ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP RESEARCH SEMINAR

Topic Professional Culture and Inequality in Engineering
Speaker Dr. Erin A. Cech
Date Wednesday, March 7, 2018 • 11AM – 12PM
Venue Galbraith Building, Room 202
35 St George St, Toronto, ON M5S 1A4

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Cech is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Michigan. She earned her doctorate in sociology from the University of California, San Diego and undergraduate degrees in electrical engineering and sociology from Montana State University. Her research on inequality in STEM professions focuses on the recruitment and retention of women, LGBTQ, and racial/ethnic minority persons in STEM degree programs and STEM jobs. She is a member of the editorial board of the American Sociological Review. Her research has been cited in The New York Times, The Guardian, Chronicle of Higher Education, Huffington Post, and the news sections of Science and Nature.

PROFESSIONAL CULTURE AND INEQUALITY IN ENGINEERING

The professional cultures, which give each discipline its particular "feel" and unite members under a system of meaning and values, are not benign.

Dr. Cech will explain how these cultures can disadvantage women and other under-represented groups in STEM. Specifically, she'll discuss the role of three cultural ideologies in producing disadvantage: schemas of scientific excellence, depoliticization, and the meritocratic ideology.

She'll end by explaining why decisions that partially rely on assessments of a person's "fit" with a professional culture, such as admissions, hiring, tenure, are particularly important to examine for their potential to contribute to inequality.

Please join us for this upcoming research seminar.

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