



TRANSFORMING OURSELVES AND THE WORLD
THE WESTERN INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH (WISR) LEARNING
COMMUNITY IN ITS 45TH YEAR

WISR 11th ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
Thursday through Saturday, October 24-26, 2019

Thursday, October 24th

To join from a distance on October 24th use Zoom Meeting ID **915 121 273**, <https://zoom.us/j/915121273?pwd=cjdWUDZYQ1U2YkNDbFRNOGN6UU9zZz09> or by phone 669 900 6833. For help with technical difficulties call 510 655 2830 or email john.bilorusky@wisr.edu. *If you have a wisr.edu email, you can check your calendar to get the Zoom info there as well.*

5:30-6:30pm GATHER FOR REFRESHMENTS & CHECK IN

6:30-8pm SOCIAL JUSTICE EAST & WEST IN SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY

Titus Yu, PhD, ReID, Adjunct WISR Faculty and Founding President of Andrew University, Berkeley, Presenter

Mencius in the 4th Century B.C., China, and the Upanishadic Thinkers in the 8th Century B.C., India stood out as Champions for Social Justice, whereas Plato & his disciple Aristotle of the 4th Century BC, launched a Global Inculturation with lasting impact known in history as Hellenization that challenged their contemporaries for Fairness in Society. Comparisons and contrasts will be drawn.

Friday, October 25th

To join from a distance on October 25th use Zoom Meeting ID **231 328 950**, <https://zoom.us/j/231328950?pwd=ODluT1ZXa0pXNTRKZU45MWI5MDFUZz09> or by phone 669 900 6833. For help with technical difficulties call 510 655 2830 or email john.bilorusky@wisr.edu. *If you have a wisr.edu email, you can check your calendar to get the Zoom info there as well.*

9:30-10:15am INTRODUCTIONS/CHECK IN

Please see Registration & Disclosure Forms on pages 8 and 9.

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10:15-11:30am CAN COLLABORATIVE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCES WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) BECOME A FEEDER FOR SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTIONARIES?

Kence Anderson, WISR MS Student, Senior Program Manager, Microsoft AI & Research, Presenter

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is commonly credited as the 4th Industrial Revolution. Marginalized populations are in danger of being left behind if they cannot acquire the requisite skills to participate in this inevitable technological revolution. What if inner city children, blue collar factory workers and even people with special needs were able to train AI without advanced mathematics training or private knowledge? Come and discuss Machine Teaching, a technique that utilizes teaching principles instead of advanced math to train AI that might be deployed in a collaborative classroom environment to foster independent problem solvers of even the most underrepresented populations.

11:30-12:30pm Lunch Break

12:30-3:00pm PUTTING BROKEN COMMUNITIES BACK TOGETHER AND WISR'S ROLE IN HEALING TRAUMA

WISR Alums Karin Dremel, Amber Gray, and Anngwyn Hamilton St. Just, and David Yamada will share their perspectives

RESPONDING TO ABUSE AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA: BUILDING AN INTEGRATIVE ROLE FOR WISR

David Yamada, JD, PhD: WISR has many students, faculty, and graduates whose work and interests concern interpersonal abuse and psychological trauma. Some are doing pioneering work in these realms across multiple disciplines. We are also developing program specializations in dignity studies that can include a focus on abuse, trauma, or resilience. With these possibilities in mind, how can we better connect members of the WISR community for the purposes of sharing and creating knowledge and understanding and of advancing the greater good?

ANCESTOR-MATTERS AND SYSTEMIC CONSTELLATION WORK

Karin Dremel MTS, HP will talk about how Ancestor-Matters offers a container, an understanding of Systemic TraumatologySM, and Systemic Constellation work as the tool to address personal pain, family conflict, communal strife, generational entanglement, and collective trauma. Be it therapy,

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conversation among friends, or partaking in a connected community, it is age old knowledge, as well as shown in research, that our presence and engaged connection with others carries the power to heal grievances. Beyond connection in present time, everyone's belonging reaches into the past and into the future. Therefore, systemic sensitivity urges us to understand that ancestor matters — especially those silenced, denied, or forgotten — affect each of us presently and influence the future.

