Editorial

It is with great joy and trepidation that we are presenting to you Volume 7, issue no. 1 of the International Journal of Engineering, Social Justice, and Peace.

Joy – because in a world that is ridden with injustices and a field (Engineering) that plays a crucial role in furthering the injustices, this journal holds the space for examining ways in which Engineering serves the established power structures. This space is special because it also allows us to collectively construct a vision of Engineering that supports life, planet, and people and serves social justice and peace. We hold this vision sacred.

Trepidation – because it is the first publication by the new editorial team in English language. We started in January 2018 and are able to publish the first issue at the beginning of 2020. It has been a long journey. Along the way, we organized the 14th Annual International Engineering Social Justice and Peace Conference. The conference breathed new life to our work with the very creative and insightful contributions from many of you. The cover of this journal was birthed in the forest pedagogy workshop at the conference led by Caroline Baillie to whom we all owe gratitude for having created this space in the first place. This issue is dedicated to the great work presented at the conference in multiple formats – papers, panels, workshops, poems, and artwork. In you, we are very fortunate to have a community that shares a vision anchored in justice.

From the sacred vision to the nitty gritty of bringing a publication to fruition – the journey has been ridden with several challenges. The academics among us are all too familiar with the “time poverty” that we all deal with. The tumultuous state of the world has introduced many other precarities as well. One particular challenge that the new editorial team has faced, is carrying out the double-blind review process with a very small pool of available reviewers in a reasonable length of time. We understand the commitment to our contributors for publishing in a regular and timely manner and appreciate the trust placed in us.

Surrounding the conference, Caroline Baillie and Eric Feinblatt organized two “Critical Conversations” events – in June 2018 on “Trust” and in June 2019 on “Degrowth.” In the critical conversations on trust, a group of Engineering educators, practitioners, and life-sustainers including Debbie Stein (STEAM teacher for the Viejas band of the Kumeyaay Nation), postulated, examined, and experienced what it means to place trust or ask for trust to be placed.

Cognizant of the complexities involved in such an ask – the editorial team is placing its trust in our community – in you – by opening up a conversation on how best to approach the review process keeping in mind the challenges of time paucity and the need for maintaining rigor (double-blind peer review). Those of you, who are able to donate some of your time to this very important task of safeguarding this space for constructing our collective vision, we invite you to join us in developing a review process that is sustainable and prompt. Please express your interest by sending us a note at Shehla.Arif@gmail.com. We shall hold an online meeting to brainstorm ideas.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

English language Editorial Team
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