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For Forum content or announcements, please contact editor at david.aldridge@brunel.ac.uk

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ASSOCIATION FOR MORAL EDUCATION 47TH ANNUAL MEETING, 2021

ANNOUNCING

Moral Education for Social Justice



Amidst ongoing public conversations about how citizens the world over might contribute towards a more just society, the AME will host a virtual conference with a thematic focus on “Moral Education for Social Justice”. The association seeks to bring together moral education and social justice scholars and researchers to address underdiscussed yet core elements of meaningful moral education.

AME 2021 Conference Chairs
Larri Nucci & Winston C. Thompson

See pages 12-13 for further details

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Doret De Ruyter

If someone had said to me last year that the upcoming conference would be an online event, I probably would have thought that she had said that it should be an online event and that I had simply misheard her. And most likely I would have answered that the theme of the conference could indeed be read as a call to reduce the number of international conferences, attended by academics who fly in for a few days and do so several times per year. I might have invited her to think about experimenting with an extra online AME conference in the spring to strengthen the academic exchange in the organisation and see if such a conference could be as inspiring and engaging as our regular conferences. Yet, I would never have thought that we would actually see each other in the virtual world instead of the University of Ottawa.



Only at the end of May this year did we decide that the AME conference 2020 would go online. Until then we had hoped that the spread of the COVID-19 virus could be contained, but by that time it was clear that international travel would be completely unlikely in the fall and that the University of Ottawa would probably prohibit the conference. Since then the conference organisers, Tobias Krettenauer and Stuart Hammond, with the help of Paul Lefebvre and Manuela Ullrich, have worked extremely hard to build a virtual space where we can meet and exchange ideas. The programme is very exciting with keynote speeches from eminent scholars who work on the intersection of morality (and moral education) and sustainability (and ecological education) and parallel sessions addressing the conference theme.

As usual, there are also parallel sessions, posters and symposia that discuss other topics in relation to moral education, showing the width and richness of the topics of academic interest and societal concern of our members.

One of the topics should have been of interest to historical researchers. Discrimination and violence still have not left the human world. Although much has improved in many countries, every day people from minority groups are confronted with biased perceptions, bullying and violence from minority populations. The murder of George Floyd on 25 May by a police officer ignited a moral fury that spread from the US around the world. Where COVID-19 forced people to distance themselves from others, the movement against racism led to social connections in mass demonstrations. Many organisations also issued a statement and so did AME. The board wrote a statement on behalf of all our members, which can be found

in the top banner of our website. AME does not make statements like these often and we keep to what we as academics in the area of moral education believe we can claim. We also recognise that we are an international organisation with members who are confronted with various types of injustice. Please read it again. What do you think? Is it a good statement? Could it be improved? Do let me know. And if you have ideas about what AME as an academic organisation could (or should) do, please mail me or tell me during the conference.

I look forward to seeing you via my computer in Amstelveen on Wednesday 25 October at the Kohlberg Memorial Lecture by Professor Peter Kahn and to meet many of you in online group chats via our Whova platform. These are different from the chats during coffee breaks or receptions, but I am sure that the online conference will quickly have the typical AME community quality.

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Eric Marx

The AME Annual Meeting is soon upon us! I'm sure all of us are looking forward to excellent presentations and great discussions regarding morality and ethics for the digital world – the need for which is so clear in this time of media-driven contentiousness and divisiveness. And with many of us currently conducting our professional lives digitally, the Annual Conference holds great promise for helping us navigate this new age.

Speaking of the digital world, the new AME Website has been up and running for several months now. There are many resources for you on our Website, including timely position papers and editorials from our members (all are encouraged to submit contributions!), information about AME activities and awards, and links to other organizations in the realm of moral education and development. Check it out!

As Secretary, I am responsible for making sure that AME initiatives, both from the organization itself and from its members, get noted and shared with all. If you have something interesting to report, please let me know!