TRAUMA AND THE MOVING BODY

Amber Gray, PhD will talk about how kinesthetic, non verbal and creative therapeutic approaches are beneficial in general with relational trauma, and in particular, for the restorative process in work with migrating communities displaced by violence (refugees, asylum seekers, etc.). Her presentation will highlight the individual, family and collective/social impact of mass migration on individual and collective well-being, and the importance of embodied belonging and meaning making in the restorative process. She will share scientifically grounded theory and practices for work with clients living in either/both physical or psychological limbo due to loss of home and place.

SOCIAL AND COLLECTIVE TRAUMA

Anngwyn Hamilton St. Just, PhD will address why the systems that comprise our infra-structure need to be trauma informed because they are not and as a result are perpetuating generationally through ongoing individual, family and collective trauma. Challenges to healing communities include racism, economic collapse, natural disaster, political unrest and/or oppression, epidemics.

3:00-3:30pm Break

3:30-5:15pm LOVE ACTIVISM, Panel followed by Discussion

Rosa Reinikainen, MFT, WISR Doctoral Candidate, Peter Gabel, JD, PhD, WISR Faculty

We are living in deeply troubling times. With climate change, rampant White supremacy, increasing inequality, bullying, upholding of corporate welfare over human rights, epidemic levels of trauma, our collective grief and suffering is increasing. We need to find ways of becoming more resilient and connected. We are built to love. Many of our movements are riddled with re-activism and are perpetuating, reinforcing and reproducing the same toxic environments that they are trying to combat. If we are going to make change in the world, it has to come

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from a place of love. Childhood attachment leads the way to adult attachment. We are playing out the same issues that we have had as children in our adult relationships. This has a strong effect on society as a whole. If we have healthy and secure attachment, we are more able to come from a place of love in all that we do. The issues we face today in society have everything to do with basic human attachment and love. *As above so below. As within so without, as the personal so is the political.* We therefore have a responsibility to do our best to originate our social change from loving kindness. This seminar will focus on love, human attachment, and the consequences of the absence of these important core concepts.

5:15-5:30pm Break

**5:30-8:00pm CELEBRATING NEW COLLEGE:
TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION LIVES ON**

5:30pm Potluck Dinner (please RSVP what you are bringing)

6:30pm Honoring of New College History, Singing and Discussion
Sudia Paloma McCaleb, PhD & Peter Gabel, JD, PhD, WISR Faculty

Since the closure of New College in 2008, Sudia Paloma McCaleb, PhD with group of Teacher Education faculty and teacher credential alumni created the educational non-profit, the Center for Critical Environmental and Global Literacy (CCEGL). They have focused primarily on environmental issues and how to infuse these and cultural issues into the development of literacy. They have worked internationally with these ideas in Guatemala, Cuba, Eastern Europe and a 10 year project in El Salvador and now 11 years working with indigenous educators and communities in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico.

A former New College faculty member, the late Michael McAvoy, began working with the Western Institute for Social Research (WISR). Since then, Dr. Paloma McCaleb, seeing philosophical similarities as well, has become chair of the doctoral program in Education and Social Change and also works with the Masters programs in Education and Community Leadership. Former New College President and Faculty member, Dr. Peter Gabel has also joined the faculty. Please join us to remember New College and to discuss the possibilities for participating in WISR to continue that learning community and its values.

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Saturday, October 26th

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9:30-10:15am INTRODUCTIONS/CHECK IN

10:15-11:15am COLLABORATE AND LEARN: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION WITH PICTURES, NUMBERS, & WORDS

Mark Wilson, WISR's Learning Experience Designer\Technologist

Mark Wilson will survey the communication media we all know: pictures, numbers, and words. He will then show how these everyday tools can be repurposed to support learning and collaboration with others seeking social justice; at WISR, in your communities, or around the world.

11:15-11:30 Break

11:30-12:15pm UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON WISR'S PROGRESS TOWARD LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

John Bilorusky, PhD, WISR President and Faculty Member

John Bilorusky will present a brief report, then lead discussion (feedback, suggestions, questions) on a variety of topics pertaining to WISR's current progress, actions, and plans toward long-term sustainability. This will include a discussion of WISR's Strategic Plan and progress, including organizational issues, finances, curriculum, and use of technology, among other topics.

