



DIBP SESSION TOPICS

Fall 2025

WORKSHOP TITLE & DESCRIPTION	SESSION DATE	FACILITATOR(S)						
<p>Fundamentals of Diversity: Social Identity, Power, and Privilege</p> <p>People have long sorted and stratified themselves based on social identity. Still, many of us belong to multiple social identities that create complex lived experiences because of power and privilege. This workshop will help participants to deepen their understanding of their social identity and the way power, and the privilege that it affords, shapes their daily lives. Special emphasis will be placed on the experiences of graduate students in college and university settings. The objectives for this workshop are to (a) define the concept of social identity; (b) outline the major social identities in the U.S.; (c) describe the three processes of social identity; (d) describe the systems of power, privilege, and oppression; (e) identify aspects one's own social identities; and (f) locate their positions on the Social Identity Scale.</p> <p>*Note: This workshop is required for badge completion</p>	<p>09/16/2025 4pm-6pm</p> <p>09/17/2025 10am-12pm</p> <p>09/24/2025 1pm-3pm</p> <p>10/02/2025 10am-12pm</p> <p>10/27/2025 4pm-6pm</p>	<p>Florence Fields ffields@uri.edu</p> <p>Stefanie Argus stefanie.argus@gmail.com</p> <p>Jasper Meagher jasper.meagher@uri.edu</p> <p>Jasper Meagher jasper.meagher@uri.edu</p> <p>Jasper Meagher jasper.meagher@uri.edu</p>						
<p>Non-Violent & Compassionate Communication</p> <p>Real conversations are often the hardest to have. In our personal lives, at work, with mentors and professional colleagues, we invariably skim the surface of deeper issues when exploring difficulties or deeply rooted emotions and frequently arm ourselves with close at hand words, phrases or descriptors. Will an expanded emotional vocabulary assist us navigate these conversations we typically avoid? And help us connect better with others- even if we think they may be different or see things from a permanently placed lens of perception? In this session on nonviolent communication, we will expand our emotional vocabulary and explore the steps developed by Marshall Rosenberg as a tool to empower courageous conversations with which to broaden and ease ordinarily difficult conversations.</p> <p>Program Objectives:</p> <table><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr></table>	1	2	3	4	5	6	<p>09/15/2025 6pm-8pm</p> <p>09/22/2025 6pm-8pm</p>	<p>Roberta Opara ro-opara@uri.edu</p>
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Program Objectives: 1. Social Construction of Difference, 2. Inequality, Privilege, and Oppression, 3. Impact of Discrimination, 4. Problem Solving and Conflict Resolution, 5. Perspectives of Marginalized Groups, 6. Communication Styles											
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How GTAs can Assist in Developing STEM Identities in Underrepresented Minoritized Groups The background, importance of, and what compromises STEM identity development. How STEM or your subject area has shaped your identity as a person, and how to support this development in undergraduates. There will be a focused conversation on marginalized and non-marginalized groups and examples from history of exclusion. We will discuss and further explore any other examples from history of marginalized groups in your field of study, or that we did not discuss in STEM. Finally, what can Graduate Teaching Assistants do to challenge this power dynamic and support their students? This workshop will culminate in tangible skills that Graduate Teaching Assistants can bring to their classrooms to support STEM Identity development of marginalized undergraduate students and communities. Program Objectives: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>			1	2	3	4	5	6	09/30/2025 10am-12pm 11/18/2025 6pm-8pm	Joe Candia joseph.candia@uri.edu	
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Facilitation Techniques for Navigating Difficult Conversations In this workshop, we will discuss techniques to successfully facilitate meetings, even when the conversation becomes difficult. We will explore the role of the facilitator and consider methods to engage in active listening, amplify voices, and deal with disruptive behaviors with compassion and empathy. Program Objectives: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>			1	2	3	4	5	6	10/06/2025 4pm-6pm	Lizz Whitney lizz.whitney@noaa.gov	
