

# *CES Musings*

*Chronicling the Transition from Economic-Industrial  
To Ecological-Cultural Societies  
(January-February 2017)*



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## The Chronicle

by Alice Loyd

### CLIMATE

#### **Scientists gathering at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) conference in San Francisco on December 13, 2016, expressed concern about what one speaker called the “Trumpocene.”**

More than 20,000 researchers from the Earth, atmospheric and space science communities attended the annual meeting, and in references subtle and overt, speakers referred to the unsettled atmosphere in which they now work. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell gave a keynote lecture encouraging government scientists to “fight disinformation” and “speak out” if they feel scientific integrity is being undermined in the new administration. [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com)

Governor Jerry Brown of California said his state would fight President-elect Donald Trump on climate change if the new administration tries to abandon policies that combat global warming. His quotable retort was that California could go as far as launching “its own damn satellite.” [time.com](http://time.com)

A big fear is that government funding such as through NASA’s Earth Science program will be cut, as has been suggested by Trump adviser Bob Walker, who said NASA’s Earth science division is set to be stripped of funding in favor of exploration of deep space, with the president-elect having set a goal during the campaign to explore the entire solar system by the end of the century. [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com) Scientists at the conference also expressed concern about protecting research from political interference. The Climate Science Legal Defense Fund organized a symposium on legal issues facing scientists, and handed out pamphlets entitled “Handling Political Harassment and Legal Intimidation: A Pocket Guide for Scientists.” The pamphlet advises on “what to do if you’re the target of an open records lawsuit (a strategy commonly used by opponents of climate research), who to contact if you’re a government researcher who thinks that your work is being suppressed, and how to react if you get hate mail or death threats.” [newyorker.com](http://newyorker.com) On December 16 prominent climate researcher Michael Mann (best known to the public for depicting rising climate temperatures in tandem with CO<sub>2</sub> in a chart that resembled a hockey stick) stated in a letter: “We also fear an era of McCarthyist attacks on our work and our integrity. It’s easy to envision, because we’ve seen it all before. We know we could be hauled into Congress to face hostile questioning from climate change deniers. We know we could be publicly vilified by politicians. We know we could be at the receiving end of federal subpoenas demanding our personal emails. We know we could see our research grants audited or revoked.” [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com)

The primary concern of those who attended the meeting and who have spoken out, however, is Trump’s position on climate change. Through such vehicles as “An Open Letter from Scientists to President-Elect Trump on Climate Change,” organized by the Union of Concerned Scientists, science professionals have come forward to warn the president-elect about the dangers of his nonchalance about global warming. By mid-December more than 2,300 scientists with PhDs in relevant disciplines, including 22 Nobel Prize winners, had added their signatures. The letter

asks the new administration to (1) make America a clean energy leader, (2) reduce carbon pollution and America's dependence on fossil fuels, (3) enhance America's climate preparedness and resilience, (4) publicly acknowledge that climate change is a real, human-caused, and urgent threat, (5) protect scientific integrity in policymaking, and (6) uphold America's commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement. [huffingtonpost.com](http://huffingtonpost.com) and [scientificamerican.com](http://scientificamerican.com) On December 13, across the street from the conference, [ClimateTruth.org](http://ClimateTruth.org) and The Natural History Museum held a rally to support scientists "in the face of threats from the incoming administration and Congress." Several hundred people participated. [eos.org](http://eos.org)

**Hoping to safeguard their data from political interference, scientists report they have begun copying it from government servers onto independent servers.** "Something that seemed a little paranoid to me before, all of a sudden seems potentially realistic," said Nick Santos, an environmental researcher at the University of California at Davis. "Doing this can only be a good thing. Hopefully they leave everything in place. But if not, we're planning for that." Meetings at the University of Pennsylvania have focused on how to download as much federal data as possible in the coming weeks, and a "[guerrilla archiving](#)" event is occurring in Toronto, where experts will copy irreplaceable public data. [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com)

**The Trump transition team has asked for the names of all Department of Energy employees and contractors who attended climate change policy conferences in recent years.** The request, reported on December 9, 2016, was included in a list of seventy-four questions sent to the department. One employee, reflecting the alarm generated by the request and speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "This feels like the first draft of an eventual political enemies list." [theweek.com](http://theweek.com) The department released a statement saying the questionnaire had "unsettled" many in its workforce, and that it would "be forthcoming with all [publicly] available information" but would withhold "any individual names." [npr.org](http://npr.org)

**In an effort to lock in environmental protections before he leaves office, President Obama has permanently banned new oil and gas drilling in most US-owned waters in the Arctic and Atlantic oceans.** He used a 1953 law that allows presidents to block the sale of new offshore drilling and mining rights and makes it difficult for their successors to reverse the decision—though his ban is unprecedented in scale and could be challenged by Trump in court. [thehill.com](http://thehill.com). The 1953 law followed action in 1948 by President Harry Truman, when he proclaimed that the federal government—"aware of the long-range world-wide need for new sources of petroleum and other minerals"—would try to encourage the development of those resources by controlling and administering the seabed. The Supreme Court had set the stage for Truman's proclamation in 1947 when it ruled the federal government, and not coastal states, owned the seabed. Congress ratified Truman's proclamation, and years later, in 1953, it adopted the Continental Outer Shelf Lands Act in order to clarify the terms and restore some rights to the states. It defined the outer continental shelf as the area that begins three miles from shore and extends to the 200-mile international-waters boundary. A twin statute, the Submerged Lands Act, gave states the right to offer oil leases for land within three miles of their coastlines.

In addition to giving the president the power to dictate how new leases will be offered, the 1953 law's second provision states, "The President of the United States may, from time to time, withdraw from disposition any of the unleased lands of the outer Continental Shelf." To most water-law experts, it seems Congress has given any president the ability to permanently retire undersea lands from its continental-shelf portfolio, but the text has never been tested in court, and it has rarely been invoked by presidents. President Eisenhower permanently blocked drilling in a 75-square-mile area of seabed off the Florida Keys, and while his order still stands, it has never been challenged in court. Presidents George H. W. Bush and Clinton have used the same provision to temporarily pause all new federal offshore drilling leases in certain areas for ten years. Most experts seem to think President Obama's order, given the unilateral power delegated by this particular area of law, could only be overturned by an act of Congress.

[www.theatlantic.com](http://www.theatlantic.com)

**As head of Exxon Mobil Corporation, Rex Tillerson, the Trump administration's designated Secretary of State, has shown a strong commitment to drilling in the Arctic.** In April 2013 ExxonMobil and Russia's Rosneft announced an offshore exploration partnership to develop Russia's vast energy reserves in the Arctic. Igor Sechin, serving at the time as Russian Deputy Prime Minister, told reporters, "Experts say that this project, in terms of its ambitions, exceeds sending man into outer space or flying to the moon." [reuters.com](http://reuters.com) "We are very anxious to get back to work there," Tillerson told industry analysts in March 2016 when asked if Exxon would be interested in restarting its venture with Rosneft in Russia. He noted that it would take time to resume operations in the Arctic, because "we had to dismantle all of the capability and the infrastructure" due to sanctions. He said he's glad Russia has "done things to help us hang on to the rights we have" in the wake of the sanctions. [money.cnn.com](http://money.cnn.com) In April of 2014, in response to the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation, the United States imposed a ban on business transactions within its territory on seven Russian officials, including Igor Sechin, who by then was executive chairman of Rosneft. [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org) For more information about the relationship between Exxon and Rosneft in the Arctic, see [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com).

