

3R Teach-in/Learn-in: Building a Just MSU

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

9:00am-6:00pm

MSU Union Ballroom

#teachinMSU

Introduction

Over the past month, Michigan State University has been in the national spotlight for the horrific actions of someone who worked among us for decades. The courageous statements of survivors revealed not only a predator in our midst, but also the deeply problematic culture and flawed institutional structures that allowed him to operate. Nassar is gone, but the environment that allowed him to operate remains in place. Inspired by the survivors' bravery and determination, we know that we must rebuild MSU to make it a safer and more inclusive university.

In that spirit, the students, staff, and faculty of MSU's three residential colleges have planned a day-long Teach-In/Learn-In on Tuesday, February 27, from 9:00am-6:00 pm in the MSU Union Ballroom. Students, staff, advisors, alumni, faculty, and friends are invited to come together to share stories, ask and answer questions, and take our first steps toward building a better MSU.

A Teach-In is an act of protest that empowers participants to be agents of change. It began in 1965 at the University of Michigan as a way for faculty and students to address vexing issues of their day. A Teach-In requires all participants to be both teachers and learners, working together in the knowledge that the bounds of normal academic learning are too narrow to successfully confront the challenges we face. As such, a Teach-In intentionally disrupts daily routines and endows participants with the knowledge needed to better their world.

We believe that the different emphases, expertise, and cultures of the three residential universities provide a unique opportunity for us to learn from each other and to forge a path forward together. In doing so, we can set an example for the entire university.

We encourage faculty in the three colleges to hold their classes at the teach-in. Students, please watch for information from your professors about how they will adapt the schedules for their classes during the week before spring break.

Event Description

Overview

The event will begin with short welcome, including a land recognition and introduction to the format and planned events. This will be followed by session on deep listening and dialogue, in preparation for a moderated community forum in which students, staff, advisors, and faculty can discuss concerns and develop shared priorities. This will be followed by box lunch and then a series of breakout sessions that focus on more specific ideas and issues related to our current challenges.

Community Mural

In the morning through the end of lunch, a mural will be available that allows all participants to contribute to a word and art cloud that sets the agenda of why we are disrupting our schedules for the day to teach and learn. This mural will allow participants visually to emphasize the topics they think are most important, and will also result in artwork that could be displayed after the event.

Breakout Sessions

Some of the breakout sessions have been planned in advance with invited experts leading them. Examples include student voice, university governance, intersectionality, bystander training, and consent. These planned breakout sessions were organized with input from students, faculty, and staff at the three colleges, under the coordination of a steering committee from the three colleges.

Using an “unconference” style, other breakout sessions will be open to students, staff, and faculty to sign up for on site. The mural created during the morning session will act as a guiding document for the afternoon’s open sessions. In the spirit of a teach-in, we are giving participants the space to articulate their concerns and empower everyone to make this the learning and teaching experience participants want it to be. In order to protect participants and to ensure these opportunities are met with the seriousness and sensitivity required, we will require that at least two student leaders and one faculty or staff advisor sign up for the sessions. Faculty and staff who are comfortable supporting a student-led session will wear a lanyard with a teal sticker. Anyone with this sticker is open to supporting open sessions, and will plan to attend any sessions they support to help provide expertise, facilitation, or support for the group.

An unconference can accommodate a flexible number of open sessions, therefore, once a group has met the criteria (staff or faculty support and at least two students), they may post their session. Posting of sessions will begin around 12:00, following the community forum, and potential sessions will be posted on a scheduling grid

in the Ballroom space. During the breaks between sessions, the organizers will find space for each session either in the ballroom, where several sessions will be happening simultaneously, or in one of the breakout rooms. This open structure is scalable. If many participants are involved, there are opportunities for more open sessions. The structure also allows for spontaneity and for rapid responses to needs that arise during the community forum.

We imagine a wide range of topics may come up for these open sessions, including practical topics like community organizing and activism and cultural topics, like intersectionality or power and discrimination on college campuses. We also anticipate practice based topics, such as artmaking and performance will be among the kinds of sessions offered, contributing to the creative spirit of the event. Our hope is that students rise to the occasion and make the event their own.