During the conference, I particularly encourage you to join our Community Meeting and Awards Ceremony on Sunday, November 1, where you will hear reports from our Board members and learn about the fantastic work being done by this year's award winners. A practical note: As you complete your conference registration form, please make sure that you fill out all of the required fields accurately – these are necessary both for your AME membership, and for the generous, complimentary subscription to the Journal of Moral Education that comes with membership. See you soon!

REMEMBERING FRITZ OSER

Fritz K. Oser (1937-2020)

Fritz was an intellectual who was a master in combining different scientific traditions (pedagogy, psychology, philosophy and theology) and in using philosophical, qualitative and quantitative research methods. He was familiar and actively involved in research in the Euro-American academic world, the German Wissenschaft and French discourses while also strongly engaged in civil life. His research topics are as diverse as moral discourse, teachers' ethos, just community schools, negative morality, religious development, and citizenship.

We all know Fritz from lively presentations and interventions at conferences and in seminars; often with too many slides and sometimes without a strict time schedule and with much more to say. Fritz was always inspiring not only by his ideas but by the way he pulled the audience, us, into sharing his perspectives, thus enlivening our own ideas and motivations. Fritz always attended many sessions of colleagues and gave wonderful feedback - mostly ending with saying we must have a good glass of wine, which we did.

Some of us knew Fritz as a dear, good friend, others knew him well and for many years of seeing each other at conferences, and some got to know him more recently. European and American conferences, most certainly the AME, and his visits to Harvard marked the beginning of many of our friendships with him, whether we hail from Europe, America, South America, Asia, or Africa. It was always true that when Fritz listened to you, you felt you were the only person in the room, and he always answered a better question than you asked by drawing out your question's nascent ideas. So when we meet each other, as we will this November and many, many more times at AME, AERA and other places into the future, our memories of Fritz will fill dinners with laughter and tears.



Fritz was very much a family man. For instance, his family all played musical instruments together just for themselves but also to the delight of many of us invited to his home when in Switzerland for conferences and meetings. A personal favorite memory of Ann's took place in Cambridge MA, in 1978 while she and Larry Kohlberg were traveling. Larry had offered their home to Fritz, Gretl and their three young daughters (their son was born later) as a place to stay in Cambridge for the first time. Ann recalls, "When we returned, these

REMEMBERING FRITZ OSER

wonderful strangers welcomed us to our home with stories about their adventures around Harvard and Cambridge and shyly showed us small child artwork painted on a bedroom wall. We loved it and kept it for many years.”

With the 2003 Kuhmerker Award, we in the AME recognized the lifelong contributions Fritz made to many fields, but especially to civic, moral, and religious education. His work on teachers’, apprentices’, and entrepreneurs’ practices and development, and on their experiences of failure and what he termed the ‘ethos’ of their work, their classrooms, schools, fields, and businesses, still leads the way.



Fritz was active in many international organizations but he was especially active in the AME. He hosted the AME annual conference in 2006 in Fribourg with the theme “Getting Involved: Global Citizenship Development and Sources of Moral Values” and gave the Kohlberg Memorial Address at AME 1995 in New York, wittily titled Kohlberg’s Dormant Ghosts, or Questions that Kohlberg Never Resolved and Which His Colleagues Never Addressed. These titles represent Fritz’s ongoing passions; he loved intellectual puzzles that had real world impact and he considered that continuously tackling them was a moral imperative, not only for him and for us, but for society, which seldom responds. Now with his passing it seems even more our responsibility to continue to wear this mantle.

In Europe in 1996 he took the initiative to create the Moral and Democratic Education SIG of EARLI, the European Association of Research on Learning and Instruction. He also took the initiative for the book series Moral Development and Citizenship Education published by BrillSense. He co-edited and wrote in the 15-volume series “Moral Development and Citizenship Education.” He was on the advisory board of different scientific journals. Fritz received two honorary doctorates and many awards. He led several important efforts, for instance, developing new University Institutes at the University of Fribourg, that bring research to the professional learning field. Fritz was a fellow of the American Educational research Association and a member of the National Academy of Education (USA).

