

SCHOLARSHIP OF TEACHING AND LEARNING (SoTL)

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

What is SoTL?

The Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation (CTSI) is dedicated to the advancement of the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (SoTL) at the University of Toronto. CTSI serves as a hub to enable and support this form of scholarship via a number of activities. There are many entry points for faculty interested in conducting inquiry into one's teaching:

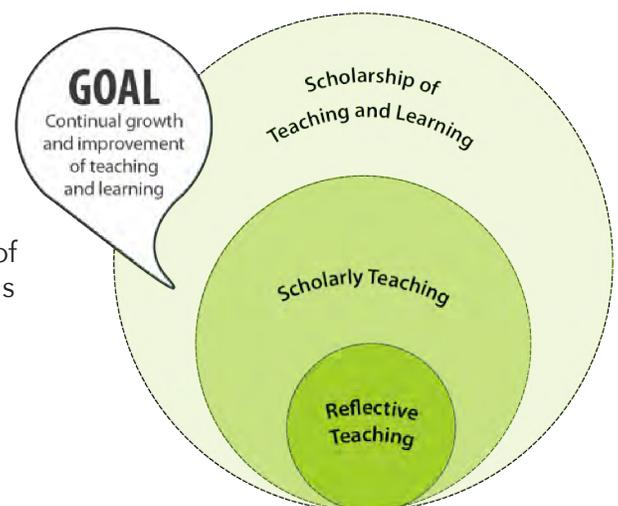


A Reflective approach is common amongst U of T instructors as they regularly think about their actions, the impact on student learning, and/or how to improve their students' learning over time.



A Scholarly approach to teaching includes instructors who ask thoughtful questions about their teaching, collect and analyze data, and improve one's efforts to enhance student learning, over time. This line of inquiry may be part of one's personal growth as a teacher and an instructor may choose to share this with others. Scholarly teaching may also include consulting the broader higher education pedagogical literature, reviewing and making changes to teaching based on course evaluation data, or attending teaching-related professional development workshops.

The Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (SoTL) subsumes both these aspects (reflective and scholarly teaching) and McKinney (2006) describes it as "the systematic study of teaching and/or learning and the public sharing and review of such work through presentations, performance, or publications" (p. 39). Sharing amongst a community of teacher-scholars is a key aspect of SoTL and an important goal of CTSI programming. Many U of T faculty have published their SoTL work in a range of disciplinary (e.g., *Computer Science Education*, *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*), and SoTL-specific journals (e.g., *Teaching and Learning Inquiry*). They have also presented at teaching and learning conferences (e.g., University of Toronto Teaching and Learning Symposium, International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, National Institute for the Teaching of Psychology).





SoTL Resources

The following SoTL resources, programming, and educational services were developed in response to a CTSI survey of University of Toronto faculty. Faculty reported the need for a wide range of resources and offerings to bolster their skills and confidence to conduct inquiry and research into their teaching and student learning. Faculty also expressed the desire to connect with others for skills sharing and to develop a community of SoTL scholars. CTSI seeks to meet these needs through its varied and wide range of offerings throughout the year.

SoTL Website

The 'Research on Teaching' tab of the CTSI website includes a range of events, notes/ video recordings, resources, publications & dissemination information. Check regularly for updates:

<http://teaching.utoronto.ca/sotl/what-is-sotl/>

SoTL Tip Sheets

The SoTL Tip sheets are a series of brief resources to assist faculty of all experience levels to learn how they may engage in meaningful, guided, and intentional reflection on their teaching, to nurture a sense of curiosity about their teaching practice, and to begin the process of conducting a SoTL project.

SoTL Listserv

Subscribe to the CTSI SoTL Listserv to become a member of the SoTL community and to receive email notices of upcoming meetings and workshops at CTSI, conference and publication opportunities, and to connect with peers by posting SoTL-related questions/comments. To subscribe to the listserv please email Kathleen Olmstead:

k.olmstead@utoronto.ca.

SoTL Consultations

One-to-one in-person or phone consultations are available for instructors.

To consult with a CTSI staff on a SoTL project:

<http://teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching-support/consultations/>

To consult with a Liaison Librarian to explore the

SoTL academic literature: <http://resource.library.utoronto.ca/liaison/>

SoTL Programming

- **SoTL Workshop Series:** Held throughout the year, these workshops focus on a range of SoTL topics, led by CTSI staff and U of T faculty with expertise in research on teaching topics. Check the Events page to register: <http://teaching.utoronto.ca/events/>.
- **SoTL Cohort Program:** A year-long program (June-May) that support up to 15 continuing appointment faculty who work together on their individual (or group) SoTL projects, through structured workshops, individual consultations and peer mentoring. Faculty develop skills in project design and execution, as well as contribute to a culture of SoTL activity at U of T. The Call for Applicants occurs in the Spring.
- **Lunch 'n Learn Series:** CTSI hosts lunch-hour sessions to share ideas and experiences on a diverse range of research on teaching topics.

Teaching and Learning Symposium

Held annually in May, this event stimulates discussion and the sharing of research, practices and experiences around teaching and learning. The Research on Teaching sessions are an opportunity for faculty to showcase research-in-progress to the wider teaching and learning community.

Grants Workshop

Held during the summer, this workshop shares important information on three Provostial grants available to support education and teaching at U of T: [Learning and Education Advancement Fund \(LEAF\)](#), [Instructional Technology Innovation Fund \(ITIF\)](#), and the [International Student Experience Fund \(ISEF\)](#).

To stay abreast of these and other faculty development activities, please [subscribe to the CTSI newsletter](#) to learn about ongoing events and workshops.