The Intergroup Dialogue Project (IDP) seeks to transform the campus climate at Cornell through courses for undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff. The courses we offer blend theory with experiential learning, and they are designed to facilitate communication across social, cultural, and power differences, in a critical and meaningful way. Focusing on social identities such as race, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, ability/disability, and gender, the main goals of IDP are to promote the development of consciousness about social identity, oppression, and privilege; to build relationships across differences and conflicts; and to strengthen individual and collective capacities to promote social justice and equity.

We have planned a deep and enriching intergroup dialogue experience for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars for six sessions in the month of July (3 hours each; dates below). In addition to exploring the tenets of critical dialogue, social oppression and privilege, and current conflicts, the summer session will focus on how to apply particular principles and skills to the academic environment. Our goal is to enable participants to learn from each other about issues related to their social identities and how these might influence their experience as graduate students and future scholars. We are building a colleague-based program for emerging academic leaders, to support them to take both individual and collective action. For many of our participants IDP is one of the few spaces where they can work with individuals from different backgrounds towards inclusive social change.

Our main program for undergraduate students has grown rapidly, from 30 students in 2 sections in Fall 2012, to over 200 students in 13 sections in Spring 2016. Our goal is to continue training 200 students per semester, so that at any given time there will be at least 1000 students using their skills to make a difference on campus and beyond. IDP is growing to include peer-led programs for staff, faculty, postdoctoral students, and graduate students as well.

Session 1: Tuesday, July 5 9:30-12:30  Session 2: FRIDAY, July 8 9:30-12:30
Session 3: Tuesday, July 12 9:30-12:30  Session 4: Thursday, July 14 9:30-12:30
Session 5: Tuesday, July 19 9:30-12:30  Session 6: Thursday, July 21 9:30-12:30

To register please contact Adi Grabiner-Keinan: ag649@cornell.edu