

# Social Inclusion in Practice: Supporting Diversity, Inclusion, and Engagement in the AIS

*Professional Development Symposium Proposal*

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## Symposium Overview

The Special Interest Group on Social Inclusion (SIGSI) is committed to promoting diversity, inclusive practices, and engagement. Thus, SIGSI recently created a task force to assist the AIS in developing services and policies that enable all IS scholars to fully participate in the AIS scholarly community. In support of that aim, this symposium will: (1) facilitate discussion of social inclusion and exclusion in the AIS and scholarly engagement in public and political discourse; (2) inform the SIGSI community about the task force's agenda and progress to date; and (3) solicit feedback on its efforts to identify barriers to inclusion and to develop recommendations for the AIS.

## Rationale

The current global political climate has raised concerns within the AIS community about travel restrictions in the United States, politicizing of the AIS, censorship of ideas, and fear for personal safety. SIG Social Inclusion (SIGSI) seeks to overcome barriers that prevent us all from doing what we want to do, need to do, and what we do best, as scholars.

The recent debate on AISWorld about AIS involvement in political issues also calls for consideration of the role of SIGSI in public and political discourse. Social inclusion issues are often thought of as the domain of women, LGBTQ peoples, people of color, people with disabilities, or other underrepresented groups. While SIGSI continues to attend to such issues, we recognize that social exclusion has systemic implications; exclusion affects everyone—

regardless of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, ability, or values. Thus, SIGSI has created a task force to:

- Identify barriers to IS scholars' full participation in the AIS community
- Develop mechanisms for alerting the AIS to issues that limit people's participation
- Assist the AIS in developing services and/or policies to promote social inclusion

The goals of this symposium are threefold: (1) facilitate discussion of social inclusion and exclusion in the AIS and scholarly engagement in public and political discourse; (2) inform the SIGSI community about the task force's agenda and progress to date; and (3) solicit feedback on its efforts to identify barriers to inclusion and to develop recommendations for the AIS.

We will augment presentation from the task force members with a roundtable session. The roundtables are designed to facilitate discussion and feedback on the task force agenda and broader issues related to diversity and inclusion. Contingent on attendance numbers, we will host 3-5 tables. Each table will have a few starter topics, such as:

- What is the role of SIGSI (as a group) and SIGSI members (as academics) in public and political discourse? If SIGSI and SIGSI members have roles, when and how should we engage – as a group and as individuals?
- What are your inclusion/exclusion experiences in AIS events, practices, and SIGs/Chapters?
- What role does social inclusion or exclusion play in mentoring and co-authorship relationships?
- What practices or support would help overcome the social exclusion you have experienced or witnessed?

## **Session Plan**

Session duration: 90 minutes

Timeline:

- Introduction (10 minutes)
  - Michelle Carter – overview of SIGSI and PDS session
- Task Force Activities (30 minutes - 5 minutes per speaker)
  - Overview of task force agenda (Jaime Windeler)
  - Where does the IS field stand with respect to diversity and inclusion? (Olivera Marjanovic)
  - Where does AIS stand with respect to diversity & inclusion? (Stacie Petter)
  - What can we learn from other disciplines? (Kathy Chudoba)
  - What else do we need to know (survey)? (Grace Kenny/Emma Coleman)
  - Where to from here...(wrapping up and transition to roundtable - Jaime Windeler)
- Roundtable Discussions (20 minutes)
  - Michelle Carter
  - Jaime Windeler
  - Stacie Petter
  - Other facilitators as needed, based on registration
- Roundtable Summaries/Action Items (20 minutes)
- Closing Comments (10 minutes)

## PDS Participants

28 colleagues, representing 18 AIS SIGs, Chapters, and Colleges have indicated their intention to participate in the proposed Professional Development Symposium prior to submission. We anticipate that more will join, once the PDS is promoted. Participants, their affiliations, and memberships in AIS communities (if known) are shown in Table 1.

Participants	Affiliation	AIS Communities
Michelle Carter	Washington State University	SIGSI, SIGADIT, AISWN
Jaime Windeler	University of Cincinnati	SIGSI, AISWN
Stacie Petter	Baylor University	SIGSI, SIGITProjMgmt, AISWN
Grace Kenny	Dublin City University, Ireland	SIGSI, SIGHEALTH
Olivera Marjanovic	University of Sydney	SIGSI
Adriane Randolph	Kennesaw State University	SIGSI, SIGHCI, AISWN, PhD Project
Kathy Chudoba	Utah State University	SIGSI, AISWN
Emma Coleman	University of Witwatersrand	SIGSI, AISWN, AISSAC
Rhonda Syler	University of Arkansas	SIGSI, SIGED, SIGGlobDev, SIGDSA
Monica Adya	Marquette University	
Ibtissam Zaza	Florida State University	SIGLEAD, SIGSI, SIGGT
Hala Annabi	University of Washington	SIGSI, AISWN
Julie E. Kendall	Rutgers University	AISWN, AIS College of Academic Leadership, SIGHCI, SIGGlobDev, SIGITProjMgmt, SIG Open, SIGSI, SIGSAND
Kenneth E. Kendall	Rutgers University	SIGHCI, SIGGlobDev, SIGITProjMgmt, SIG Open, SIGSI, SIGSAND
Shaila Miranda	University of Oklahoma	
Eleanor Loiacono	Worcester Polytechnic Institute	SIGSI SIGHCI AISWN
Thomas A Chapman	University of Mississippi	SIGSi SIGSEC
Ruby Booth	University of Memphis	SIGSI SIGSEC
Dragos Vieru	TELUQ University of Quebec	SIGSI
David Green	Governors State University	SIGSI, SIGED, SIGDSA, SIGSEC, MWAIS, College of Academic Leadership,
Lakshmi Iyer	North Carolina	AISWN, SIGSI, SIGDSA
Huda Ibrahim	Universiti Utara Malaysia	MyAIS (Malaysian Chapter of AIS)
Bill Hefley	University of Texas at Dallas	Multiple
Amy Connolly	James Madison University	SIGSI, SIGHCI
Paul Witman	California Lutheran University	SIGSI, SIGITProjMgmt, SIGSEC
Debra Burleson	Baylor University	SIGHEALTH, SIGSI
Kevin Craig	Baruch College, CUNY	
Traci Hess	UMass Amherst	SIGHCI, SIGDSA, SIGSI

**Table 1. Participants**