Sexuality 101

Land acknowledgment

McGill is located on the unceded Indigenous lands of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation, known as Tiohtià:ke/Montreal. The Kanien’kehá:ka, also known as the Keepers of the Eastern Door, are one of the nations that make up the Haudenosaunee Confederacy on Turtle Island/North America. Our presence on this land contributes to the dispossession and ongoing oppression of Indigenous peoples. Our goal is to promote learning and generate allyship with local Indigenous communities, by honouring and respecting the many nations removed from, as well as those still connected to this land. Consult Native Land, McGill Indigenous Initiatives’ The Land and Peoples, and Indigenous Education Resources to learn more.

Throughout the workshop we encourage you to consider how many countries where there are discriminatory laws against gender and sexual minorities had those laws imposed on them through European colonization. Many Indigenous and racialized communities around the world have had diverse ways of thinking about sexuality and attraction that are dynamic and layered, modes of thinking which have existed for thousands of years before they entered the Western mainstream.

Session description and outcomes

This workshop introduces participants to expansive ideas of sexuality. Participants will go over some terms that may be used to describe sexual orientation, as well as discuss the spectrum of identities and experiences in Queer communities. Facilitators will present a history of the 2SLGBTQIA+ movement in North America and key elements of media representation. Learners will then have the opportunity to make personal reflections on their experiences with sexuality and their relation to Queer communities. They will be able to take these foundational concepts and apply them to ways of fostering inclusivity for those of diverse sexualities on campus and beyond.

By the end of this workshop, you will have had the opportunity to:

- Define sexuality and related concepts
- Explore the complexities of sexuality, the spectrum of identities and terminology
- Develop an understanding of their own experiences of/with sexuality
- Reflect on history and icons in 2SLGBTQIA+ communities
- Discuss how to situate oneself within the campus communities

Activities

This workshop will involve personal reflections with the option to share, an interactive quiz, group activities and discussion.

Before the workshop, consider reflecting on sexuality as another facet of one’s identity and how this affects different life experiences.

Your next steps
1. Write down one thing that feels missing or is still unclear to you. This is something you will research further.

2. Write down one thing you will commit to in order to foster inclusive spaces on campus.

3. Name one person you will speak to about what you learned today.

4. Write down one resource you can turn to if you need support.

Space for your notes

Resources

Allyship Resources:

Terminology:

Resources for 2SLGBTQIA+ Students:


Register for SKILLS21, McGill’s workshop-based skills development program for undergraduate students.

Consult the learning resources created by Teaching and Learning Services.

Explore Stay on Track, a peer-to-peer program that enhances undergraduate students’ learning and wellness skills. Learn more about the three pathways available: reminders, coaching sessions, and study groups.

Visit Learner Supports from Student Accessibility & Achievement.

References


Contact information

For any questions about the workshop material or other related information, visit mcgill.ca/tls/students.