TIMELY TOPICS

FALL 2023

UCONN
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

TIMELY TOPICS

Timely Topics is a series of opportunities to engage with subject matter experts on topics relevant to those who support and advise graduate students and programs. We offer two tracks for this series: one designed for faculty and one designed for staff or faculty who hold an administrative role, however every session is available to anyone interested in joining. All sessions will be held as a Webex meeting. Links for each meeting will be sent directly to registrants and follow up materials will be posted on our website. Slides, recordings, and resources from past sessions can always be found at The Graduate School's Timely Topics webpage.

REGISTRATION
All sessions will be held via Webex. To register for any of this semester's Timely Topics series, click the button below.

REGISTRATION

CONTACT
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THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
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RACIAL MICROAGGRESSIONS AND THE CUMULATIVE AND DELETERIOUS EFFECTS ON HISTORICALLY EXCLUDED AND RACIALLY OPPRESSED FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS

FACULTY TRACK **ADMINISTRATIVE TRACK**

What are racial microaggressions; how do we best understand how racial microaggressions harm historically excluded and racially oppressed faculty, staff, and students; and what are some ways we can address racial microaggressions on campus? We take a critical approach in answering these questions, looking at both the individual as well as structural lens to get a clearer picture of life at historically white colleges and universities. Our aim is one of growth, inclusion, and change for the better.

DATE: Thursday, September 14, 2023
TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
FACILITATORS:
> **David G. Embrick**, Associate Professor in Sociology and Africana Studies & Office of Diversity and Inclusion Affiliate
> **Stephany Santos**, Assistant Professor in Residence, Biomedical Engineering & Office of Diversity and Inclusion Affiliate

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS: PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCESSING IN SLATE AND ADMISSIONS CYCLE KICK OFF!

ADMINISTRATIVE TRACK

Join us for a deep dive into application requirements as part of the graduate admissions process. This session will go over updates, the process The Graduate School uses before programs see their applications (Initial Grad Audit bin), and what programs should be looking for in their program review process (Program Audit bin). This will include the difference in accessing graduate admissions requirements versus program requirements, how to upload recommendations, and checking materials on the checklist. Please bring your questions, as we will be holding time at the end for Q&A.

DATE: Thursday, September 21, 2023
TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
FACILITATORS:
> **Holly Brunette**, Graduate Admissions Specialist, The Graduate School
> **Meg Drakos**, Director of Graduate Admissions, The Graduate School
> **Shirley Fiasconaro**, Graduate Admissions Specialist, The Graduate School
> **Katie O'Keefe**, Graduate Admissions Specialist, The Graduate School
> **Lisa Pane**, Systems Administrator and Slate Core Team, The Graduate School
> **Sarah Shore**, Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions, The Graduate School

NEW DIVERSITY APPLICATION FEE WAIVER PROCESS

ADMINISTRATIVE TRACK

The Graduate School is introducing a new fee waiver process to support graduate programs seeking to ensure that their applicant pool includes individuals with a wide range of backgrounds and experience. This session will provide an overview of this new program, the application process, explain how these waivers differ from other program-initiated or automatic application fee waivers, discuss implications of recent court decisions for administration of the program, and answer any questions.

DATE: Thursday, September 28, 2023
TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
FACILITATORS:
> **Kent Holsinger**, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of The Graduate School
> **Stuart Duncan**, Director of Programming & Diversity Recruitment, The Graduate School
> **Meg Drakos**, Director of Graduate Admissions, The Graduate School

NEURODIVERSITY AND THE ADVISOR/ADVISEE RELATIONSHIP: FOSTERING OPEN COMMUNICATION WITH NEURODIVERSE GRAD STUDENTS

FACULTY TRACK

In this discussion-based session, we will talk about the importance of open communication to support the success of neurodiverse graduate students in STEM programs. Topics of discussion may include: strengths-based language, talking about neurodiversity, feedback and rejection sensitivity, balancing support and personal boundaries, and ways to support student wellbeing and mental health. Please come prepared to participate in dialogue as we discuss common scenarios in the neurodiverse graduate student experience.

DATE: Thursday, October 12, 2023
TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
FACILITATORS:
> **Alexandra Hain**, Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering
> **Connie Syharat**, Research Assistant and INCLUDE Project Manager

GRADUATE STUDENT DATA RESOURCES

ADMINISTRATIVE TRACK

The University has several powerful reporting options for graduate student data. Which option is the right choice depends on what question you're hoping the data will answer for you. This session will discuss reports and data available from Institutional Research, the Office of the Registrar, and GradSlate, as well as TGS's WebFOCUS reports. Come learn about the Graduate Dashboard and how it can help you identify trends over time, the Registrar's Student Data Reporting page and custom reporting options, GradSlate queries that can help you refine your recruiting strategy, and how TGS's WebFOCUS reports can be a helpful tool to support your grads.

