

WORKSHOP

Engineering Privileges for Sale – A Thought Experiment

Kacey Beddoes

Washington State University

Corresponding Facilitator's Email: kacey.beddoes@wsu.edu

OVERVIEW OF WORKSHOP

This interactive workshop engages attendees in a thought experiment about how they value certain forms of privilege in relation to their engineering careers. The research-based activity raises awareness about underexplored sources of inequity in engineering. Following the thought experiment, attendees discuss their reactions to the activity, how the privileges identified affect engineering students and engineering educators, and what engineering educators can do to intervene in these systems of privilege. This activity provides entrée into a topic that can be difficult to discuss in a way that mitigates resistance to such discussions.

ACTIVITIES

Introductory presentation by facilitator (5 min). Participants are put in groups of 3-4 people and given a list of common privileges in engineering along with between four to seven mock dollar notes in varying amounts; they must decide as a group which privileges they will buy to help them in their engineering careers (20 minutes). One person from each group then reports back to everyone what their group chose to buy, why, and the kinds of discussions their group had (30 minutes). The facilitator then guides a group discussion (30 minutes) about the privileges and choices.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Engineering educators or engineering students. No prior knowledge is needed to participate.

OUTCOMES

Learning outcomes are that participants will be able to: 1) identify leading forms of privilege operating in engineering, and 2) identify ways they can disrupt those privileges.

REFERENCES

- Beddoes, K. (2024). Demo Account of a Workshop to Disrupt Privilege in Engineering. Paper presented at the AAEE Annual Conference, Christchurch, New Zealand.
- Beddoes, K. (2022). Gender as structure in the organisational socialisation of newcomer civil engineers. *European Journal of Engineering Education*, 47(1), 102-116.
- Beddoes, K. (2021). Examining privilege in engineering socialization through the stories of newcomer engineers. *Engineering Studies*, 13(2), 158-179.

KEYWORDS

Equity, inclusion, meritocracy

PRESENTERS' BACKGROUNDS

Kacey Beddoes has been studying privilege in engineering socialization since 2017, and this workshop is based directly on her research findings. An article on which this workshop is based was awarded best paper of the year from the *European Journal of Engineering Education* in 2023.

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