



# DIBP SESSION TOPICS

## Spring 2025

WORKSHOP TITLE & DESCRIPTION	SESSION DATE	FACILITATOR(S)						
<b>Fundamentals of Diversity: Social Identity, Power, and Privilege</b>  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. <b>*Note: This workshop is required for badge completion</b>	02/26/2026 6pm-8pm	Jasper Meagher <a href="mailto:jasper.meagher@uri.edu">jasper.meagher@uri.edu</a>						
	02/19/2026 4pm-6pm	Emmanuel Oyewole <a href="mailto:emmanuel.oyewole@uri.edu">emmanuel.oyewole@uri.edu</a>						
	02/24/2026 10am-12pm	Jasper Meagher <a href="mailto:jasper.meagher@uri.edu">jasper.meagher@uri.edu</a>						
	03/05/2026 1pm-3pm	Jasper Meagher <a href="mailto:jasper.meagher@uri.edu">jasper.meagher@uri.edu</a>						
	03/10/2026 10am-12pm	Jasper Meagher <a href="mailto:jasper.meagher@uri.edu">jasper.meagher@uri.edu</a>						
<b>How GTAs can Assist in Developing STEM Identities in Underrepresented Minoritized Groups</b>  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.	02/18/2026 4pm-6pm	Joseph (Joe) Candia <a href="mailto:joseph.candia@uri.edu">joseph.candia@uri.edu</a>						
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	02/26/2026 4am-6pm	
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<p><b>Gender: Identity, Experience and Self Expression</b></p> <p>In this workshop, we will begin by discussing the accepted definition of gender, how it has changed through history, and how it is defined differently in non-Western culture. Participants will be encouraged to examine their own internal sense of gender, and learn about the difference between the internal sense of gender, gender identity, and external self expression. Finally, we will discuss the importance of self determination of gender, especially with regards to transgender and gender expansive people.</p> <p>Program Objectives:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <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	03/02/2026 6pm- 8pm	Jasper Meagher <a href="mailto:jasper.meagher@uri.edu">jasper.meagher@uri.edu</a>
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<p><b>From Becky to Karen: (De-)Weaponizing White Womxnhood</b></p> <p>Are you a white womxn*? Join us for honest, urgent conversations on white womxn, racism, and sexism.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>*Note: Participants with other identities are also welcome to attend.</p> <p>Program Objectives:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <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	03/04/2026 10am-12pm	Stefanie Argus <a href="mailto:stefanie.argus@gmail.com">stefanie.argus@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Antisemitism: Understanding Its History and How it Presents Today</b>  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. 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 ( <a href="https://www.hillel.org/three-part-video-series-on-antisemitism/">https://www.hillel.org/three-part-video-series-on-antisemitism/</a> ) and fill out reflection sheets which will be used as part of our group discussion.	03/09/2026 1pm-3pm	Amy Olson <a href="mailto:amyolson@uri.edu">amyolson@uri.edu</a>						
Program Objectives: <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <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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<b>At the Intersection of Neurodiversity and Queerness</b>  Neurodivergent individuals are significantly more likely to identify as LGBTQ+ than neurotypical folks. 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."	03/10/2026 6pm- 8 pm	Stefanie Argus <a href="mailto:stefanie.argus@gmail.com">stefanie.argus@gmail.com</a>						
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<b>How Race Was Made</b>  Let's look at the past and present of whiteness, in the world and especially in the United States. Where did the notion of race come from, what is it for, and what does white privilege really mean? Pre-work: Please listen/read the transcript to this 30-minute episode of the podcast "Seeing White": <a href="https://scenonradio.org/episode-32-how-race-was-made-seeing-white-part-2/">https://scenonradio.org/episode-32-how-race-was-made-seeing-white-part-2/</a>	03/23/2026 10am-12pm	Stefanie Argus <a href="mailto:stefanie.argus@gmail.com">stefanie.argus@gmail.com</a>						
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<p><b>Building a Diverse Mentor Network</b></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>03/24/2026 1pm- 3pm</p>	<p>Kelton McMahon <a href="mailto:kelton_mcmahon@uri.edu">kelton_mcmahon@uri.edu</a></p>						
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<p><b>Facilitation Techniques for Navigating Difficult Conversations</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>03/26/2026 4pm- 6pm</p>	<p>Lizz Whitney <a href="mailto:eliwhitney22@gmail.com">eliwhitney22@gmail.com</a></p>						
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<p><b>Finding the Art and Humanity in Your Work</b></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 stories, 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" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <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>03/30/2026 1pm- 3pm</p> <p>04/02/2026 1pm- 3pm</p>	<p>Ryan Campos <a href="mailto:ryan_campos@uri.edu">ryan_campos@uri.edu</a> and</p> <p>Alex Decicco <a href="mailto:alex_decicco@uri.edu">alex_decicco@uri.edu</a></p>
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<p><b>Cultural Differences and its Entanglements in the U.S.</b></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 border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <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>04/01/2026 4pm- 6pm</p> <p>04/07/2026 4pm- 6pm</p>	<p>Florence Fields <a href="mailto:ffields@uri.edu">ffields@uri.edu</a></p>
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<p><b>Anti-Muslim Bigotry</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</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	04/09/2026 10am-12pm	Abdelnasser Hussein <a href="mailto:husseina@uhd.edu">husseina@uhd.edu</a>
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