

Quaker Institute for the Future
Summer Research Seminar – August 16-20, 2021
By Zoom: see links and passcode below (different for early, mid-day and late-day sessions)

DRAFT PROGRAM

Presenters

Erica Adams/Carlota Duarte (Agency: Public + Private Space)
 Gray Cox (Holding AI in the Light)
 Susan Cozzens (Reimagining Redmond)
 Rose Davis-Boone (Political leanings of college-aged students)
 Shaia Emigh-Doyle (Writings of Black and Indigenous women)
 Geoff Garver (Intergenerational equity in ecosystem management)
 Betsy Keokosky (Regenerative agriculture CoD)
 John Howell (Quaker values and monetary reform)
 Hal Weaver (Reflections from Black Fire trilogy)

Other participants (more may join):

Claire Adamson
 Charlie Blanchard
 Elaine Emmi
 Phil Emmi
 Keith Helmuth
 Paul Hodgkin
 Laura Holliday
 Larry Jordan
 Leonard Joy
 John Lodenkamper
 Judy Lumb
 Margaret McCasland
 Brenda Nolan
 Steve Olshevski
 Wendy Sturton
 Shelley Tanenbaum
 Alice Wald
 Polly Washburn
 Sara Jolena Wolcott
 Vince Zelazny
 Rod Zwirner

Welcome to the Quaker Institute for the Future’s 2021 Summer Research Seminar, which is convening virtually August 16-20. This way of gathering responds to the COVID-19 pandemic and helps us bear witness to the climate crisis by joining in spirit-led worship and sharing of ideas without using fossil fuels for travel. Despite not being together in person, may we bring our spirits together to build community and connection over this week.

Voluntary donation: Although there is no registration fee for the SRS, QIF welcomes voluntary donations from SRS participants. A \$30 donation is suggested to help cover costs of the SRS, including QIF stipends for Young Friends SRS and other activities. A donation above that amount will help QIF cover costs for the QIF website and other communications, publications and other ongoing expenses. Stipend recipients are not expected to make a donation. The link to make a donation to QIF is here: http://www.quakerinstitute.org/?page_id=89

Schedule: The weekly schedule and a description of each session is provided below. Each session will have a session clerk and a technical assistant. A technical guide for using Zoom for the SRS is provided separately. Appendices noted below are attached to this program.

Session	Mon 8/16	Tues 8/17	Wed 8/18	Thur 8/19	Fri 8/20
12-3:00 pm ET 9 am-12 pm PT	1. Erica Adams 2. Susan Cozzens	1. Geoff Garver 2. Elizabeth Keokosky	1. Hal Weaver 2. Shaia Emigh-Doyle	1. John Howell 2. Rose Davis-Boone	Gray Cox
4:30-6 pm ET 1:30-3 pm PT	Breakout rooms	Breakout rooms	Breakout rooms	Breakout rooms	Breakout rooms
7-9 pm ET 4-6 pm PT	A renewed urgent call for climate action	How should we provision human societies?	Decolonization, racial polarization and reparations	Monetary reform, degrowth and ecological law	Reflections on the 2021 SRS/ Open sharing

Zoom link for AM/early PM sessions:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84993758817?pwd=VjVLcGJ3ZTE3MVhnbkowU1hnZHpRZz09>

Zoom link for afternoon breakout rooms:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82086070490?pwd=Qkorc3FIMkRzeENDWW5ocDFHdk9ndz09>

Zoom link for late PM sessions:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87162385280?pwd=dytBU3ZKSVMkRzeENDWW5ocDFHdk9ndz09>

Passcode for all Zoom links: QIFSR5

Morning (PT)/early afternoon (ET) sessions: Research presentations

In each morning session, one or more presenters will speak out of silent worship about research they are undertaking, followed by worshipful sharing and reflection among all SRS participants.

Erica Adams (with Carlota Duarte) - Agency: Public and Private Space. Quarantine, Insurrection + Monuments

Queries on Quarantine, January 6th storming of U.S. Capitol and Monuments:

Who is represented by whom, in what context and, for what purpose?

Who defines private and public space?

Who defines rights of the individual versus the collective?

Guest co-speaker: Carlota Duarte

Gray Cox – Holding Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Light: A Report on Work in Progress from the Artificial Intelligence CoD

The AI CoD is working on two books dealing with ethical reasoning. The first critiques the Golden Rule and the principles of ethics and ethical reasoning that underlie mainstream public policy decision making including economic rationality, realpolitik, instrumentalist views of technology and the utilitarian, Kantian and other conceptions of morality used to justify them. It describes an alternative "Rainbow Rule" and a set of principles of ethics and ethical reasoning drawing on Quaker, Gandhian and other forms of conflict transformation approaches to decision making that provide alternative paths for public policy and rebirthing our world. The second book describes in more practical detail how to apply the principles and practices of this second, more dialogical and collaborative form of ethical reasoning, in in the context of programming and implementing systems in which AI and humans and natural processes all collaborate in the creation and transformation of relationships in our world.