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<p>Building a Diverse Mentor Network</p> <p>Mentoring is a critical component of success both professionally and personally. But it can be challenging to figure out what we need mentoring in, who we should seek mentoring from, and how to find those people. Mentoring takes many different forms and involves many different people. This workshop examines 1) the roles that mentoring plays in our growth, success, and happiness, 2) who makes up our network of mentors currently, and 3) how we can grow that network to be more diverse and inclusive of the full spectrum of lived experiences, approaches, and voices needed to set us up for success.</p> <p>Program Objectives:</p> <table><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr></table>				1	2	3	4	5	6	<p>10/10/2025 1pm-3pm</p>	<p>Kelton McMahon kelton_mcmahon@uri.edu</p>	
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<p>Cultural Differences and its Entanglements in the U.S.</p> <p>This workshop focuses on cultural diversity and inclusivity, the relationship between culture, racism and inequality and identifies systematic cultural assumptions in America. It highlights cultural alienation within America and how it impacts our individuality, social and academic performance and how it has the ability to affect one's mental state.</p> <p>Program Objectives:</p> <table><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr></table>				1	2	3	4	5	6	<p>10/14/2025 10am-12pm</p> <p>10/30/2025 1 pm-3pm</p>	<p>Florence Fields ffields@uri.edu</p>	
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<p>Exploring the Spiritual Phases of Non-Violence</p> <p>Growth, contemplation and assimilation of Nonviolence starts from within.</p> <p>In their evolution and practice, imagine the internal dialogue and thought lives of the Greats: Gandhi of India, MLK & Coretta of the U.S.A, Mandela & Winnie of South Africa, Teresa of Calcutta, Mairead of Ireland and the many individuals whose lives were and have been greatly impacted by the practice of Nonviolence, embedded in their</p>				<p>10/16/2025 6pm-8pm</p> <p>10/23/2025 6pm-8pm</p>	<p>Roberta Opara ro-opara@uri.edu</p>							

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<p>vision of compassion, directed toward peace and reconciliation.</p> <p>In this insightful seminar, participants will engage in experiential sharing with reflective exercise as a form of personal inquiry into personal disposition, potential barriers, and perspectives to fostering healthier, richer, and fuller interpersonal and professional relationships.</p> <p>Embraced from a diverse range of perspectives, Nonviolence as an internalized and lived practice becomes innate only when appreciated as innately linked to one's personal convictions and values. A contemplative/healing workshop.</p> <p>Program Objectives:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>			1	2	3	4	5	6			
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<p>Finding the Art and Humanity in Your Work</p> <p>In this session, participants will develop a baseline understanding for the influence and impact of including our own personal story into our work, research, studies. Sharing story, especially from our own lived experience, is a well-proven method for building trust, relationships, and empathy. During this interactive session, we will each share an image of our own choosing and describe the importance this particular image represents for ourselves and how it relates to how we see ourselves today. When this is done inside academia, within the context of research, there is a powerful opening of equity and relationship that can be shared amongst participants. It's also a lot of fun to learn about others and realize that our stories are interwoven more than we realize.</p> <p>During this workshop, we will explore the interrelationships among concepts employed in the realms of arts, humanity, and science. Working through how these concepts intertwine, creating a nuanced and abstract perspective on the nature of work across diverse contexts.</p> <p>Program Objectives:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>			1	2	3	4	5	6	<p>10/21//2025 1pm-3pm</p> <p>11/05/2025 1 pm-3pm</p>	<p>Alex DeCiccio alex_deciccio@uri.edu and Ryan Campos ryan_campos@uri.edu</p>	
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<p>From Becky to Karen: (De-)Weaponizing White Womxnhood</p> <p>Are you a white womxn*? Join us for honest, urgent conversations on white womxn, racism, and sexism. In the United States, the mainstream feminist movement has centered on white, cisgender, middle-class women above all others. We need to talk about the spaces and roles we occupy, and our responsibilities.</p> <p>This is not a presentation-style workshop; we will learn through conversation and inquiry. Bring your questions, fears, concerns, hopes, and honesty. We'll embrace discomfort and learning together. *Note: Participants with other identities are also welcome to attend.</p> <p>Program Objectives:</p> <table><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr></table>	1	2	3	4	5	6	<p>10/29/2025 6pm-8pm</p>	<p>Stefanie Argus stefanie.argus@gmail.com</p>