DATE: Thursday, October 19, 2023
TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
FACILITATORS:

Lenora Barnes, Systems Administration and Reporting, Office of the Registrar
Joe Daniels, Senior Data Warehouse Developer, Institutional Research
Louise Larson, Assistant Registrar, Office of the Registrar
Lisa Pane, Systems Administrator, The Graduate School
Megan Petsa, Director of Graduate Student Administration, The Graduate School
Sam Post, Data Warehouse Developer, Institutional Research

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS: READING AND REVIEWING APPLICATIONS IN SLATE READER

FACULTY TRACK

During this training, we will cover updates and how to review applications in the Slate reader. This presentation will include best practices for application review, including how to fill out reader review forms, queue applications to others, and enter final program admission decisions. We will discuss timelines for application review and official admission decisions, along with why it is important that all applications have program admission decisions entered by the end of the admission cycle. Please bring your questions as we will be holding time at the end for Q&A.

DATE: Thursday, November 2, 2023
TIME: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
FACILITATORS:

Holly Brunette, Graduate Admissions Specialist, The Graduate School
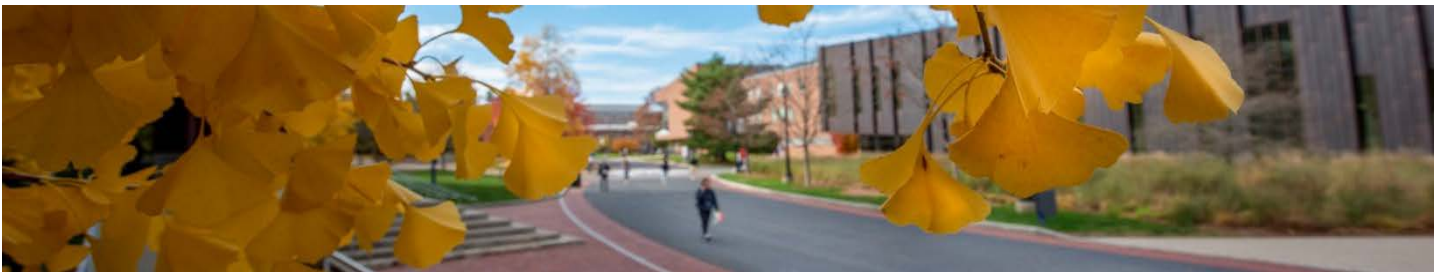**Meg Drakos**, Director of Graduate Admissions, The Graduate School
Shirley Fiasconaro, Graduate Admissions Specialist, The Graduate School
Katie O'Keefe, Graduate Admissions Specialist, The Graduate School
Lisa Pane, Systems Administrator and Slate Core Team, The Graduate School
Sarah Shore, Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions, The Graduate School

INFORMATION FOR NEW GRADUATE FACULTY ADVISORS

FACULTY TRACK

This session is designed for those who recently joined (or will soon be joining) the Graduate Faculty at UConn. The session will provide an overview of how graduate student advising works at UConn, including the roles and responsibilities of advisors. It will also discuss some basic principles of good advising; what grad advisors need to know to help their students succeed; and ways The Graduate School can support grad advisors.

DATE: Thursday, November 9, 2023
TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
FACILITATORS:
   Mary Bernstein, Associate Dean of The Graduate School and Professor of Sociology
   Karen Bresciano, Assistant Dean of The Graduate School

UPDATING YOUR CATALOG COPY AND USING THE GPAR SYSTEM

FACULTY TRACK

The Graduate Catalog is the official place for documenting UConn's graduate programs and their requirements. Programs should review their catalog language at least once a year to determine if any changes need to be made. This Timely Topics session will review the process and deadlines for making changes to the Graduate Catalog through the online GPAR system. It will also discuss how the GPAR system can be used for other program changes, including approvals of new programs and other program modification (e.g., changes in names, areas of concentrations, pathways, delivery modes, locations).

DATE: Thursday, November 30, 2023
TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
FACILITATOR:
   Mary Bernstein, Associate Dean of The Graduate School and Professor of Sociology

FELLOWSHIP PROCESS AND UPDATES

FACULTY TRACK   **ADMINISTRATIVE TRACK**

This session will serve a two-fold function: first, it will introduce new staff and faculty to The Graduate School's Jorgensen, Harriott, and Crandall Fellowships; and second, this session will share updates for those familiar with these fellowships. We will cover the nomination and selection processes, as well as detailed information on dates, diversity statements, and best-approaches. This will be followed by a Q&A.

DATE: Thursday, December 7, 2023
TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
FACILITATOR:
     Stuart Duncan, Director of Programming & Diversity Recruitment, The Graduate School

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