

TEACHING QUEERLY

January 17: "WTF is Queer Pedagogy?"

February 12: "Contentious Topics"

March 5: "From Theory to Praxis"

2-5pm

Jackman Humanities Building

170 St. George St., Room 100

FACILITATED BY:

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While some scholars and educators have offered robust ways to think about queer pedagogy, such as disrupting normative assumptions and binary thinking, much of the scholarship on this subject fails to explain how teachers might translate those principles into practice. Moreover, the pedagogical training that graduate students and faculty receive (if and when they do) often works to support a normative and traditional approach to teaching.

“Teaching Queerly,” will provide teaching and tenure stream faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students with an opportunity to consider how queer pedagogy speaks to issues of inclusion and equity alongside other frameworks and practices such as decolonization and accessibility.

Over the span of three workshops, we will explore what learning potentials are opened up by integrating a queer pedagogical approach into one’s teaching, while also grappling with the limitations or challenges of doing so. “Teaching Queerly” will have three main aims: the first is to read a selection of published material on queer and intersectional pedagogy across disciplines, which will hopefully help participants decide how they want to queer their pedagogy. The second is to translate those theories into practice by workshopping teaching materials, including syllabi, course descriptions, course requirements/assignments, and a statement of teaching philosophy that speaks to and integrates a queer pedagogical approach. The final aim will be to strengthen collaboration between graduate students and teaching and tenure stream faculty, who will work in pairs and groups throughout the workshops, and will be tasked with leading and participating in various experiential learning exercises.

Workshop #1: WTF is Queer Pedagogy?

Thursday, January 17th, 2-5pm

In preparation for this workshop, participants will be asked to read some key texts on queer pedagogy (authors might include Deborah Britzman, Sara Ahmed, and Robyn Wiegman). We'll use these readings as a springboard for discussing our own definitions of queer pedagogy as we move through some different experiential learning exercises.

Workshop #2: Contentious Topics

Tuesday, February 12th, 2-5pm

In this workshop we'll discuss some short readings about contentious topics within pedagogy, including trigger warnings, pronoun check-ins, calling in versus calling out, and boundaries between graduate students and faculty. Using the tools of non-violent communication and a trauma-informed approach, we will foster an empathetic space to talk through these issues by interrogating our own resistances to these topics and the challenges of addressing them within the classroom. Participants will work through some case studies and role plays, with the goal of re-imagining how we might respond to difficult scenarios.

Workshop #3: From Theory to Praxis

Tuesday, March 5th, 2-5pm

In the final workshop, we'll do the work of translating theory into praxis. Participants will be invited to workshop teaching materials or lead the group through a mock exercise. We'll discuss our next steps towards crafting our queer pedagogies -- both as individuals and as a larger group.

Each workshop will feature a guest facilitator (TBD)

APPLICATIONS

Please send an email to teachingqueerly@gmail.com with the following information:

- Name, pronouns, and home department.
- Whether you're teaching-stream or research-stream faculty, or a graduate student (MA or PhD).
- A brief statement (250 words max) explaining why you're interested in participating in Teaching Queerly.
- Confirmation that you can attend all three of the workshops.

Application are due by December 15th at midnight.

Access note on the space:

- There no steps leading into the building.
- There are working e-doors for both entrances and exits.
- The event is held on one flat level with no interior stairs.
- All aisles and passageways have wheelchair clearance and turn around space.
- There are three single-use washrooms on the first floor, one of which is wheelchair accessible with automatic lock and unlock buttons, grab bars, and is large enough to permit wheelchair turn clearance; and the sink, tap, soap, and towels or dryers can all be reached from a wheelchair.
- We request that the event be kept low-scent or scent-free.

If you have any other access needs, please include them in your application.