Workshop 1: What is Epistemic Diversity?
The LAS Diversity Initiative Presents: Enhance Diversity: A Three-Part Workshop
Series

Where: Zoom
When: 12 February 2021

Keynote speakers: Dr. Sina Fazelpour (Carnegie Mellon University) and

Prof. Daniel Steel (University of British Columbia).

Schedule of Events:

3:30pm   Introduction

3:30-4:15pm   Speaker 1, 30-40 min for talk and 5-10 min for questions and

guided discussion.

4:15-4:20pm   5 min break

4:20-5:15pm   Speaker 2, 30-40 min for the talk and 5-10 for questions and

guided discussion.

5:15-5:30pm   Closing comments and details for the next workshop.

Workshop 2: Collaborating and Strategizing as a Minority

Wednesday March 10, 2021, from 3:30 to ~5:00pm.

Titles and Abstracts:

Keynote #1: Dr. Sina Fazelpour
Title: Diversity, Trust and Conformity

Abstract: Previous simulation models have found positive effects of cognitive diversity on group performance, but have not explored effects of diversity in demographics (e.g., gender, ethnicity). In this paper, we present an agent-based model that captures two empirically supported hypotheses about how demographic diversity can improve group performance. The results of our simulations suggest that, even when social identities are not associated with distinctive task-related cognitive resources, demographic diversity can, in certain circumstances, benefit collective performance by counteracting two types of conformity that can arise in homogeneous groups: those relating to group-based trust and those connected to normative expectations towards in-groups.

Keynote#2: Prof. Daniel Steel
Title: Multiple Diversity Concepts and Their Ethical-Epistemic Implications
Abstract: A concept of diversity is an understanding of what makes a group diverse that may be applicable in a variety of contexts. We distinguish three diversity concepts and show that each can be found in discussions of diversity in science, and explain how they tend to be associated with distinct epistemic and ethical rationales. Yet philosophical literature on diversity among scientists has given little attention to distinct concepts of diversity. This is significant because the unappreciated existence of multiple diversity concepts can generate unclarity about the meaning of "diversity," lead to problematic inferences from empirical research, and obscure complex ethical-epistemic questions about how to define diversity in specific cases. We illustrate some ethical-epistemic implications of our proposal by reference to an example of deliberative mini-publics on human tissue biobanking.