

Pooja Dey: My Reflections



Photo Credit: David Lee

(1) What it means to me to study at UTM



Photo Credit: @utmhccwellness

(2) Support from peers, faculty, staff

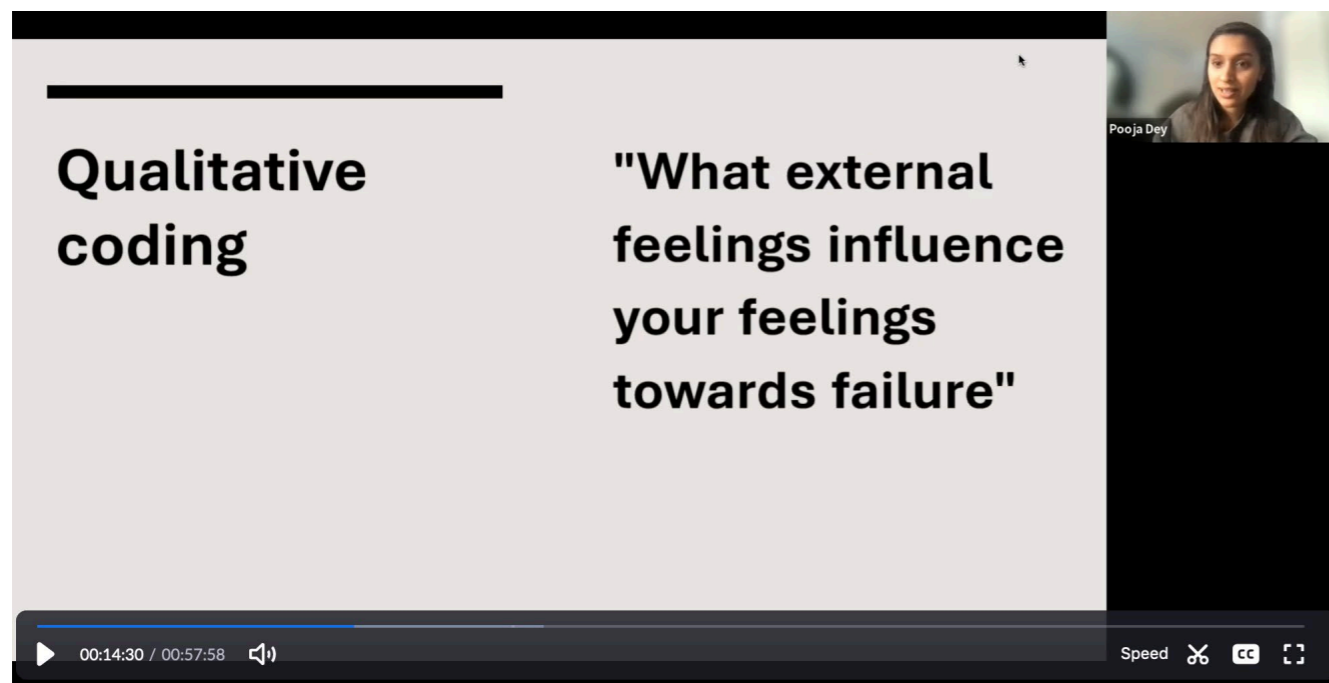


Photo Credit: Fiona Rawle

(3) Online Opportunities



Photo Credit: Paul Orenstein

(4) In-Person Transition

Faculty Development & Support



TLC = Teaching & Learning Collaboration

- Teaching Practice & Innovation Summer Camp for Instructors
- Office hours for faculty
- Mid-term and post-term reflections for faculty
- Pedagogical reading groups

Pedagogy of Kindness Pillars

1

**Connection
&
Perspective**

2

**Culture of
Care &
Motivation**

3

**Humanizing
Learning**

4

**Progress
not
Perfect**

5

**Universal
Design**

6

**Inclusive
Design**

7

**Trauma
Aware
Teaching**

How COVID-19 has affected you...

- I wasn't allowed to see my grandpa before he passed
- The constant worry of bringing the virus home and getting my father sick who has cancer
- my parents are both essential workers and have been working very hard to support my school expenses, I hate that they are susceptible to the virus everyday just to provide for me.
- My mother and I have lost our jobs so money was very tight for a good few months
- My mom works at one of the nursing homes that was a hotspot for covid
- caused me to feel lonely and depressed due to the lockdown measures
- brought a lot of anxiety and uncertainty in my life
- It hurt my community, caused fear and paranoia in my family, took away my grad and prom and first year in university experience, all which I've been dreaming about since I was a kid.
- lay-offs and pay-reductions make me worry for my parents and their jobs as well with paying for university fees
- gave me insomnia
- I lost a lot of motivation when school went online last year and that really affected my anxiety and made me much more anxious and paranoid about doing poorly in my classes.
- Watched more youtube :p
- I haven't been able to visit my family in other countries and I miss them so much.
- Trying to work on my homework in the same place everyday is slowly making me less able to focus for long periods of time.
- I actually had the chance to learn some new important things
- the pandemic has taught me to appreciate and to be grateful for life.
- It has helped me practice good personal hygiene.
- The lack of interaction and not being able to obtain the real university experience.
- taught me to enjoy my own company
- Spent more time outside & with parents
- Someone in my family passed away.
- Socially. I don't have a lot of opportunity to talk to people.
- social isolation
- Help me to realize more important things in life.
- Since school was shutdown I lost almost all of my friends
- Set my life plans back a year
- School has been really difficult to keep up with at home with all the responsibilities and distractions.
- Really tired of staying home... haven't seen friends or extended family in a while
- Preventing me from being on-campus
- prevented me from moving out
- Places are closed, and I can't get my laptop repaired so I now have to share my brother's laptop with him, and I don't get enough time to study and complete everything because he has his work too.
- Personally, it has just affected my mental health, as I had to spend a lot of time alone, rather than with my friends.
- affected me by being temporarily disbanded from my previous job as a swim instructor, however, it has also pushed me and motivated me to do better my life through fitness and meditation.
- Perpetually anxious after losing some family members

Hope...

- My friends have my back
- The people around me
- Becoming a doctor and making my parents proud
- Feeling of gratitude
- World of biology
- Remembering my end goal
- Sense of progress towards my goal
- My siblings support me
- Learning new things
- COVID vaccine
- My faith
- Looking back at the struggles of my parents
- My friends in university
- I don't know what gives me hope

- My family and I are healthy
- University isn't as scary as I thought
- Inspirational stories
- My family
- Me – I can do this
- Me – I've come so far
- Creativity of the human race
- Family support
- My sister
- Understanding prof
- Profs are real people
- It can't get worse
- scientists
- People trying to create a better world
- Making my parents proud

- 2020 is almost over
- My best friend
- Long walks outside
- Science
- Mindset that all my struggles will be worth it
- The little things
- Focusing on my education
- Graduating one day
- The love from my family
- Seeing something that inspires me
- Every day is a new day
- Resources
- I think I met the love of my life
- Reading week
- Being kind to one and other

“Positive Pedagogy Postscripts”

In MAT202, I had students write a revise-and-resubmit portfolio of proofs where they weren't penalized for making mistakes in their first and second drafts. One student said afterwards that “this was the only class where I felt like learning came first and marks came second”.

~TJ Yusun, Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream, Dept. of Mathematical and Computational Sciences, UTM

In-Person Support & Connection



Photo Credit: Blake Eligh

- Emphasis on different types of collaboration
- Moving forward with the flexible aspects of online/digital learning and connection
- Genuine curiosity and collective joy



Fiona Rawle

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