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<p>At the Intersection of Neurodiversity and Queerness</p> <p>Neurodivergent individuals are significantly more likely to identify as LGBTQ+ than neurotypical folx. Why? This workshop utilizes the neurodiversity paradigm and queer theory to examine important and recent research. Learnings are particularly drawn from the work of Dr. Nick Walker, author of the book, "Neuroqueer Heresies."</p> <p>Program Objectives:</p> <table><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr></table>	1	2	3	4	5	6	<p>11/03/2025 4pm-6pm</p>	<p>Stefanie Argus stefanie.argus@gmail.com</p>
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<p>Embracing Values</p> <p>This workshop will help graduate students to identify their values that drive their day-to-day life, and how those can be incorporated in their assistantship roles.</p> <p>Program Objectives:</p> <table><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr></table>	1	2	3	4	5	6	<p>11/07/2025 4pm-6pm</p>	<p>Mariyam Abbas mariyamabbas@uri.edu</p>
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Anti-Muslim Bigotry Minority groups in the United States face numerous challenges due to the diversity of local communities. Among these issues is anti-Muslim hatred, driven by racism, bias, prejudice, misrepresentation, and discrimination. The Muslim community has increasingly faced attacks, vandalism, arson, and other threats. Whenever a Muslim commits an act of violence, some politicians and authors use it to demonize Islam and incite hatred toward Muslims. Muslims cannot combat this discrimination alone; all Americans must stand up for the rights of every citizen, regardless of race, ethnicity, color, or religion. These collective efforts aim to protect all minorities, including Muslims, and uphold American principles. This session seeks to dispel misconceptions about Muslims and encourage reflection on American values and anti-Muslim hostility. By addressing anti-Muslim hatred and the broader challenges faced by minority groups, we can foster a more inclusive and understanding environment at URI. Engaging in these conversations helps to build empathy, challenge stereotypes, and promote solidarity among students, faculty, and staff. It also reinforces URI's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, ensuring that all members of our community feel valued and supported. Program Objectives: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>			1	2	3	4	5	6	11/10/2025 10am-12pm	Abdelnasser Hussein husseina@uhd.edu	
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Cultural Genocide: Native American Boarding Schools in the United States Between the early 1800s and until as recently as the 1960s, Native American children from across the United States were removed from their homes, families, and communities, and sent to residential boarding schools. Hundreds were known to have died. Many survivors speak of the abuse they endured as a form of "education." Utilizing a variety of mediums including archival photographs, video clips, and primary source documents, this workshop will provide an introduction to how Native American boarding schools in the United States functioned as deliberate sites of cultural genocide. Program Objectives: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>			1	2	3	4	5	6	11/12/2025 4pm-6pm	Stefanie Argus stefanie.argus@gmail.com	
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<p>Antisemitism: Understanding Its History and How it Presents Today</p> <p>This 90 minute workshop will provide students with the origins, evolution and context of past and present manifestations of antisemitism and will help students understand and feel well-equipped to identify, respond to and proactively educate others about antisemitism.</p> <p>In advance of this workshop, students will be asked to watch Part 1 (16 minutes) and Part 2 (9 minutes) of Hillel International's 3-part video series on antisemitism (https://www.hillel.org/three-part-video-series-on-antisemitism/) and fill out reflection sheets which will be used as part of our group discussion.</p> <p>Program Objectives:</p> <table><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr></table>	1	2	3	4	5	6	11/19/2025 1pm-3pm	Amy Olson amyolson@uri.edu
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