The Diverse Dialogues series provides opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to have conversations about relevant issues of equity, diversity, inclusion, social justice, and much more. The conversations are designed to be an informal, yet guided gathering to allow participants to educate and learn from one another. While each dialogue in the series has a centralized theme, we want to encourage participants to determine where the conversations go. This series is meant to start the discussion on difficult topics, elevate the diversity, inclusion, and equity efforts and work being done by our community, and implore individuals to push their awareness, knowledge, and action related to themes of diversity and inclusion.

Please join us and engage in meaningful campus dialogue around topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Light refreshments will be provided.

If you’re part of the dialogue, you’re part of the solution.

https://www.mtu.edu/diversity-center/

SEPTEMBER

[09.30] Colonization is a System, not a Color: More on Unlearning to Relearn
presented by Dr. Valoree Gagnon, Dr. Kari Henquinet, Amy L. Howard, and CDI
4:05pm-5:30pm
MUB Ballroom A1

Recognizing the pervasiveness and persistence of contemporary colonial systems and practices within educational institutions requires reflection across landscapes, cultures, and groups of many kinds. This dialogue aims to guide and support our process of unlearning and relearning as a community. How might we engage and practice concepts of decolonization in our everyday university lives, in and out of the university? It is our hope that work such as this helps to influence change in the broader systems and societies within which we operate.

OCTOBER

[10.3] Talkin’ About Whiteness: Acknowledging Our Dominant White Culture and Its Implications
presented by Benjamin Petrie, Sean Brown, and CDI
12:35pm-1:45pm
MUB Ballroom A1

Talking about whiteness must move beyond a deficit mindset on what it means to be “white” or possess “whiteness.” Instead of learning what “whiteness” IS and IS NOT, this dialogue will explore the history and systems of power and oppression that contribute to whiteness in our current contemporary society.

[10.24] Changing the Conversation: Biracial/Multiracial Identities in STEM
12:35pm-1:45pm
MUB Ballroom B1

What is it like to be an individual with multiple ethnic and racial identities, both in the world and aspiring through STEM fields? What is it like to be an individual who is biracial or multiracial at Michigan Tech and in
the Upper Peninsula? Please join a panel of students, staff, and faculty from Michigan Tech’s campus community and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion to be part of the conversation.

**NOVEMBER**

[11.4] Starting from Class: Exploring the Intersections of Social Responsibility through Socioeconomics presented by Dr. Carlos Amador, Amy L. Howard, and CDI
4:05pm-5:30pm
MUB Ballroom A1

Consciously and unconsciously, we ascribe daily to ideology around class. This dialogue aims to work with our campus community to identify the fundamental role that socioeconomic class plays in issues of diversity, equity, racism, ableism, sexism, social justice, and social responsibility - especially in lieu of upcoming elections and rising social movements.

[11.20] Breaking Bread with Our Biases: Acknowledging Allyship Blindspots through Diverse Lenses presented by Dr. Valoree Gagnon, Dr. Kari Henquinet, Amy L. Howard, and CDI
4:05pm-5:30pm
MUB Ballroom A1

Allyship is an active, consistent, and arduous practice of unlearning and re-evaluating, in which a person in a position of privilege and power seeks to operate in solidarity with a marginalized group. Allyship is not an identity, it is not self-defined—our work and our efforts must be recognized by the people we seek to align ourselves with. It is important to be intentional in how we frame the work we do. This dialogue will focus on ally work that reflects on power and history, and is centered in relationships and accountability to underrepresented groups.

**DECEMBER**

4:05pm-5:30pm
MUB Alumni Lounge

Q: Is there such thing as an Arab experience in America?

A: Definitely, especially post-9/11...Like we went to sleep one morning as just regular Americans, woke up as this whole, entire, different kind of species...everything changed overnight, I remember I was in fifth grade....

- Lubna, Arab-American, twenty-three-year-old

This dialogue examines the lives of Arab Americans growing up after September 11. Arab American millennials share what life has been like in their communities, as well as in various institutional settings, including school and work. The grappling with their ethno-racial, religious, and national belonging have been central to understanding and shaping their identity. In particular, this work highlights the impact that the 9/11 tragedy has had on Arab American citizens, in terms of direct and indirect public backlash – from local strangers to public figures – that has informed their sense of self.