

Gender 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 colonialism is an ongoing process that stripped and continues to limit diverse concepts of gender from Indigenous peoples. Indigenous queer and Two Spirit folks have had to work hard to relearn and reclaim these concepts in a colonial society that further forced binary, gendered hierarchies of power onto Indigenous communities.

[Gender as Colonial Object \(2018\)](#)

[A Map of Gender-Diverse Cultures \(2015\)](#)

Session description and outcomes

This workshop serves to introduce participants to the concept of gender as a spectrum. Participants will go over terminology related to gender identity and gender expression, as well as some labels used by Queer communities to speak to their experiences. Learners will make connections between ongoing processes of intersecting oppressions, specifically colonialism, and the suppression of gender diversity. They will then apply these terms and analyses to discuss media portrayals of Queer communities and gender-related microaggressions.

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

- Define the concepts of the spectrum of genders, gender expressions, gender identities, and supporting terminology
- Examine the role of colonialism, racism, and other systems of oppression in constructing gender and gender roles
- Use popular media and thinkers to support and unpack terms and concepts
- Situate oneself in conversations and concepts of gender, both on-campus and in the world

Activities

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

Before the workshop, consider reflecting on gender 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

[The 519 2SLGBTQ+ Glossary](#)

[The 519 – Being an Effective Trans Ally](#)

[The Trevor Project – Trans and Gender Identity](#)

[GLAAD – Transgender Resources](#)

[GLAAD – Allyship Guide](#)

[Tips for Trans Allies](#)

[Genderspectrum.org](#)

[Two Spirit and LGBTQIA Indigenous Resources](#)

[History of Gender Fluidity](#)

[Project 10](#)

[TransMontréal](#)

[Centre communautaire LGBTQ de Montréal](#)

[Center for Gender Advocacy](#)

[ASSTEQ: Trans Support in Quebec](#)

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.