

Pride at SAIT Newsletter

Welcome! Pride at SAIT works towards building a community on campus that is inclusive of and accessible to all individuals regardless of gender expression, gender identity or sexual orientation. We hope to share resources and important information for our 2SLGBTQ+ community through our monthly newsletter and effect positive change!

📅 Important dates in October:

- Oct 1-31: [Islamic History Month Canada](#)
- Oct 1-31: [Women's History Month](#)
- Oct 11: [National Coming Out Day](#)
- Oct 11: [International Day of the Girl Child](#)
- Oct 18: [Persons Day](#)
- Oct 19: [International Pronouns Day](#)
- Oct 26: [International Intersex Awareness Day](#)

🏳️‍🌈 Pride Week on Campus!

This year, we are celebrating Pride Week from October 10 to 13! We have in-person and virtual events, so there is something for everyone.

When attending Pride Week events, take some time to reflect and celebrate the rainbow of identities that make up our SAIT students, staff and faculty!

If you are inspired by one of our events and want to learn more about the history, culture and how to advocate for the rights of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, visit our website at www.sait.ca/pride and keep up to date about our future events!

PRIDE WEEK #HEREATSIT

PRIDEFLAG RAISING CEREMONY TUESDAY, OCT. 10 8 - 8:30 AM Join us at 8:00 AM with a special ceremony at the [redacted] building as we celebrate our [redacted] day.	COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR FREE ICE CREAM WEDNESDAY, OCT. 11 11 AM - 1 PM RENE LEVINS ATRIUM
INSTRUCTOR SESSION WEDNESDAY, OCT. 11 1:30-3:30 PM Our instructors will be sharing their experiences and insights on how to create an inclusive and supportive learning environment for all students. Join us for this session to learn more about our [redacted] and how we can all contribute to a more inclusive SAIT.	INCLUSION TALKS: EMBRACING TWO-SPIRIT IDENTITIES: A CONVERSATION WITH MARSHALLVILLE WEDNESDAY, OCT. 11, NOON Don't miss our upcoming event featuring [redacted] and [redacted] in conversation with [redacted] on the topic of Two-Spirit identities and how we can all contribute to a more inclusive SAIT.
DRAG BINGO THURSDAY, OCT. 13, 11 AM - 12:30 PM RENE LEVINS ATRIUM Join us for a fun-filled drag bingo event featuring [redacted] and [redacted] on the topic of drag culture and how we can all contribute to a more inclusive SAIT.	Scan the QR code to support.

www.sait.ca/pride

Celebrating Pride Stories!

A huge thank you to those who submitted stories for Pride Week and International Coming Out Day. We appreciated you taking the time to share your stories with us!

Stay tuned for the incredible stories we will be sharing through SAIT communications.

Some members of the Pride at SAIT committee compiled a list their favorite **books and movie recommendations** to celebrate Pride Week. If you find yourself wanting to do some reading or movie watching, look no further!

Lukas Valentine (He/Him) Member At Large: The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller

I want to recommend "The Song of Achilles" by Madeline Miller – it's a fantastic book that takes you into the world of Greek myths with a fresh twist. The story is about Patroclus, a prince who becomes friends with Achilles, the famous hero. They go through a lifetime together, from their childhood to the chaos of the Trojan War. What's so great about this book is how it shows their friendship turning into something deeper. You'll get to experience their adventures, feel their love, and understand the tough choices they must make. If you're into stories about love, bravery, and ancient battles, this book is totally worth a read!

Amanda Wilkesheski (She/Her), Programming & Activities Coordinator: The Stonewall Reader edited by Jason Baumann

I would recommend "The Stonewall Reader" edited by Jason Baumann. It's a three-part anthology of stories from 2SLGBTQ+ people. The first are narratives from before the riots, the second is during the riots and the third part is after the riots. These narratives range from first-person storytelling from founding members of important gay organizations to interviews to purposeful prose. It's interesting and emotional to see the shift in perspectives and purpose throughout the gay liberation movement.

Jenna Nakamura (She/Her), Chair: Everything Everywhere All At Once (2022)

I'm recommending the mesmerizing film 'Everything Everywhere All At Once,' a captivating blend of fantasy and science fiction directed by Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert. The movie tells the story of Evelyn, who stumbles upon the existence of parallel universes. The story takes on a profound parable-like quality, exploring the far-reaching impact of rejecting one's own gay child. In addition, it has narrative twists and some beautiful visual artistry. The film touches on the themes of love, identity and the multifaceted nature of our beings. As Pride Week resonates with messages of inclusivity and togetherness, 'Everything Everywhere All at Once' stands as a testimony to the importance of embracing our dear ones for exactly who they are.

Kate Laverdure (She/Her), Programming & Activities Coordinator: Detransition, Baby by Torrey Peters

I would like to recommend Detransition, Baby — a debut novel about an unexpected pregnancy which brings together three people as they explore an unconventional family dynamic. Ames, previously Amy, made the decision to detransition and live as a man, leaving ex-girlfriend Reese to navigate her life without Amy. When Ames discovers his new romantic partner Katrina is pregnant, he begins to reflect on becoming a parent without Reese. A nuanced exploration of sex, gender and parenting, this novel offers unique perspectives on womanhood.

