

**School of Social Work**

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Equity Committee wishes you a restful winter break!

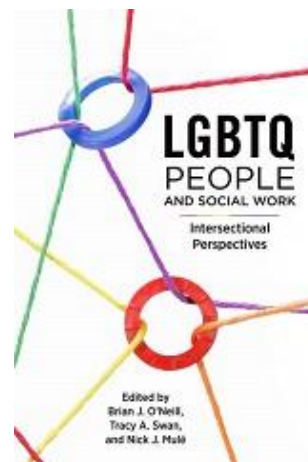
From all of us at the Equity Committee, congratulations on making it to the end of the term!

Thank you to all of the EC student reps, who have worked hard this semester to keep their cohort up to date on equity-related issues and activities & who have supported classmates by suggesting routes to address equity issues!

This fall, we've been thinking about and working on some interesting things:

Launch: *LGBTQ People and Social Work*

On November 19th, Professor Brian O'Neill celebrated the launch of his new book, *LGBTQ People and Social Work: Intersectional Perspectives*. The launch party was combined with an **Equity Open House**, and featured presentations from several of the book's contributors; an art activity hosted by the LGBTQ caucus; and delicious food.



Keep your eyes peeled- you'll be seeing this new poster around the School in the New Year (thanks to Shila Avissa)!

If you, or someone you know, is seeking support around an equity-related issue, click [here](#) for the Equity Routes



Map: http://schoolsofsocialwork.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2014/09/Equity_Issues-Route-Map-FINAL-DRAFT-for-EC-Review.doc

Aboriginal Caucus

The Aboriginal Students' caucus have been meeting and identifying issues relevant to Aboriginal students at the School. They are currently looking to develop ways to engage dialogue and discussion around reconciliation.

Disability Caucus

In collaboration with the EC, the Disability Caucus continues to lobby to make the washroom in the basement of Jack Bell fully accessible. Among many other topics, members of the disability caucus are also engaging on the topic of creating an accommodation/accessibility policy for the School.

Multiethnic Caucus

The Multiethnic Students' Caucus is hosting a workshop supporting the well-being of racialized and Indigenous students (more info below!). They are engaging in conversations around equity and grading criteria, specifically as it relates to students who speak English as a second (or third!) language.

LGBTQ Caucus

The LGBTQ caucus facilitated an art activity at the book launch and open house, asking people to reflect on what allyship means to them. Members of the LGBTQ caucus are continuing to have conversations surrounding queer and trans visibility in the curriculum, and are interested in highlighting some of these issues in the New Year- perhaps through workshops and presentations (stay tuned!). The LGBTQ caucus provides a safe(r) and open space to talk about similar issues.

In the New Year, here are some events to watch out for:

Upcoming workshop: The Academic Well-being of Racialized Social Work Students

Friday, January 15th from 1 pm - 4 pm at RAGA (room 127, Jack Bell Building)
Facilitated by Benita Bunjun; hosted by the Multiethnic Students' Caucus and the Equity Committee

All Indigenous students and students of colour in the Social Work Program are welcome. The workshop will provide a unique space to discuss the racist institutional barriers experienced by students across intersections of power and exclusions. The workshop environment will centre the processes of settlement/settling and delivering social service/work on Indigenous territories while interrogating the colonial helping narrative. We will discuss the ways that white academia re(produces) spaces of violence/exclusion physically, intellectually, emotionally, politically, and academically for racialized students in classrooms (pedagogy & curricula), within student services, within practicums, and across administrations. What is needed to transform your learning environment and content as social workers who are Indigenous to Turtle Island, who carry histories of migration, and who experience displacement/war and colonial violence? What are the strategies and resources to strengthen, support, mentor, and network as racialized social work students across and within multiple communities?

Lunchtime Talk in February

The Equity Committee will be hosting a public talk in February- stay tuned for more information!

LGBTQ events across British Columbia

Thanks to the LGBTQ Students' Caucus, here is a calendar of LGBTQ events happening across BC: <http://www.uniqueentertainment.ca/modules.php?name=GCalendar>

Have a wonderful
break!

See you in the
New Year!



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