## ENERGY

**Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates is heading a \$1 billion venture fund that will invest in clean energy technology to combat climate change.** Some of the world's wealthiest business leaders are joining him to fund [Breakthrough Energy Ventures](http://Breakthrough Energy Ventures) (BEV), including Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos, Virgin Group founder Richard Branson, LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman, and Alibaba executive chairman Jack Ma. The combined net worth of the fund's directors is roughly \$170 billion. The fund, announced in December 2016, intends "to build companies that will help deliver the next generation of reliable, affordable, and emissions-free energy to the world." BEV's launch follows the 2015 creation of the [Breakthrough Energy Coalition](http://Breakthrough Energy Coalition), which focused on "zero-emission energy innovation." The new fund, a concrete next step in this coalition's mission to tackle climate change, will focus its investments on projects relating to clean energy issues such as carbon emission reduction and energy generation and storage.

[huffingtonpost.com](http://huffingtonpost.com)

**The United Kingdom has fallen on an international league table of the best countries to invest in renewable energy.** Following the Brexit vote, Theresa May's decision to scrap the Energy and Climate Change Department, and approval of a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point, Britain fell to fourteenth place in the [Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index](#) by Analysts EY, part of financial giant Ernst & Young Global. In the latest issue of the rankings, published in October 2016, the league table was led by the United States, followed by China in second, then India, Chile, Germany, Mexico, France, Brazil, South Africa, and Canada. Analysts EY suggested a Republican victory in the US election could change the attractiveness of the United States to investors. "Donald Trump has a poor record on climate change, which he has frequently dismissed as a 'hoax', and threatens to pick apart the Paris climate accord should he be elected," the report said. Prior to Brexit, the UK had regularly been in the top ten. [independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk)

**America's first offshore wind farm sprang to life in December 2016.** The Block Island Wind Farm, developed by Deepwater Wind and strongly promoted by the state's political leadership, is now bringing electricity to Block Island, Rhode Island, a vacation destination with few year-round residents. The wind farm is small—five turbines capable of powering about 17,000 homes, but it still reduces carbon dioxide emissions by about 40,000 tons per year. Earlier this year the Obama administration announced a lease for a wind farm off the coast of Long Island, NY, and the Department of Energy has said that if wind farms were built in all of the suitable areas, including in the Great Lakes, they could provide up to twice as much electricity as the country now uses. Donald Trump has expressed skepticism of wind power, saying in an interview with *The New York Times*, "the wind is a very deceiving thing." [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com)

**Norway's state-owned Statoil oil and gas company, with a record-smashing bid of \$42.47 million in the 33<sup>rd</sup> round, won the right to develop an offshore wind farm in US waters in mid-December 2016,** "practically within hours of selling off its tar sands oil assets in Canada." The new wind area is near New York City off the coast of New York State. It is part of a US Department of the Interior program that has now leased eleven offshore areas for development through its Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. The relatively shallow waters of the Continental Shelf along much of the 3,000-mile-long coast, combined with the coast's high population from Boston to Miami, make the Atlantic coast almost ideal for renewable energy development. [cleantechnica.com](http://cleantechnica.com)

**The Department of the Interior has finalized a rule to make the coal industry cleaner.** In December 2016, in its final hours under the Obama administration, the coal rule that has been under consideration since 2009 was finalized. Coal-mining companies will now be required "to avoid mining practices that permanently pollute streams, destroy drinking water sources ... and threaten forests," requirements that "will make life better for a countless number of Americans who live near places where coal is being mined," said Joseph Pizarchik, director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. Hal Quinn, president of the National Mining Association, said the rule locks away "important US domestic coal reserves, while putting tens of thousands of Americans out of work [and] raising energy costs for millions of Americans." Coal workers are already losing their jobs—and coal companies are failing—because power

plants are switching to a cheaper fuel, natural gas. Trump has promised to bring back coal and Congress will likely overturn this new ruling in support of that promise, but coal does not have a bright future, with or without the rule, with or without Trump's support. [washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)

**The value of investment funds committed to selling off fossil fuel assets has jumped to \$5.2 trillion, doubling in just over a year.** A December 2016 report entitled “The Global Fossil Fuel Divestment and Clean Energy Investment Movement” found that 688 institutions in 76 countries who represent more than \$5 trillion of assets have committed to divest. [arabellaadvisors.com](http://arabellaadvisors.com)

## INEQUALITY

**As of Friday, December 23, 2016, there is no National Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS) in the United States.** President Obama had suspended the program in 2011 after years of complaints by civil rights groups that the program targeted Muslims and wasn't effective in preventing terrorism. It had never been fully dismantled, however, and was still available to the Trump administration to revive—until now. Now President Obama and the Department of Homeland Security have abolished that program entirely, and if Trump wants to register Muslims, he will have to find another way to do it. Trump will have to propose a new set of regulations to register and track people from particular countries during their time in the country, and it will have to argue, as the Bush administration did, that it isn't using Muslim-majority countries as a proxy to “invidiously discriminate” against Muslims—something it might have a hard time doing. [vox.com](http://www.vox.com)

**Tech companies are committing not to help Trump build a Muslim registry.** In November 2016 [The Intercept](http://www.theintercept.com) initiated a campaign to obtain that commitment and asked nine major technology companies to sign on. When Twitter was the only responder, CREDO, Muslim Advocates, Color Of Change, MPower Change, Courage Campaign, Democracy for America, and more than a dozen other progressive and civil rights groups asked their 35 million members to petition the other eight companies. As a result of this public pressure, Google, Facebook, Apple, IBM, and Microsoft have all now publicly stated they will not collaborate with Trump's ambition, and pressure is mounting on Oracle and Amazon to do the same. Booz Allen Hamilton, SRA International, and CGI are the remaining three of the original nine. [credoaction.com](http://www.credoaction.com)

**Finland is going to pay some of its unemployed citizens a basic monthly income amounting to US\$587.** Olli Kangas of the Finnish government agency KELA, which is responsible for the country's social benefits, said the scheme's idea was to abolish the “disincentive problem” among the unemployed. The program will be a two-year trial with 2,000 randomly picked citizens receiving unemployment benefits which began on January 1, 2017. A jobless person may currently refuse a low-income or short-term job in the fear of having his financial benefits reduced drastically under Finland's generous and complex social security system. Under the new program they would continue to receive the payment even after receiving a job. “Will this lead them to boldly experiment with different kinds of jobs?” Kangas asked rhetorically. “Or, as some critics claim, make them lazier with the knowledge of getting a basic income without

doing anything?” Finland’s unemployment rate was 8.1% in November, with 213,000 people jobless. [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com)

