# 2020 Spring TA and ITA Conference Agenda

**MONDAY, January 6, 2020**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM - 9:00 AM</td>
<td>Welcome, Coffee and light snacks provided throughout the day</td>
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| 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM | **Public speaking as a TA: from leading tutorials to pre-lab talks!**  
Facilitator: Ainsley Fraser |
| 10:30 AM - 10:45 AM | Break                                                                                      |
| 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM | **Self-compassion and self-care**  
Facilitator: Dave Long |
| 12:15 PM - 1:15 PM | Lunch break - bring your own lunch                                                          |
| 1:15 PM - 3:00 PM | **Answering and asking student questions in class, office hours, and over e-mail**  
Facilitator: Ainsley Fraser |

**TUESDAY, January 7, 2020**

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| 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM | **Supporting students: Using learning outcomes and lesson plans**  
Facilitator: Jess Willows |
| 10:30 AM - 10:45 AM | Break                                                                                      |
| 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | **Learning-Centered Assessment - an effective tool of/for teaching**  
Facilitator: Ambreen Hussaini |
| 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM | Lunch break - bring your own lunch                                                          |
| 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM | **Being a TA in CourseSpaces (bring your own device)**  
Facilitators: Becca Edwards and Kayla Smith |
| 3:00 PM - 3:15 PM | Break                                                                                      |
| 3:15 PM - 4:45 PM | **Indigenous Learning Methods: Cultural practice and relational protocols in educational settings**  
Facilitator: Erynne Gilpin |

**FRIDAY, January 10, 2020; International TA Conference**

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| 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM | **Cultural dimensions and culture shocks**  
Facilitator: Saeed Rezvani |
| 10:30 AM - 10:45 AM | Break                                                                                      |
| 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | **Curiosity, Respect, and Conversation: Three simple steps towards an effective inter-cultural communication in Higher Education**  
Facilitator: Ambreen Hussaini |
| 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM | Lunch break - bring your own lunch                                                          |
| 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | **Creating collaborative classrooms**  
Facilitator: Crystal Washington |
| 2:30 PM - 2:45 PM | Break                                                                                      |
| 2:45 PM - 4:15 PM | **Tips on how to resolve intercultural communication issues and Conflict Resolution in your Canadian classroom**  
Facilitator: Moussa Magassa |
Session Descriptions

MONDAY, January 6, 2020

9:00AM - 10:30AM

Public speaking as a TA: from leading tutorials to pre-lab talks!
Facilitator: Ainsley Fraser
This 1.5 hour workshop aims to work with TAs to improve their public speaking abilities through active learning, posture improvements, recognizing individual fears with presenting, and peer feedback. The exercises will help the participants prepare for whatever public speaking tasks they will have in their TA role.

10:45AM - 12:15PM

Self-compassion and self-care
Facilitator: Dave Long
This workshop will discuss common struggles experienced in graduate school and how self-compassion plays a key role in alleviating their effects. Using self-compassion as a foundation, this workshop will explore different methods of self-care. The goal of this workshop is to provide a space for TAs to reflect on their graduate school experience while building effective coping skills.

1:15PM - 3:00PM

Answering and asking student questions in class, office hours, and over e-mail
Facilitator: Ainsley Fraser
“What if I do not know the answer? What will the students think if their TA does not have the answer? My students will know more than me.” If these are the types of questions you are asking yourself, then this is the workshop for you! TAs will engage in active techniques for answering of student questions (even those you do not know the answer to!), but also creative ways to ask thought-provoking questions of your students.
Supporting students: Using learning outcomes and lesson plans
Facilitator: Jess Willows
Knowing what to teach or how to organize it can be overwhelming, but there are easy ways to clarify your intentions. Participants will be introduced to both learning outcomes and the BOPPPS format of lesson planning, after which all of the participants will create their own learning outcomes and lesson plans, incorporating a topic that you will use in your TA work and teach in the future.

