

Biology Diversity Community Presents: EJ Joseph from Amplify the Movement



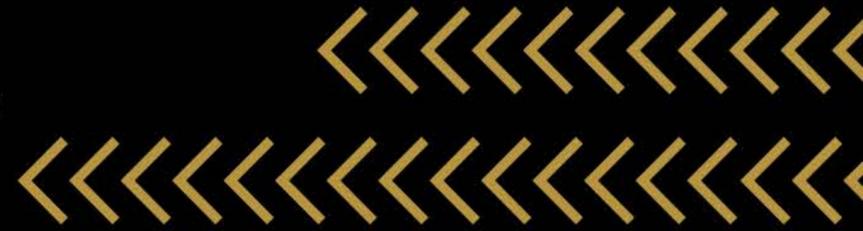
Amplify the Movement is a collective aimed at uplifting and supporting Black voices. EJ Joseph is a Black, queer actor based in LA and a co-founder of Amplify the Movement. His mission in this collective and in life is to create opportunities for other underrepresented individuals who also encounter antiLGBTQ+ and anti-Blackness in their daily lives.

Follow Amplify the Movement on
Twitter and Instagram:
@amphthemovement

Follow us on:
Twitter: @BDC_MIT
Instagram: @MIT_BDC

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020. 3PM - 4PM
ZOOM LINK:
[HTTPS://MIT.ZOOM.US/J/99672709822](https://mit.zoom.us/j/99672709822)

Email us at bdcgroup@mit.edu
We thank the School of Science
QoL grant for funding!



Dear Members of the MIT Community,

The **Biology Diversity Community (BDC)** extends a warm welcome to the greater MIT Community to its new **seminar series** where we touch on topics about race, gender, diversity, equity, and inclusion by highlighting and promoting diverse voices both inside and outside of our community. We hope that all members of the community will have an opportunity to learn about others' heterogeneous experiences in STEM and the ways in which race, gender, socioeconomic status, nationality, and more influence these moments.

We begin our seminar series on **Wednesday, September 30th at 3:00pm (ET)** with EJ Joseph from Amplify the Movement.

Amplify the Movement is a collective aimed at uplifting and supporting Black voices. Through the creation of a safe and inclusive space for all Black voices, Amplify the Movement protests the systemic racism Black lives routinely face. They are currently planning future panels to address issues of racism and homophobia as well as to showcase Black talent from artists, performers, entrepreneurs, and more.

EJ Joseph is a Black, Queer Actor based in LA and a co-founder of Amplify the Movement. His mission in this collective and in life is to create opportunities for other underrepresented individuals who also encounter anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-Blackness in their daily lives. As the inaugural speaker for the BDC Seminar Series, EJ Joseph will speak about his experiences as a queer Black man in Hollywood and his work at Amplify the Movement.

Zoom Link: <https://mit.zoom.us/j/99672709822>

As part of our seminar series, we have established community guidelines in order to promote educational discussions to disrupt biases and systems of oppression. You may find the **BDC Seminar Series: Community Guidelines** attached to this email.

If you have any questions, please submit them to the BDC at bdcgroup@mit.edu. We hope you can join us in keeping these important conversations at the forefront of our decisions as we progress towards making the MIT Community a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive space. Finally, we'd like to thank the School of Science for their support of this endeavor through the Quality of Life Grant.

Best,
BDC Seminar Series Organizers

BDC Seminar Series: Community Guidelines

We aim to create a supportive space for our speakers to share their experience without fear of judgement. We have zero tolerance for harassment and discrimination*. To accomplish this we rely on everyone, including all speakers, attendees, and BDC staff, in the seminar series to adhere to a set of **community guidelines**:

1. Listen actively and with respect.
2. Be receptive to new perspectives - we are here to learn.
3. Own your privilege and oppression.
4. Commit to learning. The goal is not to always agree - it is to gain a deeper understanding.
5. Sit with silence and embrace discomfort.
6. Community growth depends on the inclusion of every individual voice -- learn from what you hear here, do not invalidate the speaker.
7. Own your intentions and your impact.
8. No attacks: Challenge ideas, not people
9. Use "I" statements - speak from your perspective and not for a group.
10. Acknowledge when harm has been done. Seek to engage in repair as a group.
11. No unauthorized recording.

Q&A Session

You may direct questions to a moderator by writing to the moderator(s) in the chat box. To protect the speaker(s) and the Biology Diversity Community, the moderator makes the final decision on what questions to get asked.

*Hostile or harassing conduct will be met with a warning and, if necessary, removal of the offender from the seminar and from all future BDC events.

1. Examples of unacceptable behaviors include but are not limited to:
 - a. Verbal or written comments that reinforce social structures of oppression related to gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, age, religion, or immigration status.
 - b. Sexual images in public spaces
 - c. Deliberate intimidation, stalking, or following
 - d. Harassing photography or recording
 - e. Sustained disruption of the seminar
 - f. Unwelcome sexual attention
 - g. Explicit or implied threat of physical, financial, personal, or professional harm
 - h. Advocating for, participating in, or encouraging, any of the above.
2. Reporting: If any individual makes you feel unsafe or unwelcome and violates the BDC guidelines, please report the individual to the moderator(s) and/or the MIT IDHR office (idhr@mit.edu).