

The Student Affairs Diversity Council (SADC) strives to cultivate an environment that embraces and promotes the broad scope of diversity within the division.

Introducing: Student Voice of Diversity



By Georgie Zamantakis
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Preferred Pronouns: They, Them, Theirs
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Minor in Spanish

Aboriginal Australian elder, activist and educator, Lilla Watson, declared, "If you've come here to help me, you're wasting your time. But if you've come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together." Often, social justice work being done by those in privilege (meaning all of us, because we all have privilege in some facet) leaves behind liberation from and eradication of oppressive systems and becomes a debilitating saviorism. I hear this in myself when I declare myself an ally to a community I'm a part of, even when I am doing absolutely nothing to work in solidarity with that community. I hear it in others when I am told that, as a queer person, I will be free and have equality once marriage equality is actualized across the nation. I hear it in the remarks of others as they fetishize the trauma, violence, and pain

that we as marginalized individuals face by wanting to have a place in our communities, as if it is something for them to take on and wear, something that is a gift to receive. Our identities should be celebrated, but the violence we endure should never be something to exoticize or pity.

In social justice work, we often speak about intent versus impact. Most often, the conversation focuses on those microaggressors who may not intend to say something racist, sexist, or fatphobic, but the impact has already been felt. However, the conversation rarely focuses on those of us consider ourselves social justice activists, warriors for the good fight. We ignore the fact that some of the work we are doing is not meaningful and may even be causing harm. If a heterosexual, self-identified "ally," acted on their conviction that more hate crimes legislation and more police intervention would decrease the lack of safety, comfort, and freedom that queer* and trans* communities face, they would be doing little in regards to our liberation, because they would be ignoring the historical and contemporary state sponsored violence that queer* and trans* bodies endure through the criminal legal system.

When we engage in social justice work, it must not be to *save* others from those "sad" and "poor" conditions they live within. We have to look past our guilt, our egos, and our urges to pity. Instead, we must

ask ourselves, why am I doing this work? Am I doing it to make myself feel better? Am I doing it to bake myself some sweet, self-serving ally cookies that only take time, resources, and space away from marginalized individuals? Or am I here because I'm cognizant of the intersectionality of identities, and the fact that my queerness intersects with somebody else's homelessness and with somebody else's disability and with another person's womxnhood? Liberation is a collective effort, and it is also a personal endeavor. Che Guevara said in regards to liberation, "I am not a liberator. Liberators do not exist. The people liberate themselves."

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We cannot infantilize marginalized populations as we seek a socially just society. It is our duty, when working in solidarity with others, to serve to exploit our privilege, to empower others in whatever capacity they deem appropriate, and to be willing to do the dirty work while others head the front lines. When we work with together for each other, we can accomplish great things. When we work over people who are already disempowered, we only serve to reinforce the very problems we are working to dismantle.

More about Student Voice of Diversity:

This column will provide students an opportunity to voice their perspectives regarding diversity on a personal, academic, or community setting. If you are a student or know of a student that is interested in contributing please contact Noemy Medina at noemy.medina@utah.edu for more information!



Recommended Reading

Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race by Debbie Irvine
[\[Amazon Description\]](#)

Last month's recommended reading was [Philosophical underpinnings of student affairs work on difference](#) by Kathleen Manning (2009). We would love to hear your thoughts or reflections about the reading or receive your recommended readings to share with your colleagues across campus. Please submit any contributions to Noemy Medina, SADC Newsletter Editor, at noemy.medina@utah.edu.

Upcoming Diversity Modules

Module 1:
October 14
9am-11am

Module 2:
October 14, 11:30am-1:30pm
December 15, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Module 3:
October 16, 11:30am-1:30pm
December 16, 10 am-12 pm

For more information, visit:
<http://sadc.utah.edu/events/trainings.php>

Upcoming Campus and Community Events

Fri., October 3

Sustainable Building Summit, As a leader in advancing sustainable places for all Utahns, the US Green Building Council—Utah Chapter is honored to gather our green building community together for 7:15am to 4:15pm [\[more info\]](#)

Sat., October 4

Step Afrika!, Step Afrika is a powerfully visual and aural experience that moves, educates, and unifies audiences. , Kingsbury Hall, 7:30 PM [\[more info\]](#)

