



Call for Papers

Graduate conference

Transformative Justice within Academia: A radical institutional reflection

Academia has long established itself as an exceptional, progressive, critical, and safe environment. However, its policies, bureaucratic processes, research, teaching and mentorship practices are replete with structures that perpetuate inequalities, highlight mental and health implications and continue to disproportionately harm graduate students. As BIPOC students continue to experience structural and interpersonal violence such as hyper policing, carding and police violence on and off-campus, the institution continues to posture around issues of inequality. Politically correct emails sent out by faculty, staff and students do not address inequality, race, racism, police brutality/privatized security/campus police, and colonial violence within academia. This conference promises to begin a conversation about the structures that reproduce inequalities and the punitive state within educational spaces, unevenly impacting BIPOC students. Furthermore, the conference recognizes graduate student researchers as the future of academia and, as such, we aim to collectively imagine critical and radical educational spaces and pedagogies, while collectively contributing to theory-making, as well as drafting practical recommendations and policies targeted at achieving institutional changes that support graduate students.



Consider the following themes and questions:

- How do current institutional structures perpetuate inequalities and accentuate vulnerability within academia?
 - Policies/procedures on how to handle ‘difficult’ students
 - Mandated leave policy
 - New marijuana laws and University’s policies on cannabis use
 - Campus police and other surveillance mechanisms that disproportionately impact BIPOC students or students that live with mental health conditions
 - Normalization of students’ poverty, angst, stress, and uncertainty
- What knowledge and ways of knowing are awarded and/or penalized?
- What do transformative justice and non-punitive academia look like? What changes are required to produce it?
- Drawing on critical race studies, prison abolitionists, anti-colonial, decolonizing and postcolonial scholarship, what can a reimagined space of learning look like?

Deadline for submissions:
JANUARY 15, 2021



Conference dates:
MARCH 16 & 17, 2021





Centre for Criminology & Sociolegal Studies
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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Submission guidelines:

We welcome abstract submissions from criminology, sociolegal studies, sociology, and related disciplines. Please send an abstract of not more than 200–250 words to crimslsgradconference@gmail.com

Include a paper title, your full name, institutional affiliation, your program of study, and email address. Further information about panels, the conference dynamics, and the length of presentations will be sent out at a later date once the program is finalized.

Graduate students are welcome to present ideas that are not fully developed into papers. The conference provides an opportunity for emerging academics to think through transformative justice collectively.

The conference will have a workshop format where participants will be able to further work on their papers. Selected papers will be considered for a collective publication.

Contact

crimslsgradconference@gmail.com



Art: Sabeen Kazmi