MIT Day of Dialogue Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. **What is MIT Day of Dialogue (DoD)?**
   DoD is an opportunity for the MIT campus community to engage in conversations focused on race and anti-racism.

2. **Who is invited to attend?**
   Current MIT faculty, staff, and students that have touchstone access are invited to participate.

3. **How do I gain access to workshops and speaker presentations?**
   Registered participants will receive a list of Zoom links via email prior to the day. We ask that this information only be shared with members of the community that have touchstone access. A link to presentation materials will be provided to registered participants following the day.

4. **Who are the planners?**
   The committee is comprised of members of the Institute that have made a commitment to advancing the Institutes’ mission regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion. A list of committee members can be found [here](#).

5. **Why should I participate?**
   Whether new to the conversation or all too familiar, we cannot work to become an anti-racist community in silence. The day’s program is designed to be valuable for everyone, regardless of their familiarity with conversations about race and anti-racism or the level of their desire and ability to take action. You should participate if you want to engage in difficult conversations in a space where you can make mistakes. You should participate if you are looking to learn more. And, you should participate because you are a member of the MIT community.

6. **I am nervous about participating. Can you share any tips or rules of engagement?**
   It’s normal to be nervous, the topic of race and racism is often challenging and highly charged. We hope that as a community we listen to understand and speak to be understood. Having this conversation is foundational for any work that we do moving forward. Each workshop facilitator will discuss community agreements at the beginning of each session. We also suggest reading, [The 10 Rs of Talking about Race](#)
7. **What accommodations will be offered?**
Closed-captioning will be provided for the opening remarks, keynote speakers, affinity spaces, and concurrent sessions. An ASL interpreter is available upon request by emailing dayofdialogue@mit.edu by July 29, 2020. The opening remarks and keynote speakers will be shown utilizing Zoom webinar, and concurrent sessions as well as the affinity spaces will utilize Zoom meetings. Every effort will be made to have presenters provide any materials ahead of sessions or utilizing the file upload capability in Zoom chat to allow for increased access to “share screen” content. For more information about Zoom accessibility, please visit their website here. If there is anything you need to fully participate in the Day of Dialogue and/or you have concerns or questions, please email dayofdialogue@mit.edu.

8. **How are workshops selected?**
Workshops that align with DoD intended learning objectives will be selected by members of the planning committee.

9. **What are Affinity Spaces?**
The goal of the affinity sessions is to give people with similar racial and/or ethnic backgrounds an opportunity to talk about issues that impact them. These are not intended to be used as stand-alone sessions, but to instead compliment the day as a space for participants to engage in conversation about how the day is going and potentially share with one another what they have carried with them into the space. They are designed to enrich the community-wide dialogue on racism.
   a. 1) Why hold affinity group dialogues?
      i. Through talking with people who are like us, we can gain new insights into our own beliefs as well as others.
      ii. We can gain support. We can practice talking about difficult issues before we join discussions in a mixed group.
      iii. We can unpack our own “baggage” before joining dialogues with mixed groups.
      iv. We gain mutual support and learn that we have a voice in making a difference. We build new relationships and trust.
      v. We explore different ways to work with others.

10. **How do I know which Affinity Space I should select?**
We invite you to participate in an affinity group that aligns with how you self-identify.

11. **What if I want to join an affinity space that does not align with how I self identify?**
Please reflect on your intent and potential impact. Why do you want to join an affinity space that does not align with your identity? How might your presence impact the individuals in the space you wish to join? There will be sessions throughout the day with participants from a variety of racial backgrounds that will provide additional opportunities for learning and conversation. If you would like to talk through the questions about intent and impact, please email dayofdialogue@mit.edu and someone will be happy to set up a time to chat.