12:15-1:15 Lunch Break

1:15-2:00pm ACTIVISM, RESEARCH, AND COMMUNICATION: STRATEGIES FOR FINDING AND ENGAGING YOUR AUDIENCES

Jake Sloan, WISR Alum, Author, Presenter

Join activist, labor-management consultant, and historian Jake Sloan as he discusses his strategy to identify and communicate with various audiences committed to social and economic justice.

Jake will share his progression from secret organizing while working as a craftsman to consulting on large local, state, and federal, construction projects

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and then writing and promoting his book *Standing Tall: Willie Long And the Mare Island Original 21ers: A Legacy of Courage, Activism, and Social Justice*.

With all his experiences, Jake plans to build a stronger business while continuing to write and teach on issues of social and economic justice. After his presentation, Jake will seek a lively and candid conversation for feedback on his current strategy.

2:00-3:15pm THE IMPORTANCE OF ACKNOWLEDGING INDIGENOUS NAMES & PLACES.

Panel with Victoria Patterson, PhD, WISR Alum; Cynthia Roberson, MLS, Presenters; Marilyn Jackson, PhD, WISR Faculty, facilitator

Language shapes our perception of the world and as fluent speakers of California Indian languages leave this world, their perception of the world we share disappears. That is why it is so important for tribes to reclaim not just their languages but also the names that the general public uses to identify places and their own names for themselves.... quote from Victoria Patterson who will give examples of how some tribal names in Mendocino County are not even in their namesake's own languages and why the renaming of features of the landscape is so important to Natives today, including about the renaming of Squaw Rock to Frog Woman Rock in Mendocino County, CA. Cynthia Roberson, WISR's Librarian and daughter of the late Sandy Tomlin, PhD, WISR Alum, will speak about Sandy Tomlin's dissertation, *The Sacredness of Mt. Diablo*.

3:15-3:30 Break

3:30-4:30pm WRITING FOR CLARITY

Elaine Beale, MFA, Presenter

Elaine Beale will present techniques to craft clear sentences and paragraphs, build effective arguments, and integrate specific examples with theoretical concepts.

4:30-5:30pm EMPOWERING SURVIVORS OF BOKO HARAM VIOLENCE: A CASE STUDY CONNECTING GENDER AND PEACE BUILDING EFFORTS IN NIGERIA

Elenie Oppfer, PhD, WISR Faculty, Presenter

Peace building is a field that recognizes that while lasting tranquility in high conflict regions requires effective conflict resolution processes, sustainable conflict transformation requires attention to multiple factors including

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humanitarian aid, social justice, economic development and gender equality. In this presentation Elenie will give a brief survey of the high conflict situation in Nigeria, and how the Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa is using multiple approaches to achieve their goals. The focus will be on the Empower Victims of Boko Haram Violence in Nigeria, a project which is currently one of the campaigns of Global Giving.

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/empower-victims-of-boko-haram-violence-in-nigeria/>

Elenie will also provide opportunity for dialogue and take suggestions for further supporting what has been described as the worst humanitarian crisis on the planet. She has been working with the CSDEA since 2009, and serves on the Advisory Board of this organization as well as serving a Faculty for WISR and California State University, Channel Islands.

5:30-6:30pm Dinner Break

6:30-8:30pm WHAT IS THE GREEN NEW DEAL? WHAT AND WHO ARE THE CLIMATE MINIMIZERS? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Sudia Paloma McCaleb, PhD, WISR Faculty, WISR Faculty

The Green New Deal (GND) is a conceptual framework for future legislation in Congress that will address the climate crisis while ensuring that social justice is held paramount during the course of the transition. Several Democratic candidates for president have provided plans with more details.

While the majority of corporate media do not outright deny the reality of human caused climate change, most are not acknowledging its severity. We will discuss some of the popular myths about climate change that have been adopted by the major media so that they don't have to report on it as the existential crisis that it is. Discussion will include a critical look at plans for confronting the climate crisis that have been articulated by presidential candidates; some who see it as a Green New Deal and others who do not.

