

Diversity, Equity, and Sara Ahmed



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TRLN Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Interest Group

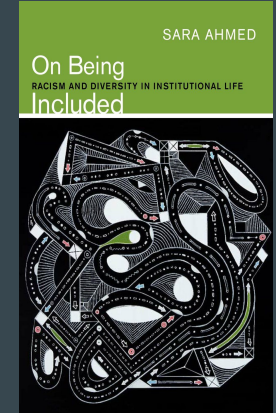
- TRLN has approved adding a DEI interest group
- Let's gauge the desire for action, and discuss possible outcomes
- Become a member; or,
- Voice your opinion as a stakeholder

Community Agreement

- Lean into your discomfort.
- If you are normally the first one to speak during Q&A, perhaps let other folks talk first.
 - Your voice is valued; please have courage and speak up.
- Use the mic when directing questions to the whole group.
- Feel free to use social media in this space, but ask before mentioning anyone else in the room. Respect their wishes.
- If at any time you need to leave, please feel free to do so.

Sara Ahmed

- Feminist writer and independent scholar
- Works at the intersection of feminist, queer, and race studies
- Professor of Race and Cultural Studies at Goldsmiths, University of London until 2016
- Resigned from post in protest of failure of Goldsmiths administration to deal with sexual harassment
- Blog [feministkilljoys](https://feministkilljoys.com)
- Twitter [@SaraNAhmed](https://twitter.com/SaraNAhmed)



Let's count off!



5 minutes



10 minutes



10 minutes

Prompt A: Diversity in the Institution(s)

“When words such as “diversity” get repeated by officials, becoming official words, they acquire a life; they have further to go.” (Ahmed 2012, p. 60)

- How is this term being used or communicated by your library or university?
- What is being achieved by the mobility of the term diversity?



Prompt B: Inclusion as Exclusion

“A fantasy of inclusion is a technique of exclusion.” (Ahmed 2017, p. 112)

In *Living a Feminist Life* (2017), Ahmed implores us to keep pushing, to keep up the pressure, and to become pressure points ourselves. Discuss:

- What does it mean to become a pressure point? What does this look like?
- How might “diversity committees” function as pressure points?



10:00

Discussion

- Prompt A: Diversity in the Institution
- Prompt B: Inclusion as Exclusion

Wrap-up

- What ideas generated today could be prioritized and implemented for the benefit of existing diversity committees/councils/initiatives?
- What could working with an interest group at the TRLN level do for diversity at our respective institutions?
- Can we find examples from other universities (MIT, for example) that can serve as models for bolder engagement with diversity, equity and inclusion?

Resources

Ahmed, S. (2012). *On being included: racism and diversity in institutional life*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Ahmed, S. (2017). *Living a feminist life*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Sara Ahmed. (2019, May 31). White friend. Retrieved from <https://feministkilljoys.com/>

Join the TRLN Diversity and Inclusion Interest Group!

Contact Ciara (ciara.healy@duke.edu) and
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Thank you!