Weekly Happenings Newsletter

The power of education extends beyond the development of skills we need for economic success. It can contribute to nation-building and reconciliation.

– Nelson Mandela

SPRING 2021

The Graduate Roadmap: Leveraging Individual Development Plans in Academic Career Planning
2:00-3:00PM ET Fridays, February 5, 12, and 19, 2021
Walk through the process of developing an Individual Development Plan and applying it to your academic career in this three-part workshop. In our first session, you will get an introduction to the Individual Development Plan (IDP) process, learn about tools available to help guide you through IDP development, and have a chance to reflect on your own values, skills, and interests. In our second session, you will be able to develop strategies for exploring and experimenting with different professional pathways. In our third and final session, you will start the work of creating your IDP, identifying goals over the next year, how you intend to achieve them, and how to involve mentors in your plans. By the end of this three-part workshop, you will have a solid foundation for an IDP that you can continue to refine and build upon.

Writing an Effective Teaching Philosophy Statement
11:00AM-12:30PM ET Mondays, February 8 and 22, 2021
Draft a peer-reviewed statement that reflects your teaching beliefs and experiences in this interactive, two-part online workshop. Participants will work to draft and edit a teaching statement, which is often required for US academic job applications. We will discuss elements of teaching statements, evidence of effective teaching tailored for different academic jobs, and strategies to get started or polish existing teaching statements. Participants from all disciplines will become better equipped and prepared to communicate their teaching practice through this workshop's collaborative, peer-review process.
The CIRTL Network
CENTER FOR THE INTEGRATION OF RESEARCH, TEACHING, & LEARNING

Trauma-Responsive Teaching
2:00-3:00PM ET Tuesday, February 16, 2021
Learn general principles and practices associated with trauma-responsive teaching in this one-session workshop. Participants will learn what trauma-responsive teaching is, understand how trauma affects learning and classroom behavior, and explore teaching techniques that you can bring back to your own classrooms.

From Student to Expert: Breaking Down Disciplinary Tasks in the Classroom
3:00-4:30PM ET Tuesdays, February 16 and 23, 2021
Why are certain tasks harder to teach than others? What makes these tasks easy for us as experts while stumping our students? What creates these "bottlenecks" in students' learning, and how can we help our students overcome them? In this two-part workshop, we will leverage cross-disciplinary conversations to address how to identify and communicate the processes behind tasks in our disciplines. By applying methods from David Pace’s Decoding the Disciplines, we will work together to break down (or "decode") such tasks and learn how to model them for our students. Through a series of interactive and reflective activities, we will learn how this decoding framework can help us teach complex skills to a wider range of students and to do so in an inclusive manner. We will also discuss the rewards and challenges of making the process of decoding tasks, processes, and curricula a long-term, regular pedagogical practice.

Workshop Series: Exploring and Unpacking Post-PhD Career Possibilities: Recognizing and Articulating the Value of What You've Learned as a Graduate Student
1:00-2:30 PM EST, Tuesdays March 9-30, 2021
What Have I Really Learned?, Tuesday March 9, 2021
Developing Professional Skill Sets in Mentoring and Advising Relationships, Tuesday March 16, 2021
Developing Professional Skill Sets in Communities and Networks, Tuesday March 23, 2021
Putting It All Together: Articulating and Implementing a Career Development Plan, Tuesday March 30, 2021
Can you articulate your graduate skills? Are they related to project management? Leadership? Creative thinking? In this event, we will help you identify the transferable skills you are acquiring as a graduate student that extend beyond your disciplinary specialty. Knowing how to identify and speak to the less obvious, but perhaps more universal, skills you are developing during your graduate studies will help you uncover career options that best suit your interests, goals, and capabilities. By the end of this session, you will be equipped to recognize and articulate your graduate skillset, and to translate that skillset into terms and concepts that are recognizable by a wide range of employers, both in academia and beyond.
We encourage participants to attend all workshops, but you may choose to register for individual workshops within this series.
dB-SERC Lunch (virtual)
12:00-1:00 PM, Monday, February 9, 2021

During the lunch, Dr. Jennifer Ganger from the Psychology department will give her third and final talk on her course transformation titled Testing the Testing Effect in a Real Class. The purpose of the lunch discussion is to reflect on the impact of this work. The abstract is as follows:

"Reviewing information in test format is more effective for long-term learning than merely re-reading the material, a phenomenon known as the testing effect (Roediger & Karpicke, 2006). In an attempt to leverage the testing effect in a real classroom environment, I implemented frequent, on-line, out-of-class quizzes in a large (approximately 200-student), lecture-based undergraduate course in Developmental Psychology. The degree of content overlap between quiz questions and subsequent exam items was used to measure of the impact of the quizzes on exam performance. In Study 1, the quizzes were assigned to students twice per week with three chances for completion and no time limit. In Study 2, the number of chances was reduced to two. In both studies, the degree of topical relatedness between quiz questions and subsequent exam items did not predict exam item performance. Possible reasons for the failure to detect a testing effect are discussed."

Social Justice and Publicly Available Data
10:00-11:00 AM, Wednesday, February 10, 2021
The health of a population is significantly influenced by the environment in which they live. This workshop will utilize publicly available data sources to provide a means by which we can examine the intersection of health with income, education, pollution, housing, and healthy/risky behaviors.

Black Lives Matter Reading Group: Louis M. Maraj, Black or Right: Anti/Racist Campus Rhetorics
12:00-1:00 PM, Wednesday, February 10, 2021
Please join us at the next session of the Black Lives Matter reading group on Wednesday, February 10, 12-1 pm. We'll be taking up Black or Right: Anti/Racist Campus Rhetorics by Louis Maraj (English). Maraj will be joining us, but instead of a formal book event this will be an opportunity to think with the author and with each other about what this book means for us here at Pitt - not so much a book talk as a "book talk-back." An e-copy of the book is available through the library here. As always, we'll be convening here: https://pitt.zoom.us/my/pitthumanities. This event is part of a series ongoing since summer 2020, but the event is open to everyone. New readers are very welcome!