## RESISTING THE TRUMP AGENDA: PUBLIC POLICY DEFENDERS

by Alice Loyd

A majority of people in the United States and many elsewhere are worried about the agenda proposed by Donald Trump as he comes into office. Today the leader of a women’s chorus wrote in an email, “I am particularly grateful for our community of heart-song during these post-presidential-election times. I have needed the healing that singing together brings.” An online Meet-Up announcement read, “Let’s come together and use the Wisdom of the Enneagram to meet what is arising in us and those around us. Now more than ever...” On January 20, 2017, people all over England will drop banners from bridges across the country “to send a simple, hopeful and unmistakable message: [Build Bridges Not Walls.](#)”

This US majority and our well-wishers abroad are opposed to the administrative agenda that is revealed day after day, but as an [article](#) appraising the work of the Occupy movement states, “An effective opposition movement . . . must challenge the structures and forces that brought Trump to power.” Another important [article](#) says, “Forwarding a jeering meme to people who agree with you [does] not constitute political action.” Gathering support from friends and fostering individual healing is essential at this time, but in addition, most of us are seeking ways to prevent the incoming administration from having its reckless way with us and with the planet.

The following paragraph introduces a *US News and World Report* article, “[The Future of Resistance](#),” which previews the flavor of the messaging of twenty-five groups I’ve come across in recent days who are engaged in public policy advocacy.

Resistance: The word conjures up romantic images of occupied France during World War II: Citizen-spies eavesdropping on Nazi battle plans, perhaps, or clandestine underground meetings of rebel freedom fighters plotting their next hit-and-run attack. Yet this year “resistance” has taken on a new definition in the US, and it centers on grassroots political warfare against President-elect Donald Trump.

While I “resist” using the warlike language and imagery often employed, I share the sense that we’re in a battle. We are in opposition to racism, xenophobia, and misogyny; we defend principles like justice, solidarity, peace, and the conservation of life on Earth. The following brief survey offers a glimpse of what the Trump political resistance may be doing in the next four years and how individuals may participate.

Organizers hope the most visible effort on Saturday, January 21, 2017, will be the [Women’s March on Washington](#). The march is a grassroots effort comprised of dozens of independent coordinators at the state level and helmed by four national co-chairs and a national

coordinating committee. “We want to ensure that this country knows women are not happy,” [said](#) co-founder Tamika Mallory. “And when we get angry, change happens. We make things happen.” Women (and men) in almost every major city in the United States are planning simultaneous marches for those who can’t be in Washington, DC.

For months the iconic example of public policy resistance has been the tribes at [Standing Rock](#) Sioux Reservation. After the Obama administration denied Dakota Access Pipeline a key permit to finish construction, Native American activists warned that the win was only temporary and that Donald Trump, an investor in the pipeline corporation, would seek to quickly advance the project next year. [Now](#) indigenous activists are focusing on the company’s finances before Trump takes office in an effort to further strain the oil corporation and cause delays that might be disastrous for the project. The operator, Energy Transfer Partners (ETP), wrote in a filing this year that Dakota Access “committed to complete, test and have DAPL in service” by the start of 2017, and if the company did not meet its contract deadline, then its shipping partners had a “right to terminate their commitments.” As of January 1, however, the contracts had not been terminated.

The [American Civil Liberties Union](#) (ACLU) has issued a challenge to President-elect Trump through the voice of Anthony D. Romero, its executive director, who wrote, “[W]e urge you to reconsider and change course on certain campaign promises you have made. These include your plan to amass a deportation force to remove eleven million undocumented immigrants; ban the entry of Muslims into our country and aggressively surveil them; punish women for accessing abortion; reauthorize waterboarding and other forms of torture; and change our nation’s libel laws and restrict freedom of expression. These proposals are . . . unlawful and unconstitutional. They violate the First, Fourth, Fifth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments. If you do not reverse course and instead endeavor to make these campaign promises a reality, you will have to contend with the full firepower of the ACLU at every step.” The national ACLU received more than \$7 million in [donations](#) immediately after the presidential election.

Environmental groups are understandably in the forefront of the resistance. The [Climate Reality Project](#) website in late December read, “[N]ow President-elect Donald Trump has nominated a list of oil industry insiders to serve in key cabinet positions responsible for the nation’s public lands, environment, and potentially even foreign policy. And we can’t trust them to put us or our health and environment first.” The website of [American Rivers](#) states, “We have ambitious plans for 2017 but we know we face serious challenges. As a candidate, President-elect Trump announced plans to weaken environmental safeguards, threatening efforts like ours. And he just announced Scott Pruitt—who has a record of opposing clean water safeguards—as his choice to lead the Environmental Protection Agency.” An email from [350.org](#) on December 17, 2016, bore the subject line: “Resistance everywhere.” The body read, “We’ve been sending you a lot of emails about Trump, and about how we’re going to fight his agenda of climate denial and fossil fuel expansion at every step.” A more recent email reflects a possible consequence: “Our colleagues and allies in other parts of the world have told us that the charitable status of organizations like ours is often the first thing to go when authoritarian regimes bent on squashing dissent (and propping up extractive industries) take over.”

Trump and his vice president, Mike Pence, have been open about wanting to get rid of [Planned Parenthood](#) and opposing abortion, although Planned Parenthood is mainly involved in preventative primary care rather than providing abortions. The organization contracts with Medicaid to reimburse the reproductive health care services it provides to low-income patients, including birth control, cancer screenings, and sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment. In a series of [focus groups](#) involving Trump supporters conducted through an independent research group across Arizona, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, participants expressed dismay over the anti-abortion and anti-Planned Parenthood agenda being pushed by the man they elected into office. “I’m astounded,” said one Trump supporter in Phoenix, upon hearing about Pence’s anti-abortion record. “I guess I’ve been living in a bubble. He sounds like a tyrant.” According to a Politico [poll](#) conducted a week before the election, 58 percent of voters—and slightly more than half of all Trump voters—oppose stripping reimbursements from the nation’s largest family planning provider. Planned Parenthood [reports](#) they received hundreds of thousands of donations in the week following the election. 20,000 of those were made in Mike Pence’s name.

