

Staff Anti-Racism Awareness & Education (SARAE)

7th Week Winter Term Dialogue: Tuesday, February 16th, 2021

Winter Term Theme: Understanding internal biases and perceptions and how they influence interactions with difference.

Media for this discussion:

TED Talk: [*Don't ask me where I'm from, ask where I'm a local*](#) by Taiye Selasi

Short Video: [Where are you from?](#)

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the purpose of the question “where are you from?” What are we understanding when we hear the answer? Stereotypes? Perceptions? What we were told to believe about that place/country/community? Are we looking for the “power game?”
2. Have you had any similar interactions to the scene played out in the “where are you from” short video?
 - a. In this video, why does the white man seemingly not understand why the woman is asking him “where he is from?” Why do white folk not have to think about this?
3. Where are you a local? Taiye Selasi proposes we think about the 3 R's: rituals, relationships, restrictions.
 - a. Rituals: What do you do on the daily, and where is your face known? Where do your rituals occur?
 - b. Relationships: To whom do you speak to on a weekly basis? Who shapes your days, and in what way?
 - c. Restrictions: Where are you able to feel at home, on a legal, secure, and emotional level? Why isn't it the same for everyone?
4. Can we ever “go back” to where we are from?

Feel free to write down your answers to these three questions on a piece of paper, as suggested by Taiye in the TED Talk, to discuss your experience or what you find in the dialogue.

Note: These questions are just building blocks to spur conversation. Other ideas, thoughts, and questions beyond the few listed here are more than welcome.