Self Care and Safety

Safety and sensitivity are top priorities. We are inviting licensed counselors as well as student support groups to join us to assist and support participants throughout the day. We will have one room on the third floor dedicated to self-care and wellness. Throughout the day, participants in need of a break from the heavy topics may use the room to decompress or to speak with someone who can help with crisis management.

Representatives from **Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention (SACI)**, **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)**, and the **Spartan Support Network (SSN)** will be available throughout the day.

Schedule

Morning Plenary	
9:00 - 9:15	Coffee, light breakfast, introductions
9:15 - 12:00	Welcome session: 15 minutes. Welcome, statement of purpose, land recognition (Committee members, land recognition led by Dylan Miner) Training: How to listen and engage in meaningful dialogue. (M. Carmen Lane) Community Forum: One hour 30 minutes. Sharing our stories. This will be an open discussion among students, staff, and faculty to share experiences across the colleges. This will be a moderated session during which organizers will walk through the room with microphones so that participants can speak. (Moderated by M. Carmen Lane)
12:00 - 12:40	Provided box lunch and open session sign-up time

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

12:40 - 1:30	<p>Who's in Charge Here?: MSU's Formal Power Structures (Dean Mark Largent)</p> <p>Leading change requires a knowledge of the formal and informal power structures. Universities are organized in unfamiliar and complex ways, which makes influencing them - and the people who lead them - difficult. This session will introduce participants to how MSU is organized and how various leaders and offices on campus might be influenced by change agents.</p>	<p>Trauma Informed Care (Tashmica Torok, Firecracker Foundation)</p> <p>More information coming soon.</p>	<p>Consent (Prof. Kathleen Livingston, Bhargavi Dixit, Meghan Hollister)</p> <p>What does it mean to <i>practice</i> consent, beyond saying "yes" or "no?" This consent workshop uses theater games and writing to initiate a shift toward consent culture at MSU at the level of practice (how we act).</p>	Open Session	<p>Designing for Social Justice Studio (Prof Dylan Miner)</p> <p>In this workshop, participants will learn basic strategies for making effective social movement-oriented art and graphic design. The workshop will also provide a space for participants to learn basic screenprinting using a pre-prepared screen.</p>
1:50 - 2:40	<p>Student Voices and Protest (Student Representation in University Governance)</p> <p>Given concerns over the lack of voice given to student leaders in university decision-making, this panel will focus on the ways that students can have more of an influence. This will be a solution-oriented discussion moderated by students.</p>	<p>Intersectionality (Prof. Rashida Harrison and Prof. Mark Axelrod)</p> <p>This session aims to get students thinking more specifically about the experiences of different communities within our larger campus. We do this by first defining the concept of intersectionality, and next explore the usefulness of it as a frame to pursue our everyday initiatives that amount to justice and fairness. Participants should expect to engage race, gender, religion, nationality, class, etc. as it pertains to issues of safety on campus, as well as barriers to dealing with administrative entities.</p>		Open Session	
3:00 - 3:50	Open Session	Open Session	Open Session	Open Session	

Closing Session and Evening Panel

4:00 - 4:30	Next Steps: The three colleges will all come together again to reflect on what we have accomplished over the course of the day and to suggest next steps.
4:30 -6:00	Panel Discussion: Building Community, Resisting Hate: Dr. Lisa Cook (JMC, Economics), Julia DeCook (Communication Arts and Sciences with a specialization in Women, Gender, and Social Justice), Dr. Mohammad Khalil (Religious Studies, Muslim Studies), Dr. Dylan Miner (RCAH, American Indian and Indigenous Studies), Dr. Terese Monberg (RCAH, Asian and Pacific American Studies), Dr. Estrella Torrez (RCAH, Chicano/Latino Studies), Dr. Denise Troutman (WRAC, Linguistics, African American and African Studies), Dr. Naoko Wake (Lyman Briggs, History, Asian and Pacific American Studies), Dr. Kenneth Waltzer (Prof. Emeritus, JMC and Jewish Studies). In the context of Richard Spencer's coming appearance on campus, faculty will discuss the dangers posed by the alt-right, and the importance of building community.