At the end of December President and CEO of the [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People \(NAACP\)](#) Cornell William Brooks reported that 13,204 Americans had joined or donated to the NAACP since the “shocking election results came in.” The North Carolina Chapter of NAACP has been leading the [Forward Together Moral Movement](#) focused on abuses of power by the General Assembly of that state. Just before Christmas the Republican legislature enacted what the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, NC NAACP president, called “a modern-day political and policy coup d’état”—voting to strip executive powers from incoming governor, Democrat Roy Cooper, and from the NC Supreme Court, after an African American won the supreme court race by nearly 350,000 votes. The Rev. Dr. Barber, known nationally for his [speech](#) at the Democratic convention, said, “In fact, according to the Electoral Integrity Project at Harvard University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the University of Aarhus in Denmark, legislative power in our state no longer depends on the ballot; instead, one party has won roughly half of the votes but gotten one hundred percent of the power.” An article by one author of the Electoral Integrity Project is entitled, “[North Carolina Is No Longer a Democracy](#).” Activists are working to prevent a similar power grab in other states and at the federal level.

As the national leaders of the [Black Lives Matter](#) Global Network said in early December, their mandate remains unchanged in the wake of “the election of a white supremacist to the highest office in American government.” The statement continues, “What is true today—and has been true since the seizure of this land—is that when black people and women build power, white people become resentful.” Answering the rhetorical question “how do we reconcile our vision for future generations’ prosperity with the knowledge that more than half of white voting Americans believe a white supremacist can and should decide what’s best for this country?” the statement responds, “We organize.”

[Lambda Legal](#) is the oldest national legal organization dedicated to fighting for the rights of the LGBTQ community and Americans living with HIV. It works through litigation, education and public policy work. Its website also offers an important tool for understanding the legal protections LGBTQ people have in each state. An [article](#) on the site begins, “In the weeks since the presidential election, we have heard from many who want to know what this new era of conservative domination in the federal government will mean for the transgender community. [W]e can make an educated guess. The coming years likely mean heightened vigilance, resistance and struggle.” The organization does not charge clients for legal representation or advocacy work.

The [Council on American-Islamic Relations \(CAIR\)](#) is a Washington-based Muslim civil-rights advocacy group dedicated to promoting a positive image of Islam and Muslims in the United States. With Trump threatening a national Muslim Registry (although that is not on his first-100 days list and will be harder now that President Obama has abolished the existing registry) and hate crimes against minority groups increasing dramatically in the days after the election, organizations like CAIR are committed to protecting Muslims in the face of institutionalized discrimination.

[Americans for Immigrant Justice \(AI Justice\)](#) is a non-profit law firm committed to protecting and fighting for the basic rights of immigrants. Representing immigrants from all over the world, AI Justice provides “a unique combination of free direct services, impact litigation, policy reform, and public education at local, state, and national levels.” The website says “Our lawyers have represented thousands of vulnerable immigrants from the Americas, Africa, Europe and Asia—traumatized children alone in this country, newcomers trafficked into slavery, and asylum seekers who would face persecution in their homelands.” Such work is especially important in the atmosphere of fear surrounding Islamic and now Syrian refugees in particular—a fear unjustified, as [reported](#) by the Cato Institute, a conservative-leaning think tank, which found that “the chance of an American being murdered in a terrorist attack caused by a refugee is 1 in 3.64 billion per year.”

Immigrant-supportive groups are also mobilized for increased struggle. For three decades, [Border Angels](#) have advocated for immigration reform, human rights, and social justice. The volunteer-run, non-profit group provides water, food, and clothing for immigrants along the border, and offers free legal assistance on Tuesdays at its San Diego office. [United We Dream](#) is the first and largest national immigrant youth-led organization fighting for relief and fair treatment for all undocumented immigrants. After Trump was elected, United We Dream declared “a state of urgency and resilience for our communities.” In the past, the organization has encouraged undocumented youth to apply to DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). Since the election there has been an [increase](#) in the number of DACA recipients who are seeking to leave the country under advance parole in order to legally re-enter the United States and get on the fast track to citizenship. Advance parole was originally reserved for “urgent humanitarian reasons,” but the Obama administration expanded the grounds for advance parole approval to include educational, employment or humanitarian purposes. This change allows any DACA recipient to gain advance parole then take a semester abroad or claim

they have an interview, conference, or training overseas, and upon their return be paroled back into the United States and thereby be eligible to adjust to legal permanent resident status. The person can then receive full citizenship after five years.

[National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health \(NLIRH\)](#) works to make abortions more accessible, as well as to find better health and preventive services, for Latinas. Started in 1994, NLIRH is “dedicated to advancing health, dignity, and justice” for 26 million Latinas in the United States. Cultural and linguistic differences often make Latinas the last to know about contraceptive options that are available. Additionally, because Latinas have the highest rate of being uninsured, seeing a provider and accessing affordable contraception is often not an option. The NLIRH focus is on three critical and interconnected areas: abortion access and affordability; sexual and reproductive health equity; and immigrant women’s health and rights.

[Working Families Party](#) members across the country are launching #ResistTrumpTuesdays to defeat Trump’s nominees. The organization works to elect progressive candidates at the state and local level “who will fearlessly resist Trump and fight for an America that works for all of us.” On November 10 in Providence, RI, an anti-Trump resistance [event](#) organized by party activists drew 1,000 attendees.

And finally, a document entitled “[Indivisible: A Practical Guide for Resisting the Trump Agenda](#)” has been making the rounds online and serves as a blueprint for informal grassroots groups as they interface with the three elected officials who represent each citizen in the US legislature. These members of congress (MoCs) pay attention to constituents primarily in order to be re-elected, says the Guide written by former legislative assistants who offer the suggestions as volunteers. These officials don’t want to be embarrassed in public or give the impression they don’t care what voters want. The advocacy model is the Tea Party, with its emphasis on defense rather than offense. “[L]ike it or not, the Tea Party really did have significant accomplishments—facing more difficult odds than we face today,” said Ezra Levin, one of the writers, “and it’s worth thinking about what parts of their strategy and tactics really enabled that.” MoCs in red states are unlikely to change their positions when we raise questions or criticize their votes, but the more loudly we put forward our priorities to them, the more we’ll be educating the public about these issues as well.

Space doesn’t allow more than a listing of the [Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund](#), [ProPublica](#), [National Resources Defense Council](#), [Southern Poverty Law Center](#), [Interfaith Power & Light](#), [Our Revolution](#), [MoveOn.org](#), [Fight for 15](#), [Sierra Club](#), [minority members of Congress](#), the high school students’ walkout the day after the election, or resistance by cities and states—not to mention the thousands of entrepreneurs working to bring in the clean energy shift in opposition to the incoming administration’s fossil-fuels program. The climate section of “The Chronicle” in this issue of *CES Musings* describes how scientists are stepping out of research facilities into the public policy arena.

These defenders face a Trump administration backed by a Republican-controlled congress flanked by thirty-one Republican state governors and thirty-two Republican-controlled state

legislatures, but activist organizations seem to be gaining strength in proportion to the challenge. What matters is that resistance to unjust, unwise, and possibly illegal policies be expressed clearly by a growing number of Americans. Political leaders and ordinary people need to hear from progressives in order to learn more about choices and their consequences. From all indications, that objective is headed for success.