Fritz was still working on new projects at the end of his life. His friend and colleague Wiel said, “I told him often that he should have presentations and articles about what he had learned, looking back at his academic development and career and formulating questions

REMEMBERING FRITZ OSER

for the future". He always answered with "but I have new data." He was still researching in an active way, going nearly daily to the university and attending conferences until a few short months before his death.

For the AME and many others Fritz was a colleague and friend. We miss him but are grateful for his inspiration.

Ann Higgins-D'Alessandro
Wiel Veugelers
September 18, 2020

2020 ELECTIONS

Brandy Quinn, Elections Chair

In accordance with the Association's by-laws, yearly elections are held to replace four departing members of the Executive Board. Each new member is elected to serve a 3-year term (in this case, for 2020-2023). Nominations for the Executive Board were invited from the AME membership at the 42nd Annual Conference in Seattle, Washington, USA in November 2019. The names of the nominees were then submitted to the AME Executive Board for its endorsement. The Board added further names. One nominee, a board member and the elections chair, withdrew herself from the nomination process. This process resulted in a list of eight nominees. All nominees were sent a Letter of Nomination and asked for their consent to stand for election. All nominees accepted the invitation, resulting in a slate of eight candidates for the four available positions.

All candidates were asked to submit a brief statement (to be included on the election ballot), providing biographical details and an indication of their goals and intended contributions. A web-based voting system (on Qualtrics) was employed to make voting efficient, secure and reliable. This electronic ballot was emailed to a list of 427 registered AME members, all of whom were eligible to vote. The electronic voting process began later than anticipated due to delays created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The AME webmaster sent the first invitation to vote on May 1st, 2020, followed by one reminder e-mail. The final call to vote was sent on May 18th, with a May 22nd stated voting deadline. The election was closed on May 22nd, 2020 with a total of 129 members having voted. The turnout rate (31.6% of those eligible) was lower than last year (31.6%).

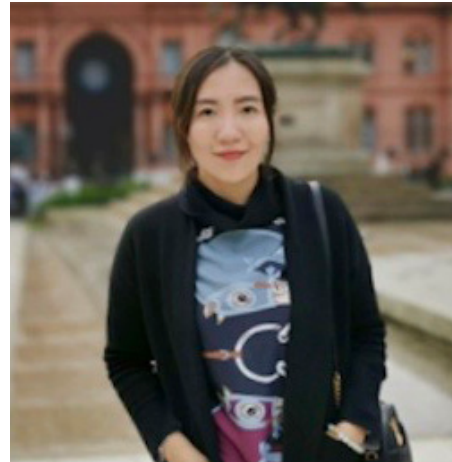
2020 ELECTIONS

The AME uses the Hare system for electing members of the Executive Board. In this system, voters rank order the candidates (in this case, their top four candidates). The system is designed to simulate a situation in which a new election is held after the candidate with the fewest number of first-choice votes is eliminated. Presumably the voters whose first-choice candidate was eliminated would now vote for their second choice. This procedure successively eliminates candidates until four candidates received a majority of the redistributed votes. In this election, four rounds of elimination were required to yield the desired result of four finalists.

I am pleased to report the election of the following candidates to the AME Executive Board for a 3-year term (2020-2023):



Ulisses Araújo, University of São Paulo



Fei Jiang, Northeast Normal University



Ann Higgins-D'Alessandro, Fordham NY



Boris Zizek, Leibniz University

2020 ONLINE CONFERENCE



Join us for the first online AME conference in the cloud!

MORALITY, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, AND EDUCATION

Oct 28 to Nov 1 2020, from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm Eastern time (US/
Canada), except Saturday, Oct 31 from 8.00 am to noon

Live streamed Kohlberg Memorial Lecture and invited addresses of
eminent speakers:

Peter H Kahn Jr, University of Washington
Kai Chan, University of British Columbia
Susan Clayton, College of Wooster
Gregory Lowan-Trudeau, University of Calgary

2020 ONLINE CONFERENCE

- 39 zoom supported parallel paper sessions and 9 symposia addressing the conference theme and many other pressing issues related to moral development and education
- Ongoing poster presentations throughout the conference
- Meet the recipients of the 2020 Kuhmerker Career and Dissertation Awards
- All presentations will be recorded and made available to conference attendees for two more weeks after the conference ends

The use of the conference app Whova provides various opportunities to meet with speakers and colleagues, e.g., through live Q&A, virtual meet-ups, and discussion boards. It is easy to drink a cup of coffee virtually with your colleague in between paper sessions or at the end of a conference day.

