

U of T's Annual LGBTQ+ Student Leadership Conference

LEAD with PRIDE

February 10-11

Concurrent Workshop Descriptions

CONCURRENT SESSION A

❖ **“Signage Issues: Decoding Stereotypes in Our Built Environment”:**

Heteronormative and ableist ideologies and stereotypes are commonly communicated through visual forms in our built environment in the forms of symbols and signs. Given the constant fast-paced flow of such visual information it's easy for the power and effects of such biased representations to go unchallenged and unnoticed. In this workshop, we will examine and challenge the representations of bodies in signage through a case study game. We hope to hold an accountable space where we can discuss the issues or challenges found in those visual representations. Towards the end, we will collaborate on redesigning or subverting existing pictographs into inclusive and accessible designs. The goal is to raise critical awareness on the intersectionality of identities that icons rarely include, and account for resistive power through visual literacy.

❖ **“So You’re a They?” Intro to Gender-Neutral Pronoun Usage and User Support”:**

In this workshop, Lee will provide a thorough and practical introduction to gender-neutral pronoun usage and singular they. You will leave with a solid understanding of who uses this pronoun and why, when and how to use it correctly, when and how encourage pronoun sharing (or not) in a group or class, some common problems encountered by users (particularly K-12 and post-secondary students), and hands-on, actionable tips for being an ally to transgender people more broadly. The workshop will feature opportunities to practice written and spoken usage of singular they and ze/hir.”

CONCURRENT SESSION B

❖ “Online Branding Meets Offline Activism”:

This workshop will teach queer and trans spectrum students how they can use their social media as an activism tool. Using concrete examples students will be able to pivot their profiles so they can get a message out. They will learn the importance of online branding and learn how to do it. They will learn how to identify and shape their how, what and why and use that for good. Attendees will leave the workshop with actionable steps to shape their online brand. They will learn how to use their online communities for organizing and where to find connection across the World Wide Web.

❖ “Self-Care, Warfare: Problematizing Self-Care”:

Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare.” -Audre Lorde

Self Care is a crucial skill in community organizing and in surviving this world as a marginalized person. But how do we react when self care becomes commodified? We live in a deeply individualistic and neoliberal society that idealizes productivity and tasks the individual with the responsibility of maintaining their ability to work.

Self care has been taken from its context as a tool of resistance, resilience and community care and is being used to put the emphasis of mental health care on the individual as opposed to the system. When the university tells us we need to wait three months to see a counsellor, but have we tried yoga, how do we react?

This workshop will examine the ways in which self care acts as a survival tool, but is also appropriated by capitalist discourse to sell products and displace accountability. It will ask participants how we can demand better from the system while still caring for ourselves and our community. It will also examine ways in which self care can be appropriative itself, how acts like yoga and mindfulness out of their original contexts are colonial tools. The workshop will discuss theory, and brainstorm self care strategies and then interrogate them to create a more robust and self-critical skill set.

CONCURRENT SESSION C

❖ “It’s My Party, It’ll Be Dry If I Want To”:

Pride is not just a parade. However, Pride is almost always a revelry. Queer culture is deeply intertwined in party culture. Punctuated by alcohol, drugs, late nights and casual sex, this culture creates a specific kind of queer community. All of these are valid expressions of coping, camaraderie, celebration and survival but they cater to specific groups and exclude others.

From a harm reduction and anti-stigma perspective, this workshop will look at creating a more sober and less coercively sexual queer community. This workshop will discuss the history and

practical reasons that created this kind of party culture and will highlight the benefits of it. It will then discuss the limitations. Who this culture leaves behind, who it harms, how it limits access. We will then work together to discuss ways to preserve the revelry and community, while making room for people who engage with the community in other ways.

❖ **“Creating Culturally-Inclusive Services for Queer and Trans Folks”:**

According to Public Health Agency of Canada (2014), “46.9% of gay, bisexual, men in Toronto identify as visible ethno cultural minorities” and yet many still face many challenges accessing mainstream LGBT services. Through our work at ASAAP, we are constantly looking into ways to bridge this gap. This workshop will look into challenges that LGBT cultural minorities face in accessing services, such as location, racial issues, values, and language. Participants will learn how to ask questions that challenge assumptions, create culturally appropriate resources, and use accessible language to make service and spaces more accessible and welcoming.