## TRUMP AND THE CLIMATE: HIS HOT AIR ON WARMING IS FAR FROM THE GREATEST THREAT

by Andrew Revkin

*Editor's Note: The following article which is reprinted with permission from ProPublica provides a very thoughtful analysis of the likely impact of the Trump administration on US greenhouse gas emissions and puts this in the context of the larger "super-wicked" issue of global emissions.*

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President-elect Donald J. Trump has long pledged to undertake a profound policy shift on climate change from the low-carbon course President Obama made a cornerstone of his eight years in the White House.

"This very expensive GLOBAL WARMING bullshit has got to stop," Trump [tweeted a year ago](#).

In recent weeks, Trump doubled down, nominating champions of fossil fuels to several cabinet positions and [peppering his transition team](#) with longtime [opponents of environmental regulations](#).

Both the rhetoric and the actions have provoked despair among many who fear a Trump presidency will tip the planet toward an overheated future, upending recent national and international efforts to stem emissions of heat-trapping carbon dioxide from burning coal, oil and natural gas. But will a President Trump noticeably affect the globe's climate in ways that, say, a President Hillary Clinton would not have?

In recent weeks, a [variety](#) of [consultants](#) tracking climate and energy policy have used models to help address that question. ProPublica asked Andrew P. Jones at [Climate Interactive](#), a nonprofit hub for such analysis, to run one such comparison.

The chosen scenario assumes Trump's actions could result in the United States only achieving half of its pledged reduction through 2030 under the [Paris Agreement on climate change](#), the worldwide but voluntary pact aiming to avoid dangerous global warming that entered into force on November 4, 2016.

In this scenario the difference—call it the Trump effect—comes to 11 billion tons of additional carbon dioxide emitted between 2016 and 2030. That number is huge—it's the equivalent of more than five years' worth of emissions from all American power plants, for instance.

But it's almost vanishingly small in global context. Here's why. Even if all signatories to the Paris pact met their commitments, the global total of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through 2030 would be 580 billion tons, with the United States accounting for 65 billion of those tons. The Trump difference could take American emissions to 76 billion tons, with that 11-billion-ton difference increasing cumulative global emissions by less than 2 percent.

This calculation assumes Trump's effect is not as damaging as his rhetoric might suggest. Is that realistic? In interviews, more than half a dozen environmental economists and climate policy experts said yes.

They said this less because they see Trump moderating his stances and more because many of the targets set by Obama, and built on in Clinton campaign pledges, were based on shifts in energy use that are largely being driven by market forces or longstanding environmental laws that are relatively immune to the influence of any particular occupant of the White House.

These include polluting industries moving overseas, increasing industrial energy efficiency, a sustained shift away from coal to abundant, cleaner natural gas and wind, and a host of climate-friendly policies pursued by individual cities or states.

For instance, while Wyoming is among the [27 states fighting President Obama's Clean Power Plan in court](#), the coal-rich state looks set to meet the emissions benchmarks in those power-plant rules, largely because of [a giant wind farm](#) poised to be built in, yes, [Carbon County](#), and [newly approved transmission lines](#) to send electricity to states in the power-hungry Southwest.

It's notable that while Trump's choice for secretary of energy, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, is a climate change contrarian, he's credited by clean-energy champions with overseeing an [enormous expansion of wind](#) energy in his state. "Texas is a huge wind state, the biggest by far, and Rick Perry put in these transmission lines and made it wind friendly and that's why they have such cheap electricity and no problems with reliability—none," said [Hal Harvey](#), a longtime climate and energy analyst who has advised past Clinton and Bush administrations and run a clean-energy foundation.

For many, this all hardly justifies a sigh of relief.

Indeed, many environmentalists reject the idea that any encouraging trends toward better energy choices are happening on their own. Many coal-fired power plants were stopped from being built only by lawsuits and political pressure brought by activist opponents, said [Kierán Suckling](#), the founder of the Center for Biological Diversity, which uses the courts to limit harm to public lands and ecosystems.

"Industry and Republicans certainly don't believe in a secular trend. Instead they have poured enormous resources into trying to amend or repeal old laws, pass new industry-friendly laws, strike down and influence Obama's policies, and prevent activists from enforcing laws and policies," Suckling said.

With Republicans controlling the White House and Congress, environmental groups are, in effect, “lawyering up,” vowing to counter any “drill baby drill” efforts with a “[sue baby sue](#)” response.

In the end, as global carbon dioxide tallies reflect, such courtroom sparring, while important, is unlikely to have a game-changing impact on climate trajectories.

Much the same thing can be said of the lasting impact of American presidents. For nearly three decades, White House occupants have pledged to move the needle on climate change one way or the other, without terribly dramatic results.

In the scorching summer of 1988, when [global warming first hit headlines](#) in a significant way, presidential candidate George H.W. Bush [used a Michigan speech to pledge meaningful action](#) curbing heat-trapping greenhouse gases, saying, “Those who think we are powerless to do anything about the greenhouse effect forget about the White House effect.”

Despite a host of actions since that summer, including President George H.W. Bush signing the foundational climate treaty in Rio in 1992, you’d be hard pressed to find evidence of such an effect in emission rates.

Globally, the “great acceleration” in emissions ([that’s a scientific description](#)) has largely tracked the growth in human numbers and resource appetites—particularly a seemingly insatiable appetite for energy, more than [80 percent of which](#) still comes from fossil fuels despite sustained efforts to spread efficiency and renewable choices.

William Nordhaus, a Yale economist long focused on climate change policy, calls the global situation a high stakes “[climate casino](#).” He just [published a working paper](#) concluding that all policies so far have amounted to “minimal” steps that have had equally minimal effects.

Nearly three decades after that “White House effect” pledge, after eight years of sustained efforts by President Obama, including building [a critical 2014 partnership with China](#), Nordhaus finds “there has been no major improvement in emissions trends as of the latest data.”

In the end, the main value of the climate calculations spurred by Trump’s election could be in refocusing attention on the true scope of the challenge, which some researchers have described as “[super wicked](#)” given how hard it has been, using conventional political, legal or diplomatic tools, to balance human energy needs and the climate system’s limits.

The Paris Agreement itself was far more [a diplomatic achievement than a climatic one](#). Its 2030 pledges leave unresolved how to [cut emissions of carbon dioxide essentially to zero](#) in the second half of the century in a world heading toward 9 billion or more people seeking decent lives.

That plunge in emissions is necessary because unlike most other pollutants, carbon dioxide from fuel burning stays in circulation for centuries, [building in the atmosphere](#) like unpaid credit card debt.

The real risk for climate change in a Trump presidency, according to close to a dozen experts interviewed for this story, lies less in impacts on specific policies like Obama's Clean Power Plan and more in the realm of shifts in America's position in international affairs.

Even if he doesn't formally pull out of the climate treaty process, Trump could, for example, cancel payments pledged by the United States to a [Green Climate Fund](#) set up in 2010 to help the poorest developing countries build resilience to climate hazards and develop clean energy systems. President Obama has already [paid in \\$500 million](#) of the \$3 billion commitment, with another \$200 million potentially paid before he leaves office next month. Environmentalists last week [pressed in an open letter](#) for the full amount to be paid before Trump takes office.

