



Dr. Darcy G. Gordon
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**Title: Barriers & Bridges: Inclusivity in
Higher Education**

Abstract

Dr. Darcy G. Gordon will discuss how her lived experiences at the intersections of privilege and marginalization, specifically gender, race, and disability, have influenced her navigation of higher education and current work in digital learning. She will explore the ways her experiences in academia have shaped her as a scientist-educator and have led to the alignment of her efforts in digital education and inclusive teaching at MIT.

Bio

Dr. Darcy G. Gordon is an Instructor of Blended & Online Learning Initiatives in the Department of Biology, and former postdoctoral associate here at MIT. Previously, she completed her Ph.D. at Boston University studying the behavioral ecology and neurobiology of social insects, and developed curricula for science outreach programs. Prior to pursuing her doctorate, she completed her B.A. at Colgate University in Biology and M.S. at Illinois State University in Behavior, Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics. As a core member of the MITx Biology course development team, Dr. Gordon collaborates with faculty to enhance on-campus instruction through technology and build Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) for worldwide use. In this role she blends her pedagogical and scientific expertise to foster authentic learning experiences online, including the creation of visual resources and assessments. As part of her work, she looks to research from the learning sciences to improve in-person, hybrid, and online learning experiences. Promoting accessible and inclusive teaching is both a personal and professional passion for Dr. Gordon. As a postdoctoral associate she co-developed an inclusive teaching workshop that reached a couple hundred MIT community members within one year. Working with the MITx Biology team, she is currently in the process of expanding the reach of this project by adapting this material into an online module.