Sidse Pederson (She/Her), Education & Training Coordinator: *The Remedy: Queer and Trans Voices on Health and Health Care* by Zena Sharman

This book had a profound impact on my learning as a healthcare provider. This anthology is a diverse collection of real-life stories from queer and trans people on their own healthcare experiences and challenges. The book also includes essays by health-care providers, activists and leaders. I highly recommend this book for anyone looking to learn more about real-life issues in trans and queer healthcare.

Ashley Vu (She/Her), Communications Coordinator: *Julián Is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love

Every now and then, I dive into my collection of picture books and pull out a couple to read to my inner child. I'd highly recommend *Julián Is a Mermaid*. The beautifully illustrated and heartwarming book tells the story of Julián, a young boy who dreams of becoming a mermaid. The book is a celebration of self-expression, acceptance and the unconditional love of family. *Julián Is a Mermaid* delivers a powerful message of love, individuality and the power of imagination. It's a story that will touch your heart and inspire meaningful conversations with young readers about diversity, inclusion and the beauty of being true to oneself.

 **Information Sharing: *Asexuality***

We had a member of the SAIT community share not only their experience as an asexual person but also beautiful moments of learning, reflection and storytelling. A huge thank you to the writer!

What is asexuality?

Asexuality is defined as a lack of sexual attraction. An asexual person (also known as ace) feels little to no sexual attraction towards others. Asexuality exists on a spectrum. Some people never feel sexual attraction and others may feel it only once they have gotten to know a person well (demisexual). Every asexual person has a different experience. Aces are estimated to be between 1-3% of the population. The percentage is rising as awareness of the orientation grows.

Closely connected to asexuality is the split attraction model. In this model, sexual attraction and romantic attraction are split. Other types of attraction include aesthetic, sensual and emotional. Many asexual people will experience other types of attraction but not sexual attraction.

What are some misconceptions about asexuality?

Asexuality is a sexual orientation and the biggest misconception is that asexuals are not interested in having sex. That is true for some aces. But other asexual people do have sex, for a variety of reasons. It may be to please an allosexual (a person who experiences sexual attraction) partner. Some asexual people enjoy the sexual act itself and experiencing sexual attraction towards their partner is not necessary to enjoy the act.

Another misconception is that aces are not interested in having romantic relationships. The A also stands for aromantic (as well as agender), and some aces are also aromantic. But many aces have romantic relationships and partners, either in a sexual relationship or in one without sex — with other asexuals or allosexuals.

Some people think that an asexual is just someone who has a low libido. This doesn't acknowledge that asexuality is an orientation, not a medical issue.

What is your own story?

Like many aces, I started out thinking that I was bisexual, as I seemed to feel the same level of sexual attraction towards both men and women. It took some time to realize it felt the same because it wasn't sexual attraction at all. Learning about the different types of attraction was a great help to understanding my orientation.

I discovered my own asexuality in middle age. I came across the acronym 2SLGBTQIAP+ in an article, and I was unfamiliar with some of the letters. I looked them up and quickly identified with asexuality. From there, it was a journey of self-discovery for several months. I read books and went to internet forums and websites, discovering many people's stories and learning about the many aspects of asexuality. I'm still learning — it's a diverse and complicated orientation.

I had never heard of asexuality when I was younger, so I was unable to identify with something I did not know existed. I always knew that I was not interested in sex as a part of relationships. In fact, I never thought about sex at all and was always surprised to discover other people were thinking and talking about sex. I only ever thought about the romantic/emotional and commitment components of relationships.

Do aces experience any discrimination?

Many aces have experienced discrimination. Younger aces can be told that they just haven't met the right person yet. Some in the medical field can try to pathologize asexuality, prescribing hormone treatment and/or counselling. In some parts of the world, asexuals are subject to conversion therapy.

I'd like to learn more. Can you recommend any resources?

Books

The definitive book is available in the SAIT Library, in print. 306.7 C514

Chen, A. (2020). *Ace-: what asexuality reveals about desire, society, and the meaning of sex*. Beacon Press.

https://sait.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01SAIT_INST/10a9ba3/alma991003008840906261

It is also available online and in print through Calgary Public Library

This is an ebook available through Calgary Public Library

Bogaert, A. (2012). *Understanding asexuality*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

[Understanding Asexuality | Calgary Public Library | BiblioCommons](#)

This is available online and in print through Calgary Public Library

Decker, J. (2015). *The invisible orientation: an introduction to asexuality*. Skyhorse Publishing.

[The Invisible Orientation | Calgary Public Library | BiblioCommons](#)

Websites

The Asexual Visibility & Education Network. <https://www.asexuality.org>

Split Attraction Model. (n.d.) Gender + Sexuality Resource Centre. <https://www.gsrc.princeton.edu/split-attraction>

Streaming Video from the SAIT Library

Tucker, Angela (Filmmaker). (2012). *(A)sexual* [Video]. Alexander Street Press PDA.
https://sait.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01SAIT_INST/10a9ba3/alma991003026945006261

Scholarly Article from the SAIT Library

Brunning, L., & McKeever, N. (2021). Asexuality. *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, 38(3), 497–517.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/japp.12472>
https://sait.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01SAIT_INST/1u7fvls/cdi_proquest_journals_25525369
[89](#)