"If the U.S. walks from its commitment, I would think it would be difficult for the other OECD countries to sustain donations, and if those donations are not sustained, developing countries will focus on growth as opposed to low carbon growth," said Henry Lee, a Harvard scholar working in and studying climate policy for decades.

But in international affairs, Trump and his proposed secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, the Exxon chairman, will confront a world of intertwined interests in which climate change has moved from being an inconvenient environmental side issue in the early 1990s to a keystone focal point now, said Andrew Light, [a George Mason University](#) professor focused on climate policy.

Light, who served on Obama administration negotiating teams in the run-up to the Paris accord, said such intertwined interests will be thrust upon the Trump administration starting this spring and summer in venues like the annual Group of 7 and Group of 20 meetings of the globe's most powerful countries.

"Those groups have committed to action using very strong climate and energy language," he said. "The way we got so many leaders to come to Paris and make this happen and ended up getting an even more ambitious agreement than we expected was by breaking climate diplomacy out of its silo—and making it sort of a peer issue to questions like trade and security. In this world you can't just walk away from all this stuff."

Given how Trump appears to be relishing his position as a wild card and a self-described master of the deal, it's still impossible to say what will unfold starting January 20.

In a [blistering speech](#) to thousands of Earth scientists in San Francisco earlier this month, California Gov. Jerry Brown vowed to fight Trump in the near term using that state's influence on everything from automobile standards to the national laboratories, which are managed by the University of California system.

But he also accurately [described the climate challenge](#) for what it is: "This is not a battle of one day or one election. This is a long-term slog into the future."

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## A PSYCHIATRIC CLINICIAN'S ANALYSIS OF THE US ELECTIONS: THE LAST EMBERS OF PATRIARCHAL SELF-CONFIDENCE

by Clay Whitehead, MD

I am writing a brief response to Herman Greene's recent letter, "[Are Ecozoans Now at War? Should They Be?](#)", and his essay, "[We Now Live in the Cabaret: Laissez les Bon Temps Rouler!](#)."

Our world is a confusing and dangerous place which we humans have coped with by developing illusions of control through intellectual mastery and networking with groups. It seems that at the time of the Neolithic innovations, public power became highly masculinized and to some degree hid the underlying matriarchal strength. What we have seen in our age are the last embers of patriarchal self-confidence. This, Trump has tapped into, and has generated the very disquieting feelings described in your communications. The affect you seem to describe is, I believe, strangeness, that eerie feeling that things do not compute and are therefore rapidly becoming extremely dangerous in ways that are hard to grasp. You and I might agree that the way to proceed is to carry on "the Great Work." Unfortunately most of the world's people have never heard of this work and are too busy preparing a tantrum to much care.

Perhaps not surprisingly, this affect of strangeness has not been very carefully studied but it sounds like you have become a rapid expert as have many of the rest of us. At the individual's level the clinician observes regression, magical thinking, projection, increasing denial, and anger followed by ever deepening depression. At some point as observed during the cabaret era, increasing feelings of low self-esteem and rage dominate individuals as well as their cultures and, as happened in Germany after World War I, eventually lead to a final self-destructive explosion. These trends were described by Eric Fromm in the late 30s during the years that he was preparing to leave Germany. His book from this era, *Escape from Freedom*, today is absolutely riveting in its prescience. The basic idea is that when confronted with uncertainty one seeks authoritarianism. This is particularly likely to occur when cultural development and wealth are constrained and limit the support and biopsychosocial energy to move forward.

Self-destructiveness becomes a dominant dynamic, and interestingly is quite evident in Trump's biography, which is filled with so much illusion, deceit, and failed initiatives. His underlying self-destructiveness is one of the especially frightening dimensions of his rise. Remember Hitler was suicidal after World War I, and carried out his plan after World War II.

A final point: the present moment echoes origins in the enlightenment. This was much emphasized by the founding fathers and gave us a period of scientific, economic, and political leadership. It is sometimes forgotten that the underside of these achievements included religious tyranny, slavery, and the advent of nuclear warfare. We do not seem to have a way as yet to preserve the good and eliminate the bad in our nature.

Sustaining these largely unconscious polarizations has required enormous denial, as you point out. It is worth remembering that a good definition of denial is "negative hallucination." It is the

assertion that something that is not present is present, or its reverse. In this case the enormous self-other bi-polarities are reaching a lethal impasse and point to the central achievement required for survival: integrated thought and perception. This requires nothing less than transcending and repairing the splits of the Enlightenment. An ultimate expression of this view requires integrity in dealing with our home planet and with each other. Our only hope that this can be adopted is that the members of our species recognize that patriarchal persistence will soon kill our planet, and survival will eventually require better balancing of regression and pursuing constrained growth. This will eventually return us to something like “the Great Work.”

## **UNDERSTANDING POSSIBLE FUTURES IN AN INCREASINGLY INSECURE WORLD: REVIEW OF PAUL RASKIN’S JOURNEY TO EARTH LAND: THE GREAT TRANSITION TO PLANETARY CIVILIZATION**

by Felix Dodds

*Editor’s Note: Felix Dodds is one of the world’s most informed writers on intergovernmental efforts toward sustainable development. He has written three books giving the history of the UN’s sustainable development process, his latest (written with Ambassador David Donoghue) being “Negotiating the Sustainable Development Goals: A Transformational Agenda for an Insecure World.” Felix is a Senior Fellow at the Global Research Institute and a Senior Affiliate at the Water Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an Associate Fellow at the Tellus Institute. He was the Executive Director of Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future from 1992-2012. The following article was posted to his [blog](#) on December 30, 2016, and is republished here with permission. His website is [www.felixdodds.net](http://www.felixdodds.net)*

There is no question that 2016 has been a year of surprises whether it was Brexit, Leicester City winning the Premier League, or the Chicago Cubs winning the World Series. But perhaps the biggest surprise of all was a TV reality show host and property developer with no political experience winning the US Presidency.

Looking over the political landscape, there is a global trend towards nationalism and xenophobia—some would draw parallels with the rise of fascism in the 1920s and 1930s.

A year after the success of countries agreeing to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement, we now have an incoming President who seems to be a climate denier. His nomination of the CEO of Exxon Mobile as his secretary of state doesn’t just worry those who think his close ties to Russia are problematic, but the company that he runs knew that burning fossil fuels would contribute to climate change as early as the 1970s. With the recent release of company papers, it is clear they suppressed this knowledge and funded climate denying scientists just as the tobacco companies did on the health problems of smoking tobacco.

On my flight from California to New York before Christmas to facilitate the workshop on multi-stakeholder partnerships that the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

organized, I had the chance to read Paul Raskin’s new book [Journey to Earthland: The Great Transition to Planetary Civilization](#).

