

PERSPECTIVES

SPEAKER

SERIES

Brought to you by The Diversity & Social Equity Office - Student Services, in collaboration with students and faculty,
and by the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur du Québec.

PERSPECTIVES - SPEAKER SERIES

Raising our Diversity & Social Equity EQ together!

The Diversity & Social Equity Office - Student Services, in collaboration with students and faculty, have created a speaker series entitled "Perspectives".

This interactive series and Q&A is a great way to Raise Our Diversity & Social Equity EQ Together! It is one way to foster Cultural Citizenship and Harmony by highlighting the value that Diversity and Social Equity bring to the JAC Community.

This winter's series will highlight the personal stories of people who have faced adversity just for being themselves. They are social change agents who have shown great resiliency and are helping to foster community engagement by sharing their stories and describing their work and community activism.

Hear their stories, ask questions about their work, and find out how you too can get more involved in your community.

As a result of this series, people can become:

- **more in tune with their own identities and those of others (self-awareness)**
- **more educated about the cultural similarities and differences in the people around them (cultural awareness)**
- **more concerned about the inequity and challenges within societies (social equity)**
- **more inspired to help make the world a better place for everyone (cultural citizenship).**

Be sure to check out the following line up of speakers. All students are encouraged to attend.

For those faculty members that would like to bring a class, please register by sending an MIO or email to Audrey.Greenberg@johnabbott.qc.ca

PERSPECTIVES - SPEAKER SERIES

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One page summary

Talk Title: Q&A with Sophie Labelle

Monday February 11th, 11:30-1:00, Agora

Speaker: Sophie Labelle

Author, Cartoonist, Teacher, Trans* Human Rights Activist.

She will talk about her experience growing up Trans*, her experiences as a Cartoonist, and the issue of cyberbullying and resiliency.

Talk Title: Culture, Intersectionality, and Cultural Competence

Tuesday, February 12th, 1:00-2:30, Agora

Speaker: Dr. Myrna Lashley

PhD, Researcher & Project Leader, Lecturer, Expert in Police/Citizen Relations, Culture Competency, Mental Health & Community Resiliency.

She will be speaking about culture, intersectionality and cultural competence.

Talk Title: Investing in Empathy is our Best Bet (a TEDxWomen's Talk)

Monday, March 18th, 10:00-11:00, Agora

Speaker: Sabrina Sassi

PhD student, Jean Sauvé Fellow, McGill Research Assistant, Member of Global Shapers Montreal, Community Program Developer, Activist and Community Advocate.

She will be discussing social inclusion in modern societies, and her project "Bridging the Intercultural Gap" through building intercultural communities, research, and policies.

Talk Title: My Journey Back to Yellow

Monday, March 18th, 11:00-12:00, Agora

Speaker: Nirushaa Senthilnathan, Project Coordinator from the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, Curator of the Montreal Chapter of the World Economic Forum's Global Shaper Community, Human Rights Activist.

She will talk about her personal journal of identity discovery, and her professional experience.

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February - 2019

“Q&A with Sophie Labelle”
Monday, February 11th, 2019
11:30 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.
Sophie Labelle



Author, Cartoonist, Teacher &
Trans* Human Rights Activist.

Sophie Labelle is an internationally renowned visual artist and Canadian author, cartoonist, and public speaker who is active in the transgender rights movement and speaks on the subjects of trans* history and transfeminism.

She advocated for Canadian [Bill C-16](#) to protect gender identity and expression, and for stronger laws against cyberbullying.

She is the cartoonist behind the webcomic “Assigned Male”, which is about a group of queer and Trans* teenagers. It has been running since 2014 and has already touched the hearts of millions of readers.

She will talk about her experience growing up transgender, her experiences as a trans woman, her work as a cartoonist, and the issue of cyberbullying. She will be answering questions from the audience.

In her own words: “Since I was a kid I’ve felt a lack of representation. It is difficult to find trans* role- models for children in our society, or to give children a space to express themselves and experiment.” This informs her fundamental role as a teacher, human rights activist, author and cartoonist.