Susan Cozzens – Reimagining Redmond

Redmond, Washington, is an affluent eastern suburb of Seattle where I live and worship. The Eastside has grown as a racially exclusive place consciously outside the city. This presentation will both share some of the history of that racialization, point to the institutions that would need to change to transform it into a place of racial justice, and report on my personal efforts to address some of those institutions from the standpoints of my research on global inequality and my Quaker spiritual roots.

Rose Davis-Boone - Political leanings of college-aged students and how this correlates to their news preferences

Over the past few years, I have become more and more interested in how people make decisions, especially in the political sphere. Politics in general have been a focal point of America in recent times, the politicization of almost all parts of society has been a trend making those usually uninterested in politics (something I would consider myself not too long ago) to become involved in it on some level. Seeing this has made me more and more intrigued in learning how people (especially the impressionable teens and young adult groups) make decisions about their political beliefs. When you start understanding the importance of politics in the world, how it is embedded throughout all sections of society from social justice, inclusion, and discernment which are all very sensitive subjects in our time, then you understand why research on the medias influence on political alignments is so importance as it can significantly affect public sentiment, social justice issues, and many other areas.

Shaia Emigh-Doyle – Writings of Black and Indigenous women on abolition struggles

This presentation is on the writings of Black and Indigenous women, notably those whose scholarly works focus on abolition struggles against policing and prisons. I am putting together a curriculum of texts, podcasts, and other media that center the voices of Black women like Angela Davis, Miriam Kaba, and many others. This research, I feel, is timely given the state of our inequitable society in late-stage capitalism where catastrophes of ecological collapse, food-insecurity, disease, and lack of housing all indicate failures of society to care for those who become incarcerated. The purpose of my research is not only to learn about foundational abolitionist ideas but to think about ways to implement the learning in my own community, and it is here where a level of spirit-filled discernment would be of benefit.

Geoff Garver – Intergenerational equity in ecosystem management

The UN Department of Economics and Social Affairs has engaged me to prepare a strategy guidance note on the principle of intergenerational equity and its operationalization through ecosystem management. The note is intended to be of practical use to policy makers in centers of Government, ministries of finance, planning and public administration in governments around the world. Although “ecosystem management” was first developed as an institutional practice in the context of managing natural protected areas, such as National Forests in the United States, many of the most tried and true examples establishing relationships with supporting ecosystems in ways that provide for intergenerational equity are grounded in Indigenous worldviews, traditions and practices. Case studies by Elinor Ostrom and others also provide lessons for managing ecosystems so as to ensure intergenerational equity. I will seek guidance on how to bridge this topic so as to include both Indigenous knowledge and practices and more modern forms of public administration on ecosystem management.

John Howell – Quaker values within the changing monetary landscape

This presentation will bring forth a number of issues and queries regarding Quaker values and monetary systems. Some broad queries include: What is the proper role of government with regard to money systems? Should Quakers withdraw from society, or from aspects of society, because they are evil, or should Quakers engage to make it better? What is the relation between the evolving money system and the possibility of ecological law? How does the evolution toward digital currencies, underwritten either by governments or by private entities,

impact questions of social justice? Among other things, I would like to bring forward concerns about how the current monetary system demands perpetual growth, and about incompatibility of perpetual growth with any commitment to sustainability. Consideration of this naturally proceeds to the question of alternatives, which is where things get more complex. Alternatives, including for monetary systems, range from various ways to tweak the present system to real reform. I will refer to a study we are undertaking with the League in Ohio over 10 sessions.

Advance reading: <https://www.monetaryalliance.org/will-just-money-reform-cause-inflation/>

Betsy Keokosky – Changes on the ground in agriculture and farming in New York state

This is a review of some on the ground activities concerning agriculture and farming and the gradual changes that are happening in New York state with the new Climate Resiliency and Soil Health bill that just passed. For example, in the community of Danby, NY, an Agricultural Working Group has been organized during a period of zoning re-evaluation, and the local Conservation Advisory Council is sponsoring an Agricultural Education series that I am organizing which pulls together a lot of partners and threads. In part, these changes reflect the realization that California and the Midwest can no longer be counted on to indefinitely supply the country with food and the possibility of New York being a more self-sufficient food shed.