As the end of year approaches it offers a great time to step back from this daily fray and reflect on the big questions: Where are going? Where do we want to be? How do we get there? We couldn’t ask for a better primer on how to answer these questions.

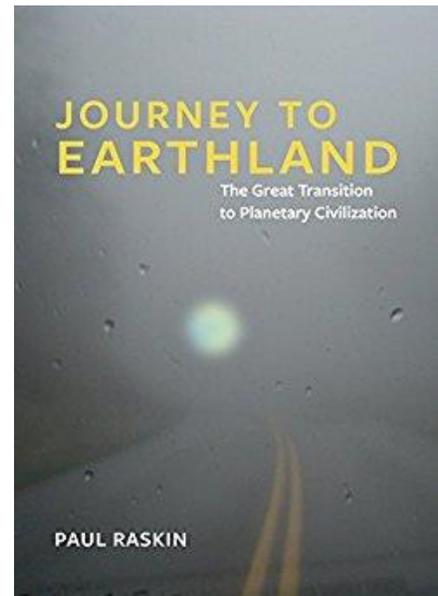
The book is a sequel to the [2002 Great Transition](#) essay, the culminating project of the [Global Scenarios Group](#), and a seminal contribution to the literature on sustainable development. As Raskin, President of the [Tellus Institute](#), well knows, much has changed in the intervening years, and he revisits the work with the rigor of a theoretical physicist and the sobriety of a realist, yet with the hope and sense of the possibility of an engaged visionary.

Raskin begins with an analysis of the historical moment, suggesting the emergence of a new interdependent era: the “planetary phase of civilization.” Money, people, goods, ideas, pollutants, and diseases traverse increasingly fluid borders at a rapid pace. Snowballing crises—from widening inequality to climate change—are global in scope and cannot be solved by any one nation alone. Humanity and the entire community of life have become a single community of fate, the overarching proto-country of “Earthland.” But given the current governance vacuum, Earthland today is a failed state. More troubling, if we fail to overcome the “zombie ideologies” of the twentieth century—nationalism, materialism, individualism, the domination of nature—her future prospects are dim. Of course, the reality is that the planet will survive us: The question has always been “Will we find a way to live sustainably for all of its people?” That must now be in question.

Using a typology developed by the Global Scenarios Group, Raskin charts out three scenario classes (and six scenarios) for how the future might unfold from our fiercely contested present.



*Conventional Worlds* present a continuation of the status quo—with *Market Forces* representing neoliberal globalization and *Policy Reform* representing the valiant efforts to tame it. As an optimist, I think the agreements on the SDGs and climate change mean there is still the chance of a Policy Reform approach IF and that is a big IF the world has enlightened leaders to take us on that path and implement these agreements. There is still the chance—but only just.



Less savory are the *Barbarization* scenarios, including the global apartheid of *Fortress Worlds* and the societal collapse of *Breakdown*. If I were a pessimist I would suggest this is the likely outcome.



The promise that “another world is possible” exists in the third class of scenarios, *Great Transitions*, with a pluralist ecotopian *New Sustainability Paradigm* and a localist *Eco-Communalism*. We can see all of these futures stirring in the present. Last year ended on a high note for the possibility of a *Policy Reform* route to sustainable development, with the rollout of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris climate deal.



In 2016, from Brexit to Trump, Temer’s Brazil, to Duterte’s Philippines, a *Fortress World* lurks on every corner. And one can see *Breakdown* in every tragic new story coming out of Syria and the failure to tame slow-moving train wrecks like climate change.

Raskin argues that the center—*Conventional Worlds*—cannot hold (“In immoderate times, moderation becomes imprudent—madness in reason’s mask”) and explains how to transcend it. The coming social transformation, he argues, must be propelled by the infusion of the triad of values—ecocentrism, solidarity, and well-being—into worldviews and institutions.

Raskin puts his hope in the emergence of a “global citizens’ movement,” born out of the realization of interconnected struggles and leavened by these new values. Global citizenship, he argues, is the next step in citizenship’s evolution: “As connectivity globalizes in the external world, so might empathy globalize in the human heart.” We have seen with the recent election in the United States how social media can be used to promote ideas—unfortunately, the ‘false news’ ideas that are the dark side of a global citizens’ movement. There is also an assumption in the book that civil society is on the left and can be mobilized as a precursor to the ‘global citizens’ movement’. This is at the same time as we are seeing repressive laws introduced against civil society in places like Egypt and Russia. Some of the battle lines are being drawn. In the United States, the lack of any proper restrictions on guns means some of the ‘darker forces’ are also well armed.

In a section called “The Destination,” Raskin, writing from the perspective of someone living in post-Great Transition Earthland of 2084, lays out his vision of “another world.” He presents a concise history of the coming decades and describes the systems of governance, trade, political economy, and social relations of the just and sustainable world humanity was able to achieve. Raskin’s Earthland is no totalizing utopia. It allows for internal diversity and continuing political struggle. Befitting the “unity in diversity” mantra, Earthland comprises a motley assortment of regional types around three major archetypes: Agoria (an ecologically resilient social democracy), Ecodemia (a non-authoritarian socialism), and Arcadia (a rustic yet worldly localism). I have no personal problem with the three suggested archetypes but perhaps the assumption underneath is there is no space for the right in the new politics, and I’m not sure that will be the case.

What are the prospects for achieving this kind of Earthland in our turbulent century? Although Raskin criticizes the limitations of *Policy Reform* scenarios, he also acknowledges the importance of such approaches, particularly now, in beginning to bend the curve of history toward a Great Transition. The Sustainable Development Goals offer just such a possibility. Because of the hard work and advocacy of a diverse group of stakeholders, the SDGs embraced an aspirational and actionable vision for humanity in the coming decade. Citizens across the globe have a set of commitments, reflective in many ways of Raskin’s triad of values, to which they can hold their governments accountable. And in spurring such grassroots mobilization, the SDGs can catalyze the thinking that will take humanity even further.



[Watch Great Transition Ideas on You Tube](#)

If you’re like me, you’ve felt the cold winds of despair at your door during this unsettling year. Then we need to have hope and we need to articulate much better the future worlds we think are possible and see what the ‘global citizen’ thinks of these worlds. *Journey to Earthland* offers a primer for a dialogue, a lyrical and energizing antidote, and a companion as we reengage in the hard work to come for the better world we need—and deserve.

**WANT A COLLABORATIVE DISTANCE LEARNING MASTER’S DEGREE IN THE GREAT WORK? LOOK NO FURTHER THAN ENDICOTT’S MASTER’S PROGRAM IN INTEGRATIVE EDUCATION. ENTERING STUDENTS MAY BEGIN IN MARCH 2017.**

The Institute for Educational Studies (TIES) at Endicott College, Beverly, MA, is offering a collaborative distance learning M.Ed. in Integrative Learning that begins in March 2016.



