RALPH SARKIS



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EDI Statement

I am committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable environment in all aspects of my academic work, and recognizing that diversity is not only essential for individual growth but also enhances the collective success of any academic community.

In my teaching, I prioritize activities that promote peer learning, where students collaborate, interact, and share their unique perspectives while solving problems. This approach fosters a sense of community and belonging in the classroom. To further encourage participation, I've experimented with small incentives, such as offering candies to students who present their solutions. This simple act ensures that all students, regardless of their background, feel encouraged to contribute actively to the learning process.

Beyond the classroom, I engage in outreach initiatives designed to make the academic world more accessible and relatable. Through volunteering at public science events and leading workshops and guided tours, I've observed the diversity gap between school groups and public event attendees. This awareness has inspired me to focus on outreach programs that directly collaborate with primary and secondary schools, both public and private, especially in underserved communities. I am passionate about building connections with local communities and believe that these efforts align well with McGill's vision of promoting diversity and inclusion through outreach, ensuring all students, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds, have access to inspiring academic experiences.

I also work to foster inclusivity through everyday practices, such as consistently using gender-neutral language in both English and French, and making my pronouns visible in professional contexts (e.g., on my website, email signature, and office door). Since 2020, I have been listed as an ally on the Spectra allylist to signal my openness to LGBTQ+ individuals approaching me about their experiences. In the classroom, I have corrected instances of students misgendering a transgender collaborator, using these moments as opportunities to reinforce a culture of respect and understanding.

Looking ahead, I am excited to deepen my commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion by participating in initiatives like the Equity in math reading group organized by Rosalie Bélanger-Rioux, or the ITALICS reading group organized by SSoC (currently not being run).

Ultimately, I believe that equity and inclusivity are not only ethical imperatives but also integral to the thriving of academic communities. By continually learning and adapting, I aim to contribute to a culture where every student, colleague, and collaborator feels valued, respected, and empowered to succeed.