

Message from the Editor

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The global pandemic has been a terrible tragedy and a profound challenge for all of us. As well as taking far too many precious lives, this crisis has highlighted and exasperated already existing deep inequities among us. From uneven access to healthcare to an uptick in hate crimes to battles over mask wearing, social distancing, and lockdowns, we have seen humanity struggle under the strain of fear and uncertainty.

Due to the risk of COVID-19 transmission at large gatherings, we at the Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence and the leadership of Case Western Reserve University made the difficult decision to postpone our traditional Inamori Ethics Prize events and instead revise our overall programming for the year. Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi will still be recognized with the 2020 Inamori Ethics Prize in the fall of 2021 for her outstanding ethical leadership in international justice, humanitarian law, and human rights. In the meantime, we chose to provide space to have a prolonged conversation on a topic of great consequence at this moment in history: JUSTICE. Drawing on the insight and expertise of past and present Inamori Ethics Prize winners as well as top scholars and practitioners, we hosted a thematic series of events and programming addressing the topic of justice from multiple perspectives, locally and globally: Conversations on Justice. To learn more about this series and view videos from the events, please visit our website at: case.edu/inamori. Transcripts of key events from this series are included in this volume, and they represent tremendous wisdom from diverse points of view, including:

- A general exploration of justice, as well as human and civil rights, held on October 23, 2020, with Inamori Ethics Prize winners Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi (2020), LeVar Burton (2019), Farouk El-Baz (2018), and Marian Wright Edelman (2017). This was the first time we had ever been able to bring together multiple prize winners for a conversation.

- A conversation with seventeenth Vice-Chancellor and president of the University of the South and former US Ambassador to the African Union Reuben E. Brigety II on “Overcoming American Tribalism: Healing America through Common Purpose” from February 16, 2021, which featured a robust conversation on how universities, society, and private citizens can better lead during these fractured times and develop a stronger sense of constructive civic habits.
- A panel discussion on Climate Justice held on February 26, 2021 featuring legendary environmental activist and 2012 Inamori Ethics Prize winner David Suzuki; Head of Environmental Campaigns, Grants and Activism, Patagonia, Inc., Hans Cole; Community Engagement Specialist & Diversity Coordinator, Thriving Communities, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, and Black Environmentalist Co-Founder Jacqueline Gillon; and CWRU Climate Action Network Co-Leaders Ina Martin (Operations Director, Materials for Opto/electronics Research and Education (MORE) Center) and Stephanie Corbett (Director of Energy and Sustainability and Interim Farm Director).

This volume also features articles on the theme of justice, with reflections on ethical leadership ranging from education to cyberspace. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to this volume, especially in these difficult times, and we dedicate this work to everyone around the world fighting for justice and the welfare of humankind.

Thank you for taking the time to peruse these conversations and thoughts on justice.