Faculty are encouraged to register their class by sending an email to:

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Diversity & Social Equity Specialist – Student Services

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February - 2019

“Culture, Intersectionality, & Cultural Competence

Tuesday, February 12th, 2019

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Dr. Myrna Lashley



PhD, Researcher & Project Leader,
Lecturer, Professor,
Expert in Police/Citizen Relations,
Culture Competency,
Mental Health and Community Resilience.

Dr. Myrna Lashley is an assistant professor in the department of psychiatry of McGill University as well as a researcher and project leader at the Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research of the Jewish General Hospital. She is an internationally recognized clinical, teaching and research authority in cultural psychology, and serves as an expert psychological consultant to institutions, including the juvenile justice system. She has worked both as a consultant to First Nations and the Jewish communities, and as the Cross Cultural Trainer for the Grievance Committee office of the secretariat for McGill University. Her current research focuses on the intersections of culture, terrorism and national security.

She will be speaking about culture, intersectionality and cultural competence.

In her own words: “It is important to understand the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of individuals and groups, as well as the social and national spheres they represent. However, addressing these factors without a comprehension of the intersectionality in which persons experience their daily existence is to ignore the joys and challenges influencing the behaviours of others and ourselves. One of the most important ways in which this comprehension is gained is through the development of cultural competence - a skill that provides greater insight into others and ourselves.”

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Diversity & Social Equity Specialist

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March 2019

Hear her TEDxWomen's Talk
"Investing in empathy is our best bet"

Monday, March 18th, 2019

10:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

Sabrina Sassi



PhD Student, McGill Research Assistant,
Jeanne Sauvé Fellow, Public Speaker,
Member of Global Shapers,
Community Program Developer, Activist, Community Advocate.

Sabrina Sassi is a PhD Candidate in Political Communication, and a Fellow at the Jeanne Sauve Foundation. She is a member of the Global Shapers Montreal Hub, and was a speaker at the TEDx Montreal Women's Conference. She is dedicated to mobilize allies in fighting all forms of discrimination in Canada.

She will share her TEDx talk and experience from the conference. She will also share her personal experience with religious discrimination, radicalization of youth in Western societies, youth empowerment, and refugee youth in Canada. She will discuss social inclusion in modern societies, and her project "Bridging the Intercultural Gap" through building intercultural communities, research, and policies.

In her own words: "Marginalization isn't just dangerous for those who are isolated, it is dangerous for us all, regardless of who we are. By raising the standards from tolerance to empathy and standing up for one another, we can build robust bridges between communities."

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March - 2019

“My Journey Back to Yellow”

Tuesday, March 18th, 2019

11:00 – 12:00 p.m.

Nirushaa Senthilnathan



Project Coordinator from the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights,
Curator of the Montreal chapter of the
World Economic Forum’s Global Shaper
Community, Human Rights Activist.

Nirushaa Senthilnathan is a project coordinator at the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights for the Honourable Irwin Cotler, an international human rights lawyer, and former Canadian Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada. As an activist who has turned her passion into a career, she has led human rights initiatives in partnership with the Canadian government and with leading activists around the world. In 2019, together with one of her colleagues, she developed and launched an education initiative focused on empowering and mobilizing youth across Quebec, helping to combat hatred and develop young leaders who are grounded in empathy and understand that they have the power, agency and responsibility to be leaders of today, not just leaders of tomorrow.

She will talk about her personal and professional experience and take questions from the audience.

In her own words: “Our cultures shape us and tell us who they think we should be. But when you come from two different places - your parents are refugees and yet you are Canadian and have ties to a country across a land you both know and don't - expectations and traditions from both places shape you. The whole of life, in my view, is not simply about learning, rather it is about unlearning who the world tells you you're supposed to be and finding your own voice and identity. It is about a journey back to who you were underneath all the expectations and a journey towards who you will be when you embrace that life is about resilience and the beauty you make out of the circumstances you're given, as well as how you use that to transform the world for the better.”

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