



“Digital Innovation: Fostering Leadership for Social Justice”

9 February 2024

Concept Note

This Virtual Session has gathered renown experts from Japan, Germany, United Kingdom, and United States to explain the complexities of Leadership for Social Justice in both developing and developed countries. This session has been organized in support of the United Nations Commission for Social Development with insights from academia, public and private sectors, and NGOs.

Rather than a conventional concept note, the following attempts to capture the rich and random musings of the group assembled for “Digital Innovations: Fostering Leadership for Social Justice” who have generously contributed their thoughts prior to the meeting for the purposes of stimulating the debate.

“Global Teachers Build Peace as Innovation Hub” – Yuichi Nakamura, CEO, Nakayoshigakuen, Japan

NGOs play a vital role in promoting diversity, inclusion, leadership transformation, and empathy development. They educate and raise awareness, provide leadership training, advocate for equal opportunities in the job market, assist in policy formulation, and organize community-building projects. Through these efforts, NGOs contribute significantly to positive societal change.

“Leveraging Social Capital to Improve Disaster Resilience” – Nathaniel Douglass, Cambridge University UK

During large-scale disasters, social structures are disrupted. The current focus of emergency management is to ensure that people evacuate safely. Lost in the process is a mechanism for keeping existing social structures intact, despite substantial evidence that maintaining social structures during and after disasters is beneficial. Instead of displaced people self-assembling at emergency shelters, where the social composition may appear somewhat random, I introduce algorithms incorporating graph and hypergraph partitioning to reunite displaced people with their friends, family, and communities within shelters without unduly prejudicing the speed and efficiency required during evacuations. I further investigate how to achieve this result dynamically, by assessing real-time information flows and readjusting recommended shelter locations mid-evacuation, all the while maintaining social connections tailored for each individual.

“The Snail Economic Concept: Fostering Leadership for Social Justice” – Melanie Schnept, Project Consultant, Germany

What makes a simple and slow-moving snail better than a racehorse to describe necessities for the economy of the 21st and 22nd century? At their core, modern economic systems are all based on the idea of infinite growth and velocity - without revealing any sensible reason to accumulate so many material things for a single human being which she/he/it cannot use simultaneously.



Also, there is no thought to finding ways to dispose and recycle all of these items in a sensible way, in the end creating a senseless waste of irreplaceable resources. In contrast, the vast accumulation of products in western countries is counterbalanced with a severe lack of resources in other regions, with the results of biodiversity loss, climate change, inequality, and social distortion. From a business sense, over-efficiency goes hand in hand with an over-sectioning of production and consecutive supply-chain problem when partners disagree. This is the model of the racehorse, burning resources at a lightening pace and being exhausted at the end of the race. SUCH A SYSTEM MUST COLLAPSE SOONER OR LATER. A game-changing alternative might be the example of the snail. Sustainable for more than 550 million of years with huge colorful biodiversity, they are ubiquitous, thrifty, intelligently flexible, capable of climbing smooth walls when necessary while always maintaining its resilient fully self-sustained home on his back. The snail *is* a symbol of expediency and steady movement. It is better millions to focus slow but congenial ideas to create one reasonable product (the hand-crafted item), than to have a lone single idea which is rapidly expanded with senseless multiplication (the mass produced passing fad).

“Giving Everyone the Freedom to Thrive” – Chris Roberts, Freedom 2 Thrive, UK

Chris is the Founder of Freedom 2 Thrive, that will deliver a series of new fully integrated care villages across England, working alongside charities, central and local government. He will show how the F2T Communities will be delivered and why all new towns and villages, should always be based around the most vulnerable in society first, before considering the needs of the able-bodied. We need to address the base question of *what is Social Justice?* How do we foster leadership in this space that is focused on empowering future generations, to deliver a better world, full of hope and aspiration, whilst adhering to a gentle carbon footprint, in line with the United Nations Green Agenda. Maybe we also need to take the time to look back in history, where many of the answers we seek already exist, within our shared cultures, traditions and values.

Empowering these young people to feel Franchised and that they can have a positive sway over their futures and due to the Covid Pandemic. They struggle to find affordable accommodation and to see a clear career path that will lead to property ownership and a family of their own.

Whilst the concept of Social Justice, is based on the *Equality of Opportunity*, we must also recognise that for the Millennials to look up and take an interest in the World around them, they first need to feel as if they have a stable and affordable life. In many ways, we are facing an age-old philosophical question, *where do the lines sit between a sustainable economic society, and systems of politics & governance.*

Is it possible to engender positive dialogue and inclusion of the younger generations, without their positivity and optimism for the future?

Maybe at this stage we have more questions **than** answers.

The International Council for Caring Communities (ICCC) is honored to organize with our partners the Digital Innovations: Fostering Leadership for Social Justice. This virtual session in



support of the United Nations Commission on Social Development. This session features renowned experts who are enhancing Society from Japan, Germany, United Kingdom and United States.

“Tech-Enabled Equity: Data-Driven EdTech Solutions for Underserved Communities” – Dean JoAnn Rolle, Medgar Evers College, City University of New York

As we navigate the evolving landscape of education, the potential of educational technology to close achievement gaps cannot be understated. However, its implementation must be strategic, leveraging data insights and fostering community involvement. In this presentation, inspired by the insights from the forthcoming book, “Tech Enabled Futures: Elevating Education in Underserved Areas,” we will discuss actionable strategies that can guide policymakers and educators to harness EdTech's transformative potential effectively.

ICCC is a non-for-profit organization that has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. Established in 1993, it acts as a bridge linking government, civil society organizations, private sector, universities, and the United Nations in their efforts as a catalyst. It fosters new solutions that enhance and encourage adaptation and or replication in both developing and developed countries towards new ways of viewing an *integrated society for all ages*. ICCC is mainstreaming the impact of the new digital era in the 21st century growing “AgeQuake.”