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Bert Debusschere, Ph.D., LJIST Associate, is a facilitator and trainer who has been involved in many efforts to foster diversity and inclusion. His facilitation experience ranges from project meeting facilitation, and action planning, to strategic planning and implementation. He firmly believes that listening tools are key to creative and clear thinking, which in turn enables people to form more authentic relationships and become more effective agents of personal and social change.

Bert was born and raised in Flanders, Belgium, and received his B.S. Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium. With a scholarship from the Belgian American Educational Foundation, he came to the United States to pursue his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. After graduating, he started work as a computational scientist at a US National Laboratory. With extensive experience in mechanical engineering and computational sciences, he is particularly passionate about working for change in those fields and has taken a variety of leadership roles in workplace and networking groups to increase social justice and combat institutional oppression.

After discovering the power of participatory facilitation methods, Bert has been building a strong facilitation expertise through course work in Technology of Participation® methods and has applied these skills both in his work as computational scientist and as an LJIST Associate.

Bert currently lives in California with his wife and their dogs. They started and operate a non-profit canine rescue organization that shelters animals in need, organizes a foster care program, and offers assistance to families looking to rehome their pets.