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REGISTRATION & DISCLOSURE FORM
WISR's 11TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 24-26TH, 2019

YOUR INFO:

Name (first and last) _____; Email _____

Please fill out the following if you know we do not already have it:

Address _____; Phone _____

INDIVIDUAL DONATION: \$_____ (optional)

VOLUNTEER HELP DURING CONFERENCE: What times _____ and days _____ can you help to set up chairs, help with refreshments etc. in the morning or clean and straighten up in the evening?

DONATE FOOD OR SNACKS:

Individuals: Do you plan to bring food to the Potluck Friday evening (if so, what are you bringing (optional to let us know)? _____

Would you like to donate refreshments during the day? _____

Groups: Would you or your organization like to host or sponsor morning _____, afternoon _____ or evening _____ refreshments and if so on what day(s)? _____

COSPONSORSHIP: Would you or your organization like to be listed as a cosponsor for the conference? ***We would only request that you donate \$50 and/or that you let your network know about the conference and encourage them to attend.***

I or my organization would like to be listed as a cosponsor: _____

I/we will donate _____; I/we will encourage our network to attend _____

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DISCLOSURE ABOUT RECORDING EVENTS AT WISR, AND WISR'S USE OF THE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS OF WISR'S PUBLIC EVENTS

as part of WISR's development of content for our online learning courses, and for purposes of providing photos and content for our website: Although photos and information about the sessions will be shared publicly, the videos of sessions will only be made available to the WISR learning community, through our private Google Education Drive. By participating in this public, WISR-sponsored event, you acknowledge that you are giving your consent to our using any photos of you on our public website and/or other promotional materials, and the video recording of the sessions for our learning community only through WISR's Google Education Drive for our online courses. **However, if there is a particular portion of a seminar that will make you feel uncomfortable and or that puts your privacy in jeopardy, as an exception to the rule, we will delete a requested portion of a session, if you notify us in writing or by email within 24 hours of the end of that seminar.** In addition, recording of brief portions from the Annual Conference sessions, and other public seminars and events held by WISR, may be posted publicly to a larger audience on our website. By participating in these public events, you agree to our sharing photos, video and audio of those events.

I have read and agreed to the above terms: _____ (signature)

Name (please print): _____ Date: _____

Please return this form by email to mail@wisr.edu
or by mail to: WISR, 2930 Shattuck Ave, Suite 300, Berkeley, CA 94705

WISR STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION AND AFFIRMATION OF DIVERSITY VALUES

Western Institute for Social Research admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability in the admissions or in the administration of its educational policies, scholarships and loan programs and all other school administered programs. WISR actively encourages interested members of ethnic and racial minority groups, women, and other underserved persons to discover whether its programs and methods fit their special, personal and community interests and goals.

In addition, WISR seeks actively to build a multiracial, multicultural learning and teaching community, in which the central values are built on the worth and distinctiveness of each person's background, going beyond our differences to celebrate qualities and needs that we all share as humans. In building and nurturing such a community, WISR affirms the importance of free and open dialogue, and to that end, students, faculty, staff, alumni and Board are all expected to 1) refrain from making comments that would infringe on the safety, dignity and respect for any group, and 2) welcome assistance in learning how to improve their interactions with groups with whom they are less experienced or comfortable. **WISR CORE VALUES INCLUDE:**

- Developing a multicultural, inclusive perspective. This means developing and using multicultural perspectives to inform one's purposes, and one's views of social issues and challenges and opportunities in one's chosen fields or arenas of endeavor—profession, workplace, community.
- Developing a sense of empathy, compassion and community toward, and with others.
- Appreciating and understanding the broad spectrum of perspectives and consciousness, and how those arise out of people's culture, gender, economic background, religious and sexual orientation.
- A culture of learning that respects and promotes the dignity of every person.
- The belief that no individual or group may rightfully prosper at the expense of others.
- The use of language that conveys respect for persons whose gender identity, culture, religion, sexual orientation, economic background, or political interests may differ from our own.

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