**Questions that contextualize the course of study include:**

- How does integrative learning create a context for exploring one’s Great Work?
- What is a learning community and what capacities are evoked through participation?
- In what ways can we bring a sense of community—local, regional and global—to the learning process?
- How does systems-thinking lead to eco-learning and the creation of integrative approaches?
- How can transformative education establish a foundation for students to develop their personal contributions to a healthier and more sustainable Earth community?

**Area of Emphasis**

Each student chooses an area of emphasis—a passionate interest—within the concentration of Integrative Learning. This “independent” portion of the work accounts for one third of the

degree requirements. The integrative seminars provide a “lens” for the exploration of this emphasis area.

Examples include environmental awareness, media literacy, art education, sense of place, leadership, learning communities, transformative education, holistic leadership, cosmology, art and community, experiential education, caring in the culinary arts, ecoliteracy, experiential learning, Earth education, administration, elementary music programs, and spiritual ecology. All of this work is encountered with the implicit goal of developing students’ content and process-based knowledge for contribution to the Earth Community.

### **Dialogue**

Our premise is that humanity has the possibility of reclaiming a sustainable relationship with the Earth. One of the processes of communication that makes this possible is dialogue. In this case we refer to a variation on a particular form of dialogue described by physicist David Bohm. Bohm’s constant thread that particularly relates to our dialogue is that we are investigating the possibilities for:

- The emergence of shared meaning
- Increasing awareness of our own and others assumptions
- Increasing sensitivity and willingness to “listen”
- The creation of space between our reaction and our response
- A willingness to experiment with the principles described

### **Collaborative Learning Communities**

During recent years there has been a proliferation of courses and degrees offered under the umbrella of distance learning. In general these academic pursuits are similar to attending a conventional university. The professor posts lectures and gives out assignments, students submit papers, there are tests and there are grades.

In contrast we promote an integrative view hosted by a uniquely designed online education eCampus where students work in collaborative learning communities; where faculty are mentors and co-learners; where creativity and self-direction are valued; and where there is an understanding of dialogue as process. Right communication embraces an appreciation for each person’s contribution.

### **About the eCampus**

The heart of the teaching and learning process relies on interactive dialogues accessible through state of the art conferencing software. Faculty and students meet in asynchronous classroom conferences, building upon one another’s insights and understanding.

Once signed-on to the eCampus, students have an opportunity to become an active member of a reflective learning community—exchanging ideas, exploring essential questions and responding to dialogue with students and faculty from diverse cultures and countries. There are formal and informal meetings in community journals that are relevant to current life experience.

Faculty-practitioners advise and mentor students throughout the program. Most graduates and students will tell you that the on-line community becomes a second “home” for gathering with people who share a common vision. TIES offers adults a prepared environment where content and process are integrated.

Program activities include: reflective interaction through directed readings; pondering “questions worth thinking about” posed by faculty and students; replying to postings of other students; and sharing ideas spontaneously as they arise.

### **Integrative Learning Seminars**

The core material and course work is presented through a series of on-line seminars where students and faculty post responses to an assigned reading (or viewing).

Subsequent to the initial posting, participants comment and weave responses, searching for new insights. Quite often the authors of the books and/or experienced scholars are available during the on-line dialogue.

A sample of an integrative seminar dialogue can be accessed from the download section at the bottom of this page.

### **Downloads**

[Course Titles and Descriptions](#) (PDF)

[Book List](#) (HTML)

### **For more information contact TIES**

<http://www.ties-edu.org/il/contact/>

## **WOMEN’S MARCH ON WASHINGTON, JANUARY 21, 2017**

On January 21, 2017, hundreds of thousands of people are expected to march in Washington, DC, and in other cities in the United States and around the world. For more information here is the [website](#) on the event, and here is the [facebook](#) page.

This is the statement of the mission and purpose of the March taken from the website:

We stand together in solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families—recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country.

## OUR MISSION

The rhetoric of the past election cycle has insulted, demonized, and threatened many of us—immigrants of all statuses, Muslims and those of diverse religious faiths, people who identify as LGBTQIA,\* Native people, Black and Brown people, people with disabilities, survivors of sexual assault—and our communities are hurting and scared. We are confronted with the question of how to move forward in the face of national and international concern and fear.

In the spirit of democracy and honoring the champions of human rights, dignity, and justice who have come before us, we join in diversity to show our presence in numbers too great to ignore. The Women’s March on Washington will send a bold message to our new government on their first day in office, and to the world, that women’s rights are human rights. We stand together, recognizing that defending the most marginalized among us is defending all of us.

We support the advocacy and resistance movements that reflect our multiple and intersecting identities. We call on all defenders of human rights to join us. This march is the first step towards unifying our communities, grounded in new relationships, to create change from the grassroots level up. We will not rest until women have parity and equity at all levels of leadership in society. We work peacefully while recognizing there is no true peace without justice and equity for all.

HEAR OUR VOICE.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Women’s rights are human rights, regardless of a woman’s race, ethnicity, religion, immigration status, sexual identity, gender expression, economic status, age or disability. We practice empathy with the intent to learn about the intersecting identities of each other. We will suspend our first judgement and do our best to lead without ego. We follow the principles of Kingian nonviolence, which are defined as follows:

- **Principle 1:** Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people. It is a positive force confronting the forces of injustice and utilizes the righteous indignation and spiritual, emotional, and intellectual capabilities of people as the vital force for change and reconciliation.
- **Principle 2:** The Beloved Community is the framework for the future. The nonviolent concept is an overall effort to achieve a reconciled world by raising the level of relationships among people to a height where justice prevails and persons attain their full human potential.

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\* Editor’s Note: Some of these initials were new to us. Q means questioning, I means Intersexual (born with differing sex characteristics), and A means asexual (not have sexual attraction for a partner). Here is a helpful [glossary of terms](#).

- **Principle 3:** Attack forces of evil, not persons doing evil. The nonviolent approach helps one analyze the fundamental conditions, policies and practices of the conflict rather than reacting to one's opponents or their personalities.
- **Principle 4:** Accept suffering without retaliation for the sake of the cause to achieve our goal. Self-chosen suffering is redemptive and helps the movement grow in a spiritual as well as a humanitarian dimension. The moral authority of voluntary suffering for a goal communicates the concern to one's own friends and community as well as to the opponent.
- **Principle 5:** Avoid internal violence of the spirit as well as external physical violence. The nonviolent attitude permeates all aspects of the campaign. It provides a mirror type reflection of the reality of the condition to one's opponent and the community at large. Specific activities must be designed to maintain a high level of spirit and morale during a nonviolent campaign.

### **NEW YEAR'S DAY STATEMENT ON HOPE AND RESISTANCE BY THE REV. DR. WILLIAM BARBER, PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA NAACP**

Many of us, not knowing what to do, face 2017 with uncertainty and anxiety. Rev. Dr. Barber, who has become an important prophet for justice in our time, made a powerful statement on hope and resistance in a January 1, 2017 interview of him by Michel Martin on NPR's *All Things Considered*.

You may listen to the seven-minute interview and read the text [here](#).

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