Pediatric Grand Rounds: “Impact of Racism on Child and Adolescent Health”
8:00-9:00 AM, Thursday, February 11, 2021
In this lecture, I will discuss the evolution of race and racism in the United States and the adverse health and wellbeing impacts on children, adolescents, and families. I will also discuss potential strategies to mitigate the impacts from a pediatric perspective. Live stream this lecture: https://pitt.zoom.us/j/97043780302 Password: 936579
Let's Talk Africa: The Past, Present, and Future of Women and Law in Africa
1:00-2:30 PM, Thursday, February 11, 2021
Come join The Honorable Ari Tobi, retired magistrate-judge and renowned speaker and writer. This conversation will focus on the pre-colonial to postcolonial experiences of African women in law, from a jurisprudential viewpoint.

White Privilege in Information
1:00-2:00 PM, Thursday, February 11, 2021
Systemic structures of white privilege and power are embedded in American culture. Personal and institutional commitments to equity, diversity, and inclusion demand that we examine how these structures are present in scholarly communication and information systems. Topics introduced will be wide-ranging. Examples include what is ‘valid’ research inquiry, how information is described and categorized, how search algorithms are biased, digital redlining, what kind of stories are preserved, and how scholars of color are (not) cited. Join us for an examination and discussion of these issues and more. A Zoom link will be sent 1 day before the session.

Dr. Tiffany King "Red and Black Alchemies of Flesh: Off the Shores of Work"
4:00-5:30 AM, Thursday, February 11, 2021
This talk will come from Dr. Tiffany King's second book project tentatively titled Black and Red Alchemies of Flesh: Conjuring Black and Native Feminist Abolitionist and Decolonial Presents and Futures. Dr. King’s research is situated at intersections of slave and indigenous genocide in the Americas. This talk will be moderated by Dr. Alaina E. Roberts, Assistant Professor of History at Pitt.

This is part of a series titled "Global Indigeneities: Parallels and Intersections in the Global Fight for Reparations and Treaty Rights."

"George Barbour: Journalist" Screening and Discussion
7:00-8:30 PM, Thursday, February 11, 2021
Join us for a screening of filmmaker Ken Love's documentary featuring a compilation of interviews with George Barbour talking about his career leading up to and including the seminal Selma-to-Montgomery March. A discussion on the historical influence of Black journalists and matters around Black journalism, featuring contemporaries of Barbour and Pitt students, will follow the screening.

In 1965, as the first African-American KDKA Radio reporter, George Barbour marched 54-miles alongside civil rights activists including Martin Luther King Jr., interviewing participants, including John Lewis, along the way. A Pittsburgh native and University of Pittsburgh alum, Barbour stands as an important and resilient journalist from a revolutionary period of U.S. history.

African Pianism: A Tribute to J.H. Kwabena Nketia and Akin Euba
7:00-8:30 PM, Thursday, February 11, 2021
Eric Moe, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Music, will perform a recital of solo piano works by J.H. Kwabena Nketia (1922–2019) and Akin Euba (1935–2020). Both Nketia and Euba served at Pitt as Professors of music in ethnomusicology and were Moe’s predecessors as the Mellon Professor. The recital video will be released to the Music at Pitt YouTube page on Thursday, February 11 at 7:30 p.m. Watch this space for a direct link to the performance.
Mental Health and Student Academic Success  
12:00-1:30 PM, Wednesday, February 10, 2021
Join Pitt instructors and mental health professionals for a new installment of the Teaching Center’s Understanding Our Students series. In this virtual panel we will discuss the importance of supporting student well-being as educators and mentors in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Research highlights the importance of well-being on our cognitive capacities and provides us with insights on how instructors can create caring environments through the implementation of activities, assessments, and class policies that enhance connection, belonging, transparency, flexibility, and empowerment among our students.

Flex@Pitt: Using Classroom Technology  
10:00-11:00AM AND 1:00-2:00PM, Fridays, February 12, 2021; February 19, 2021; February 26, 2021
B26 Alumni Hall
The Teaching Center's Classroom Services team will offer training sessions to faculty, staff and TAs who want to gain experience with the Zoom Room hardware used in the Flex@Pitt model. Attendees will have the opportunity to use equipment that is identical to the equipment in classrooms. By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to operate Zoom Room hardware and schedule Zoom meetings for Zoom rooms (starting from Canvas.)
ALL ATTENDEES MUST WEAR A FACE COVERING AT ALL TIMES.
Please bring the mobile device (laptop, iPad, etc.) that you will be using for teaching to this session.

Translating Your Current Academic Skills to Future Careers  
3:00-5:00PM, Wednesday, February 10, 2021
Doing academic research requires and develops a rich skillset beyond the technical skills needed to accomplish the project or answer the question. This webinar will discuss skills gained during academic training that are valued by both the public and private sectors for a variety of career options available to advanced degree professionals.

Leveraging LinkedIn: Building Your Online Presence  
3:00-5:00PM, Wednesday, February 24, 2021
LinkedIn is one of the most powerful tools used to develop an effective network, yet many users don’t know how to get the most out of the platform. This program will focus on the major concepts of LinkedIn; creating a profile, making connections and finding opportunities, for both first time and experienced users. Attendees will learn tips and tricks to ensure their profile stands out and are targeted to attract the people or organizations who can help them advance their careers.

This is an interactive session that will utilize breakout rooms. Please be sure that you are in a setting where you are able to speak aloud, and that you are running the most current update of Zoom.
**Additional Resources:**

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