



EXPLORING EDUCATION: EXPERIENCES AND INSIGHTS FROM AN EARLY CAREER TEACHING-STREAM FACULTY IN CHEMISTRY



featuring John De Backere
Assistant Professor, Chemistry
University of Toronto

Science education is a broad and multifaceted field, encompassing content development, discipline-based research in teaching and learning, scholarly approaches to pedagogy, and beyond. With formal training in fundamental research, shifting my focus towards science education required some navigation and self-discovery to uncover my identify within this domain. In this talk, I will share my perspective as an early-career teaching-stream faculty member in chemistry at the St. George Campus, outlining my professional journey, teaching experiences, and explorations in chemistry education. Key areas of interest I will discuss include fostering research-oriented experiences in the undergraduate teaching lab, advocating for green and sustainable chemistry education, integrating cutting-edge technologies like augmented reality (AR) into the classroom, and participating in initiatives to support students and promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) at the University of Toronto. This talk aspires to demystify the teaching-stream track for students while inspiring faculty to explore new areas of science education.