Good news! Registration costs have been significantly reduced. Full registration is \$150 if you register before 27 September (\$60 for students). The full registration fee includes membership of AME, a one-year subscription to the Journal of Moral Education and online access to five more Routledge journals.

For details on registration, invited speakers and for access to the full conference program, visit the conference website www.amenetwork.org/2020.

For further queries, please contact the organisers via ame2020online@gmail.com.

2021 CONFERENCE

MORAL EDUCATION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

47th Annual Conference Online November 3 – November 7, 2021

The theme of this conference, “Moral Education for Social Justice” addresses a core element of meaningful moral education. It is also designed to bring together two educational communities that do not generally interact. This would be the community of moral educators and researchers associated with AME and educators and social justice educational researchers who view mainstream schooling as perpetuating social inequalities, and in need of radical change. For many students in the United States today, schools themselves perpetuate this moral harm and injustice. This situation in the United States with respect to issues of race is replicated in some areas of Europe. In most countries around the globe social disparities exist around issues of gender, social class, and disability.



2021 CONFERENCE

This attention to social justice is the essence of civic engagement in a political democracy. Social justice education has been defined in many ways, and which we interpret to be “both a process and a goal” that directs us to challenge and eradicate oppression, distribute resources in an equitable fashion, and take charge of and participate in one’s education. This means attending directly to the impact of factors of social inequality, power imbalances, and oppression on the lives of students as moral agents. Social justice education is rooted in several disciplines including democratic education, critical pedagogy, multiculturalism, poststructuralism, feminism, queer theory, anti-oppressive education, cultural studies, postcolonialism, globalization, and critical race theory.

Our goal through this conference is to bring these concerns together with the historical focus of AME. In our view moral education that employs what we are learning about human development should be a factor in empowering all students to live as complete moral agents and to contribute toward a more just and moral society. The application of morality to society is an aspect of justice-oriented citizenship critical to a progressive democracy. Moral education for social justice is not limited to any particular bracket of students, but to all students who are the potential contributors toward a more moral and just society.

Submissions are invited from a broad range of disciplines including but not limited to anthropology, education, indigenous studies, philosophy, psychology, political sciences and sociology. In addition to engagement with the main conference theme, submissions on any topic of moral education are welcome as part of the general conference program.

A call for papers and submission portal for the conference are forthcoming.

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

If so, please let me know: David at david.aldridge@brunel.ac.uk or visit us online at amenetwork.org.

Thanks for reading!

David Aldridge
Editor, AME Forum

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you attended the November AME conference in Seattle your dues are automatically paid for the year 2020. If you did not attend the 2019 conference, and have not renewed online, you may renew on the AME Website, or by using mail the form below. Membership is \$95 for regular members and \$50 for students.

Your membership includes a subscription to the quarterly Journal of Moral Education and the semi-annual AME Forum as well as online access to five additional journals.

Applications for reduced AME membership rate in cases of hardship for full-time students, unemployed individuals, and untenured faculty in developing countries (as defined by the IMF) are available on the AME and Annual Conference Websites.

To renew your AME membership online at the AME Website (using Paypal), go to <http://www.amenetwork.org/membership>

2022 CONFERENCE

Brian Gates, Journal of Moral Education Trust

AME 2022 Conference, joint with APNME and the JME Trust, in celebration of the Journal of Moral Education's 50th Anniversary.

This was to have been in July 2021, but the lingering threat from Covid-19 has called into question the wisdom of global travel and communal gathering.

By common agreement therefore, this joint conference will now take place July 20-23 2022 – Wednesday through Saturday.

It will happen in the centre of Manchester, UK. Its theme is Moral Development and Moral Education in Global Transition. The organisers will work to ensure that the occasion is a challenging and enjoyable experience!