Fri., October 10

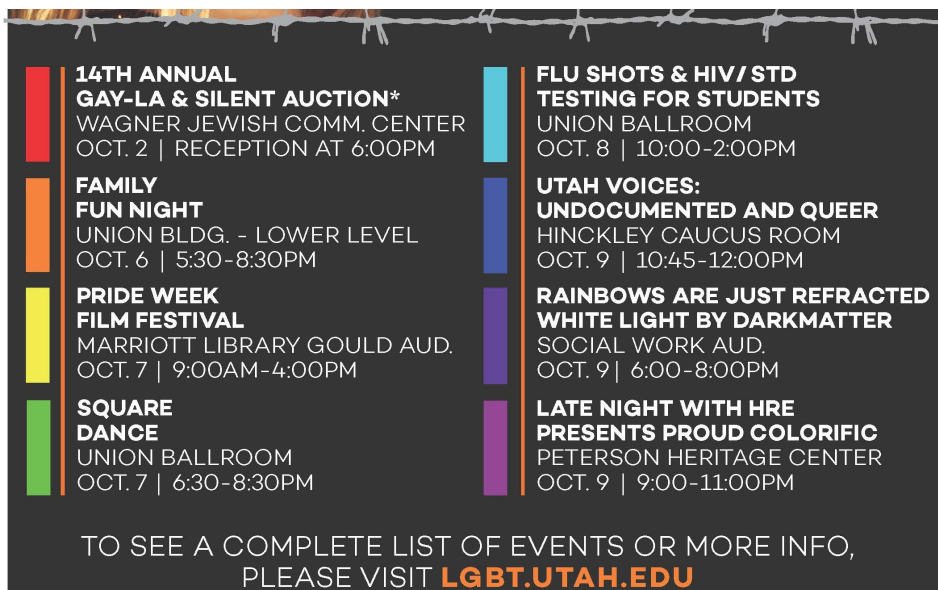
Invisible Men: Racial Indifference in Theories of Neoliberalism, Join us as Ella Myers argues that scholarly work on neoliberalism fails to address the specific workings of racial caste in the US Drawing on Wacquant's concept of the 'ghetto-prison mesh,' ..., OSH 208, 12pm to 1pm

Mon., October 27

U REMEMBERS: Slavery & the Holocaust, Beverly Mitchell has been with Wesley Theological Seminary since 1998,

PRIDE Week Events

****Keynote address by Laverne Cox is SOLD OUT****



14TH ANNUAL GAY-LA & SILENT AUCTION* WAGNER JEWISH COMM. CENTER OCT. 2 RECEPTION AT 6:00PM	FLU SHOTS & HIV/ STD TESTING FOR STUDENTS UNION BALLROOM OCT. 8 10:00-2:00PM
FAMILY FUN NIGHT UNION BLDG. - LOWER LEVEL OCT. 6 5:30-8:30PM	UTAH VOICES: UNDOCUMENTED AND QUEER HINCKLEY CAUCUS ROOM OCT. 9 10:45-12:00PM
PRIDE WEEK FILM FESTIVAL MARRIOTT LIBRARY GOULD AUD. OCT. 7 9:00AM-4:00PM	RAINBOWS ARE JUST REFRACTED WHITE LIGHT BY DARKMATTER SOCIAL WORK AUD. OCT. 9 6:00-8:00PM
SQUARE DANCE UNION BALLROOM OCT. 7 6:30-8:30PM	LATE NIGHT WITH HRE PRESENTS PROUD COLORIFIC PETERSON HERITAGE CENTER OCT. 9 9:00-11:00PM

TO SEE A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS OR MORE INFO, PLEASE VISIT LGBT.UTAH.EDU

specializing in studies of systematic theology, church history and human rights. She will be joined by Dieter Kuntz from the Holocaust Museum in DC who works on Racism and Nazi Eugenics, Gould Auditorium 12pm to 1pm

Wed., October 29

GASA GASA GIRL GOES TO CAMP: A Nisei Youth Behind a World War II Fence, Ms. Nakai Havey will share reflections from her creative memoir, Gasa Gasa Girl Goes to Camp, which combines storytelling, watercolor, and personal photographs to recount her youth in two Japanese American internment camps during World War II, 6pm-8pm Okazaki Community Mtg Rm

Thu., October 23

Dia de los Muertos, What it Is, What it Isn't, Jane's House, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM [\[more info\]](#)

October Diversity Seminar



Same-Sex Marriage in the Courts

Wednesday, October 8th

12:00-1:30pm
Union Panorama East (4th Floor)

For more Info, visit: sadc.utah.edu



For more information and recourses, please visit:

sadc.utah.edu

Debra Daniels, Co-chair Women's Resource Center
Kari Ellingson, Co-chair Student Development
Chris Anderson, Housing & Residential Education
Karen Cone-Uemura, Counseling Center
Stephanie Charles, Financial Aid
Branden Dalley, Union Administration
Kris Fenn, Bennion Center
Marcy Healy, Conference & Guest Services
Trisha Jensen, Orientation & Leadership Development
Suzanne Jones, Registrar's Office
Kassy Keen, Center for Student Wellness

Chris Macias, TRIO
Carol MacNicholl, Center for Disability Services
Kai Medina-Martinez, LGBT Center
Noemy Medina, Office for Student Equity & Diversity
Susan Miller, Campus Recreation
Sana Muller, ASUU
Duane Padilla, Housing & Residential Education
Rachana Patel, Office of Admissions
Valery Pozo, Career Services
Belinda Otukolo Saltiban, Office of Inclusive Excellence
Kegan Walker, HRE, AREC