Hal Weaver – Reflections from Black Fire: An African-American Quaker Scholar-Activist in a White Supremacist Culture

This presentation will draw from my current activity, writing my memoirs, at present a part of our BLACK FIRE trilogy entitled "Black Fire: An African American Quaker Scholar-Activist in a White Supremacist Culture." The work currently covers several phenomena in which I have been profoundly involved over the decades, one of which I will select to work on that week: (1) My Interaction with Quakers, Quakerism, and Quaker Institutions, 1950-2021--education, governance, and publications; (2) My Interaction with Socialist countries, especially the USSR, 1959-1985; (3) My Pioneering Work at the beginning of the Black Studies Movement, with specific reference as founding Chairperson, Africana Studies Department, Rutgers College, 1970-1974; or (4) Film as an antidote to Mis-education, 1966-2021.

Afternoon sessions: Breakout rooms

Between the two main sessions each day, breakout rooms will be available for groups of participants to engage together virtually however they wish. These could be continuation of discussion and sharing about an earlier session in the SRS, engagement in musical or other creative activities, etc. If you would like to join others in a breakout room, go to the Breakout Room Zoom link promptly at 4:30-6 pm ET / 1:30-3 pm PT. You will then be able to propose and help to decide on the topics for up to two breakout rooms. The Zoom "host" will then assign you to the breakout room of your choice. The Zoom guide provides more information.

Late afternoon/evening session themes: Theme-based sharing

In the afternoon/evening sessions, we will share spirit-led thoughts and ideas about a topic and identify possible research avenues that SRS participants or QIF (through CoDs or otherwise) could pursue. The first part of each session will be for general sharing on the theme, and toward the end, sharing on spirit-led research that could be pursued on the theme will be encouraged. One or more SRS participants will open and lead each session. Musical or other creative sharing is encouraged!

A renewed urgent call for climate action: Toward a QIF Epistle on climate change

How are we responding in mind and spirit to the experience so far with the COVID pandemic?
What are our hopes and visions of a post-COVID future?

Advance reading: Appendix A

- ELGA statement on a post-COVID future
- The Most Important Climate Action You Can Take? We Asked Paul Hawken
- Kammen, D. et al. (2021) Accelerating the timeline for climate action in California, submission to *Environmental Research Letters*
- IPCC 6th Assessment, Working Group 1 Report (Summary for Policymakers)(August 9, 2019): https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf

How should we provision human societies?

The current era is one in which the climate crisis and other ecological dilemmas correlate strongly with hard-wired local-to-global patterns of social metabolism: how we meet our needs and desires for food, shelter, clothing, work, social connections, fun and more. At the international level, the UN's Sustainable Development Goals reflect one vision. Are the SDG's the right ones? What do we see as the most hopeful ways to provision societies into the future?

Advance reading: Appendix B

- Overview of the SDGs: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/progress-report/>
- Wackernagel et al (2017) Making the SDGs consistent with sustainability
- Schaffartzik et al (2021) The transformation of provisioning systems from an integrated perspective of social metabolism and political economy: a conceptual framework

Overcoming colonial legacies and racial polarization: North America is a region with long and disturbing legacies of colonialism, violent conquest, slavery and post-colonial divisions around race and much more. Why do deliberations around social, political and economic issues remain so contentious? Why are multilaterally satisfying solutions so elusive? What are the failures in system design of government structures – or other failures - that frustrate collaboration and instill deep contentiousness in civic deliberations, and how do we overcome them? In sum, how does society get past deep-rooted colonial legacies and polarization around race and many other issues?

Advance reading: Appendix C

- Closing the Racial Inequality Gaps
- Davis and Todd (2017) On the Importance of a Date, or Decolonizing the Anthropocene

Degrowth, ecological law and monetary reform: Economic growth has a strong historical correlation with Earth system trends toward catastrophic outcomes in terms of climate change and global heating, loss of biodiversity and species abundance, freshwater loss, nutrient loading of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and more. Proposals for alternative normative regimes that would foster well-being, good lives and intragenerational, intergenerational and interspecies fairness without perpetual economic growth include degrowth and ecological law. Monetary reform is likely an implicit corollary of either. Within dominant policy circles, green growth and growth-insistent version of the Green New Deal are emerging as alternatives within a growth paradigm. How do Friends make sense of these various proposals for economic and legal reform?

Advance reading: Appendix D

- Mastini et al (2021) A Green New Deal Without Growth?

- Oslo Manifesto (2016) of the Ecological Law and Governance Association
- Manifesto of the International Movement for Monetary Reform

Reflections on the 2021 SRS / open sharing: After a week of spirit-led reflection and sharing, what ideas, queries and passions resonate? What other thoughts, ideas and insights does the spirit call upon us to share as we end the 2021 Summer Research Seminar?