

U.lab Hub

Dear Pitt u.lab hub community,

In August we had two taster sessions with about 60 people in attendance. It was great to see familiar faces again, and also to meet a lot of new people. We had participants from diverse academic units as well as the general Pittsburgh community: some will be joining us at community gatherings and enjoy fellowship with other Theory U enthusiasts while others will also be joining coaching circles and accompany each other in applying methods learned in the u.lab MOOC. Big welcome to all members of the Pitt u.lab hub community. We are embarking on a journey of learning, insights, and purposeful relationships.

I am excited to introduce to you the Pitt u.lab hub hosting team, who will be serving as liaison among the coaching circles, co-facilitating the live sessions, and making decisions for the well-being of the community. They are:

Gemma Jiang, Swanson School of Engineering (gfej20@pitt.edu)

Stephanie Romero, Awaken Pittsburgh (sromero@awakenpittsburgh.org)

Jackson Martin, Pitt Athletics (jmartin@athletics.pitt.edu)

I am also pleased to share that my action research proposal ***Understanding Pitt U.lab Hub Participant Experience*** was just approved by Pitt's institutional review board. We will be conducting surveys, interviews and focus groups to understand your experience and continuously improve our activities to best serve your needs. Two researchers will be leading this study:

Principal Investigator: Gemma Jiang, Swanson School of Engineering

Co-Principal Investigator: Christina Ong, Department of Sociology (cno4@pitt.edu)

In addition, we have news, updates and events to share. In this newsletter, you will find:

1. The Edx Course and [first community gathering](#)
2. Dates and Locations for all five community gatherings
3. Social Presencing Theatre workshop-limited spots
4. Third Annual Pitt Park(ing) Day-Please [sign up](#) to volunteer
5. For the coaching circle applicants

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1. The Edx Course and first community gathering

The EdX MOOC u.lab 1x starts at Sept. 12, 2019. If you have not done so, please create a profile for yourself at EdX, and register for the [u.lab 1X: Leading from the Emerging Future](#) course. It is free for everybody. There are already close to 60,000 registered students globally for the course. The first community gathering for our hub is 12:30–2:30pm, Thursday, Sept. 19 at The University Club, Conference B. Lunch will be provided at the beginning. Please sign up [here](#) if you intend to come and participate in the activities. We need an accurate headcount for lunch.

In addition, I have also created a profile for our hub in the Presencing Institute website; please join the hub via this link: <https://www.presencing.org/community/hubs/pitt-ulab-hub>. You will be interacting with hub participants from all over the world via this portal.

2. Dates and Locations for all five community gatherings in fall 2019

To help you with planning, please find below the logistics for all five gatherings for our community in Fall 2019. Sign up for each event will be provided as we approach the specific dates.

Date	Time	Purpose	Location
Thursday, September 19, 2019	12:30–2:30pm	Community Gathering	University Club Conference Room B
Thursday, October 17, 2019	12:30–2:30pm	Community Gathering	University Club Conference Room A
Thursday, November 14, 2019	10am–1pm	Community Gathering	University Club Conference Room A
Thursday, December 12, 2019	10am–1pm	Community Gathering	The Gold Room
Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019	9:00am–4:00 pm	Social Presencing Theatre Coaching	University Club Conference Room A

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3. Social Presencing Theatre Workshop (Oct. 5)

[Social Presencing Theater\(SPT\)](#) is an awareness-based systems change methodology developed within the Presencing Institute network. It uses creative mindfulness practices to train leaders to identify and articulate their “felt sense” of systemic challenges, and to mine that intuitive, embodied knowing for wisdom that can inform their next moves. SPT can also quickly map systems to make visible the usually unseen dynamics that drive them, and to surface new possibilities for structuring systems in ways that lead toward sustainability and generative potential.

In this workshop you will learn key principles and practices of social presencing theatre. Please sign up and find more information via this [Eventbrite link](#). This workshop has a cap of 40 people, and it will be first come first served.

SPT is introduced in Module 2 of the MOOC: Co-sensing in the u.lab course.

4. Third Annual Pitt Park(ing) Day (Sept. 20)

As I mentioned in the second taster session, the Pitt u.lab hub will participate in the third annual Pitt Park(ing) Day to be held 10:00am–2:00pm Friday, Sept. 20. We will be collecting “stories of change”. Specifically, we will draw a big U on the parking space, and invite participants to draw or write: on the left side of the U, past/present; at the bottom of the U, the trigger; on the right side of the U, the present/future. The past/present combination is for a change the participant has already experienced, and the present/future combination is for a change the participant would like to see. Then we will invite participants to tell their stories and record them, and from that we will make a collage of stories. We have t-shirts with the community logo to give out to every participant!

We need **volunteers** to help with set up (esp. With artistic talents to draw a beautiful U), stay at the table for one hour, and clean up. If you are interested, please sign up [here](#).

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In addition, the global U community is participating in the [September 20: the Global Climate Strike](#). To support this initiative, we would be especially interested in stories related to global climate challenges. Please also feel free to participate in ways that resonate deeply with you.

5. For current and potential coaching circle applicants

We received 15 applications to be in coaching circles. Thank you for being part of this exciting learning journey together. Christina, co-PI of the action research study, will reach out to each applicant individually for a half-an-hour interview to understand your need and intention better. This data will help us with providing more personalized support for you and your project.

For those interested in coaching circles, but have not applied, the [application](#) is open till Sept. 20. You will learn everything you need to know about coaching circles from Module 1: Co-initiating in the u.lab course. For you quick reference, here are two resources to check out:

Coaching Circle introduction: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJTrLUgl-qE>

Coaching Circle Detailed instruction: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AwjkROGi6H4>

Thank you for being part of the community and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Dr. Gemma Jiang

Director of Organizational Innovation

Sept. 5, 2019