Learning-Centered Assessment – an effective tool of/for teaching
Facilitator: Ambreen Hussaini
TAs often feel overwhelmed when it comes to grading and marking students’ papers. In this workshop, we will explore what are the purposes of assessment, and why learning-centered assessment is significantly important. You will have an opportunity of both to reflect on your approaches to assessment and to practice learning-centered assessment.

Being a TA in CourseSpaces (bring your own device)
Facilitators: Becca Edwards and Kayla Smith
Find out how to take advantage of CourseSpaces in your work as a TA. CourseSpaces is the learning management system used in most undergraduate courses at UVic. In this session, you will see top tips and tricks for marking and giving feedback, communicating with students, promoting student engagement, and more! This session is interactive. You will have the opportunity to try things out on CourseSpaces! Please bring your own device to participate. We recommend a computer or tablet.

Indigenous Learning Methods: Cultural practice and relational protocols in educational settings
Facilitator: Erynn Gilpin
This workshop provides an understanding of Indigenous learning methods within higher education. It interrogates and critiques colonial assumptions about indigenous communities within the academic setting. It also provides an opportunity for critical self-reflection on Indigenous Lands, and equips the participants with tools and resources for continual learning support and developments on issues related to Indigenous learning.
FRIDAY, January 10, 2020

9:00AM - 10:30AM

**Cultural dimensions and culture shocks**
Facilitator: *Saeed Rezvani*
The effect of cultural norms and habits on learning and teaching is usually under-estimated in academia. By comparing various cultural dimensions between different countries and regions, this workshop aims to effectively increase the awareness of ITAs of the existence of such differences and help them shape a better understanding of what to expect from their classrooms at UVic. It will also look into the potential culture shock that might happen for them and students will brainstorm the potential solutions.

10:45AM - 12:00PM

**Curiosity, Respect, and Conversation: Three simple steps towards an effective inter-cultural communication in Higher Education**
Facilitator: *Ambreen Hussaini*
A global classroom is a place where learners from all over the world interact, engage, and learn from each other. At the same time, however, cultural differences can be sometimes challenging, difficult to speak about, and may hinder learning processes. In this workshop, we will discuss three-simple-steps process that can help us create an inclusive environment for learning in Higher Education.

1:00PM - 2:30PM

**Collaborative classroom learning**
Facilitator: *Crystal Washington*
Teaching assistants are tasked with the responsibility of providing varied meaningful instruction to a variety of students and environments. This workshop is designed to provide practical strategies for creating a collaborative classroom environment using techniques that can be adapted for class discussions, reciprocal teaching, problem solving, using graphic organizers and writing. Additionally, TA’s will actively engage in using these techniques, and consider how they can be modified in their classrooms to develop an enriching learning experience for all students.

2:45PM - 4:15PM

**Tips on how to resolve intercultural communication issues and Conflict Resolution in your Canadian classroom**
Facilitator: *Moussa Magassa*
Conflict is a normal part of humans as we are cultural beings socialized in different social identities, worldviews, value systems, etc. Conflict occurs in all human relationships – at community, home, work, and interpersonal levels. It is evident in our classrooms, workplaces, families, friendship groups, and social organizations.

The purpose of this workshop series is threefold, to help you:
1. develop your interpersonal and cross-cultural communication skills;
2. learn strategies in analysing intercultural communication conflict issues; and
3. develop critical competencies to assist you to confidently resolve intercultural conflicts with your students, peers and co-workers from different cultures

To do this successfully, I will provide you with different opportunities to analyse the impact of culture (your own and others’ culture) in your interpersonal relations and how it informs both your own and other people’s interpersonal communication styles and perceptions; and consequently to develop strategies for managing intercultural communications and conflicts in professional and social relationships and interactions.

This interactive and practical workshop will lead you then— within a cultural/ intercultural framework – through a series of intellectual, cognitive and case study based exercises, to learn, apply, practice and embody the different concepts, tools, methodologies and approaches of cultural intelligence, intercultural communication and cross-cultural conflict resolution methods.