stereotypes from the media industry.

Sabina Chatterjee is a PhD Candidate in Gender, Feminist, and Women's Studies at York University. Her research interests include decolonization and accountability by non-Indigenous racialized people, social justice and solidarity, and arts-based community dialogues that explore the ways in which South Asian diasporic communities are challenging anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism and casteism. She had the privilege of working with street-involved youth for many years and is committed to honouring lived experiences and engaging in community research that is grounded in respect, relationship, and reflection.

Register here: https://yorku.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Krt2ZhThS9SG73GLur1Biw