IB DEIA Committee Newsletter
December 2020

What you’ll find in this month’s newsletter:
Meet the IB DEIA Committee, OBA DEIA Seminar Series, Spotlight: Campus Health Resources, DEIA Events around the BSD and Beyond

Meet the Committee!

You nominated us, and we answered the call! Meet your 2020-2021 IB DEIA Committee members: Heather Marlow, Matt Kaufman, Marcy Hochberg, Hannah Farrell, and Samantha Gartner
We are currently working on our IB DEIA Statement, so please watch your inbox for an important RedCap survey from Marcy regarding the statement.

**OBA DEIA Seminar Series**

We kicked off our very own DEIA Seminar Series on Nov 20th when Caine Jordan spoke to us about racism in medicine through snapshots of African Americans in American medical history, and it was followed by our second installment of the series: an engaging conversation about declaring our own biases with Dr. Ianessa Humbert on Nov 24th. We were thrilled with the attendance at each talk, which included faculty, post-docs, and students from across the BSD, and we hope to see everyone at the next seminar on Dec 10th at 3 pm where Dr. Mashaal Sohail will speak to us about the history (and cover up) of eugenics.

To help us maintain Zoom security, please register in advance for this meeting: [https://uchicagomedicine.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwqdemvrz0qGNe7zMCWHaIr3L_wjCtL2t_1](https://uchicagomedicine.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwqdemvrz0qGNe7zMCWHaIr3L_wjCtL2t_1)
The OBA History of Racism & Systemic Bias in Science Seminar Series presents:

Dr. Mashaal Sohail

December 10th, 3 pm CST

Population Genetics in Light of Race Science

My talk will provoke us to think about the history of race and genetics using a historiography of evolutionary biology, race science, the UNESCO statements on race, and anti-race sentiment today among scientists, in the face of genetic science being used by white nationalist groups to support their ideologies. We will ask why genetic science is being used more in this manner than other kinds of science, what genetic science actually tells us and doesn't tell us about variation, and what assumptions are taken for granted that we need to revisit today, in light of the history of these assumptions in the birth of evolutionary and genetic science.

Spotlight: Do you know your resources?

This template represents some of the resources and numbers students can use to contact counseling, emergency and medical services, and how to report COVID-19 violations or if you test positive for COVID-19. We think it is essential and highly recommend people to hang this page up in labs for anyone to see in order to keep everyone informed about the resources on campus. With this page, we also hope students feel more comfortable contacting these resources and reaching out for help when necessary.
DEIA Events around the BSD and Beyond
Below you’ll find flyers and information for the various DEIA related events happening (virtually) around campus:

**Picture a Scientist Screening**
“Due to the overwhelming positive response to the film, the Office of the Provost is offering another extended screening of Picture a Scientist. You can register now to watch the film online at any time December 4 - 10. Please share this information with others at the University who may be interested in seeing this important film.”
Contact Melissa Sherwin with any questions (melissasherwin@uchicago.edu)

**Searching for Excellence: Faculty Search Training**
December 11th from 11am – 12:30pm. “Attend a faculty search training program offered through the Office of the Provost. Learn about resources for faculty hiring. Based on behavioral science research and best practices from the National Science Foundation ADVANCE program, this training provides concrete, actionable steps to improve the faculty search process. This session will be led by the Office of the Provost, the Office of Legal Counsel, and the Office for Affirmative Action.”
Registration Link: [https://diversityandinclusion.uchicago.edu/events/searching-for-excellence-faculty-search-training23/](https://diversityandinclusion.uchicago.edu/events/searching-for-excellence-faculty-search-training23/)

**Virtual Town Hall: Race at the University of Chicago**
On December 3rd from 6 - 7:30pm, the University of Chicago Race and Pedagogy working group will host a virtual Town Hall on race at the University of Chicago. This event is focused on student learning experiences specifically; we aim to provide a space to check-in with our student community where they can share their experiences with the content of coursework, the climate of the university community, and the composition of our community as it relates to race. Advocates for diversity, equity, and inclusion at the university are welcome, and encouraged, to attend, but we ask that faculty, staff, and administrators refrain from offering commentary and instead take this opportunity to listen to what students have to say.

¡Evolución y Español! – Thursdays at noon starting Dec 3rd

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. We hope this will be an opportunity for meeting new people, building community, and expanding language and cultural interests for those interested!

Zoom link: https://uchicago.zoom.us/j/96194804134?pwd=aTJrJrcUVpNixVzZ3ZEpJOVlzb0pVZz09
Contact the Darwinian GRIT Reps with any questions about this event (Caroline Abbott, Megan Kennedy and Isaac Magallanes)

Darwinian Cluster Mental Health Check-in

“On Wednesday December 2nd from 1-2pm, we will be hosting a next Mental Health Check-In. This can be a space for students to talk about how they have been doing the past couple weeks, including how the recent Ecology & Evolution Town Hall meeting and subsequent aftermath has affected us. Everyone is welcome and will be given the opportunity to share along with their thoughts and experiences in a round table format, with the option to pass.”
Support Space for Students of Color

December 3rd from 4 – 5pm. “This semi-structured support space is for students of color to receive support, build community, and learn resiliency and coping strategies to thrive. Each session will focus on a mental health and well-being topic while incorporating intersectionality of identities. The event is sponsored by Student Counseling.”
Registration Link: https://diversityandinclusion.uchicago.edu/events/support-space-for-students-of-color3/

Support Space for International Students

December 4th from 11am – noon. “This support space is for international students to stay connected during uncertain times. Through theme-based discussion, participants will have opportunities to reflect together on their needs and goals and learn to approach challenges with a growth mindset. This event is sponsored by Student Counseling. Please email Dr. Yu-Yun Liu at yyliu@uchicago.edu to sign up or ask questions.”

Saturation: Race, Art, and the Circulation of Value // Book Launch and Conversation about Art and Politics

“Join the New Museum Of Contemporary Art (with support from the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality and the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture at University of Chicago) as we celebrate the launch of “Saturation: Race, Art and the Circulation of Value” (MIT Press, 2020) with a special discussion featuring contributing artists Xandra Ibarra, Kent Monkman, and Tourmaline, moderated by artist and scholar Richard Fung, and with an introduction by co-editors C. Riley Snorton and Hentyle Yapp.” RSVP here: https://www.tfaforms.com/4862398

Please do not hesitate to email with suggestions, comments, etc. about ways you would like to see change in the program.

Contact Us: ib-deja@lists.uchicago.edu
(All committee members receive the emails sent to this address)