

# INCLUSIVE ASTRONOMY

INVITED SPEAKER 2024  
**DR. TOM RICE**



**SPECIAL EDITION**



## Visit Overview

November 20: 4pm-5pm  
IA/IAR/CSP Research Seminar

November 21: 10am-12pm  
Coffee+Bagels and Workshop 1

November 22: 10am-12pm  
Coffee+Donuts and Workshop 2

November 22: 12pm-2pm  
Lunch with Grads

November 22: 12pm-2pm  
Deaf-friendly Interactive Night

## Biography

Dr. Tom Rice is an astronomer and educator who currently works as an Education Program Manager for the American Astronomical Society. He is also research professor of physics at The George Washington University.

Dr. Rice previously taught and researched at Columbia University as a Science Fellow.

A first-generation college student at Harvard University (2008-2012), he received his Ph.D. in astronomy in 2019 from the University of Michigan. He grew up in a Deaf, ASL speaking family in Oregon City, Oregon.



Coffee and Bagels (left) and Lunch with Grads (right)

# WORKSHOPS *recap*



## Inclusive Teaching

Dr. Rice focused this workshop on ways to bring inclusive practices to the classroom, through community practices, co-teaching, sharing materials, and encouraging students to take ownership in their learning (metacognition). Tom recommends seeking professional development workshops of teaching methods from professional societies, often shared by AAS Agents. He highlighted the importance to challenge and question how our own identities have influenced our learning to help open perspectives to learners from various backgrounds.

## Community Engagement

In this second workshop, Dr. Rice explored ways to bring science to various communities, which often requires connections and an understanding of the community's needs. We discussed incentives to engage in outreach, with examples from across the country of programs centering Native Americans and Indigenous communities, to Deaf education.

\*Find all recommended readings on page 3



**Please fill out this quick survey (~5 min) to give IA feedback on Dr. Tom Rice's visit.**

*Thank you to all who attended the events and participated in making this visit such a success! We are very grateful and excited for more visits in the future.*  
-IA Leadership

## ★ Deaf-friendly interactive night

Allie McCarthy hosted a Deaf Interactive Night in the College of Arts & Sciences with Dr. Rice, working with interpreters to introduce astronomical concepts to audiences whose ages ranged from five to eighty-five! People were able to experiment with tesla coils, spectrometers, and a planeterra, while learning about craters, gravity, exoplanets, and the solar system!

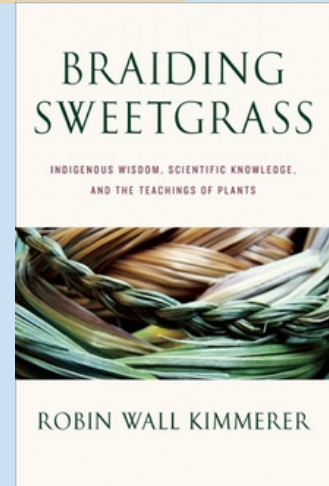
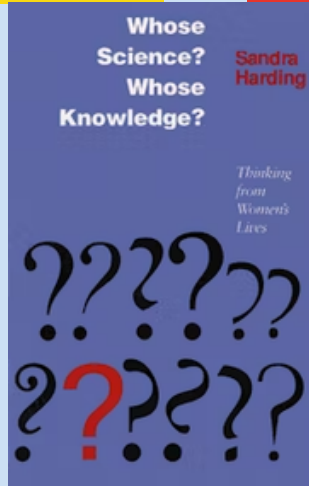
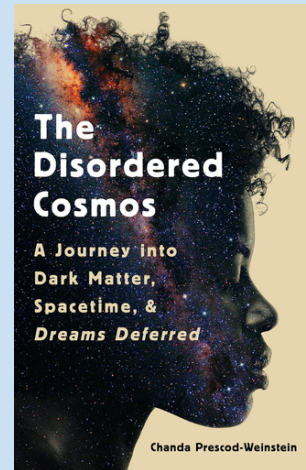
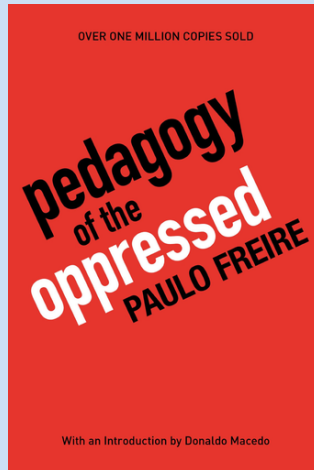
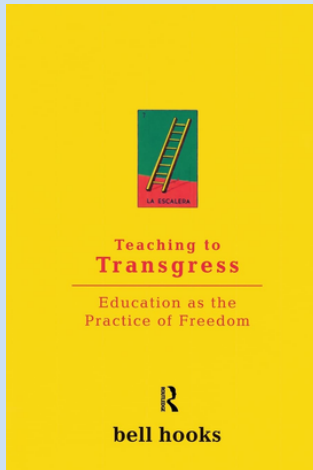


**fun fact: CODBA and social media star, Jon Urquhart, who has amassed over 1 million followers on all platforms, came to our event! He can be seen at the Apples gravity station chatting with Phil (right)!**

# Recommended Readings

## workshop 1

- Pedagogy of the Oppressed | Paulo Freire
- Teaching to Transgress | Bell Hooks



## workshop 2

- Whose Science? Whose Knowledge? | Sandra Harding
- Emergent Strategy | Adrienne Maree Brown
- The Disordered Cosmos: A journey into Dark Matter, Spacetime, & Dreams | Chanda Prescod-Weinstein
- Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants | Robin Wall Kimmerer