Transforming the Academy: Making Private Conversations Public with Strategy and Compassion

SARAH WILLIE-LEBRETON

Sponsored by the Department of Sociology

FRIDAY JUNE 2

12:00-1:30PM

Hagerty L-25

Lunch will be served. RSVP seb376@drexel.edu

The editor of and contributor to *Transforming the Academy,* Professor Willie-LeBreton will share diversity stories that began as private conversations and blossomed into public discussions. The other contributors to the book offer their experiences from the perspective of one-time outsiders who are now faculty and staff at predominantly white, American institutions of higher learning. Having wrestled with the micro-realities of representing difference and navigating oppressive situations on their campuses, in their departments and curricula, with their colleagues and students, they return to the radical expectations and transformative possibilities of diversity. This presentation will allow us to explore the sociological implications of increasing diversity and to consider the pragmatic questions of how and when to make private conversations public for the purpose of mutual and academic transformation.