



ASSOCIATION FOR MORAL EDUCATION 49th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

49th Annual Conference of the
Association for Moral Education

*Positive Youth Development and
Moral Education: Building Bridges*

October 26th - 28th, 2023
Fort Worth, Texas, USA

Proposal Submission Deadline Extended to April 27th, 2023!

Visit:
<https://www.amenetwork.org/conferences-1>
for more information.

ASSOCIATION for
MORAL EDUCATION



Positive Youth Development and Moral Education: Building Bridges

49th Annual Conference Association of
the Association of Moral Education

26 - 28 October 2023
Fort Worth, Texas

CALL FOR REGISTRATION

To register for the 49th Annual Conference, please visit
the conference website at <https://ame49fortworth.org/>.

Important Dates:

Early bird registration until 15 August 2023
Proposal submissions accepted until
27 April 2023

Please consult the conference website for updates
and further information.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings, AME members!

I am delighted to share this copy of the Forum! It is the first since becoming your president of AME at the end of the last conference. Many thanks go to my predecessor Doret de Ruyter for her superb leadership through the pandemic shutdown, our online conferences, and taking us into the 'new age' of global transition at AME in Manchester, England in July 2022. That conference was joint with the Journal of Moral Education, JME Trust and APNME. My term began at the post-conference board meeting in Manchester. The 48th annual conference was organized by a super-hero team including Brian Gates – JMET and the [Journal of Moral Education](#), James Conroy – University of Glasgow, Kristján Kristjánsson – University of Birmingham, UK, Gemma Banks, Editorial Administrator, Journal of Moral Education, and Joseph McDowell University of Birmingham, UK, as well as all the AME Board members who devoted their time and expertise in reviewing proposals and pulling together an excellent program.

Many reading this newsletter attended, but not all members who wanted to were able to travel due to continuing restrictions and/or Covid 19 illness. To this end, this newsletter will serve to fill you in on some of the wonderful components of that past conference and invite you to join us in person in Ft. Worth, Texas, USA for the 49th annual conference of the Association for Moral Education! See the following pages of this Forum for details and color to illuminate the highlights of our meetings, past and upcoming.

The Manchester conference recognized the Kuhmerker Dissertation Award Winner Katherine Kristalovich, University of Toronto, Canada; the Good Work Award Winner Geoff Tomson, founder and chair of Youth Charter; and the Kuhmerker Career Award Winner Kaye Cook, Gordon College. See details of these awards, and the call for nominations for the 2023 Awards later in this Forum.

The AME invites several speakers each year to enhance our program. In 2022, The Kohlberg Memorial Lecturer Kirsi Tirri spoke on The Moral Teacher in a Global Transition. Brian Gates' reflection, in a little later in this issue of the Forum, highlights our other valued experts speakers, Fan-Shen Wang, and Farid Panjwani invited by the conference organizers.

The 49th Annual AME conference will be held in Fort Worth, Texas, USA, October 26-28, 2023. See amenetwork.org/2023. This promises to be a very exciting conference with the theme Positive Youth Development and Moral Education: Building Bridges. The theme highlights one of my visions for the future of AME—building bridges. I'd like to see the AME members further connect across disciplines and fellow organizations such as Jean Piaget Society, AERA (American Educational Research Association)

and its Moral Development and Education SIG, and other congresses who have morality as a focus. See the Global Connections section of this Forum for a start. Likewise, our members who do not research positive youth development are more than welcome to submit proposals and build bridges that span the lifespan, and bridges that deconstruct boundaries of all kinds of the past. Technology kept AME members connected through the shut-down of the pandemic and can continue to open 'doors' and create networks across the world between our annual meetings. Feel free to reach out to me with your ideas for networking connections, and let's build bridging networks and expand our reach to connect moral educators and researchers as we traverse the landscape of new digital technologies that affect our moral and social lives.

Keynote invited speakers for AME Ft. Worth include [Judith Smetana](#) who is our Kohlberg Memorial Lecturer, [Julio Cammarota](#), and [Ben Kirshner](#). Their works have enlightened and transformed our field and thinking, and we warmly welcome their insights in Ft. Worth.

I thank all our AME Board members for their dedicated service. See our web page, updated diligently by Hyemin Han, for more information about our leadership and committees. I wish to send a special acknowledgement to Ann Higgins D'Alessandro for chairing the Strategic Initiatives Development Committee, Tobias Krettenauer for chairing the Kuhmerker Dissertation Award Committee, Maria Rosa Buxarris for chairing the Good Work Award Committee, and Sharon Lamb for chairing the Kuhmerker Career Award (Weil Veugelers chairs in 2023). Later in this Forum you will see the winners! I also thank the Future Planning Committee chaired by Larry Nucci and Tobias Krettenauer. Tobias will chair in 2023 and I invite you to [contact Tobias](#) or [me](#) with your ideas and proposals for future conference venues! And, of course, I thank all the Board members, past and present, for their contributions.

Brandy Quinn led the Nominations and Elections Committee which welcomed elected board members Sarah Barry, Allegra Joie Midgette, Holly Recchia, and Luciana Karine de Souza for a term spanning post-conference 2022 through pre conference 2025. See our [web page](#) for outgoing and continuing members.

I welcome all of you to join a committee, join a Special Interest Group, and join us at our Community (Business) Meeting at the conclusion of each conference. Would you like to be more involved? [Contact me](#) any time! As we continue to grow as an organization, strengthening our internal and external connections for research and education, we welcome all voices and seek your contributions to expand our thinking and impact.

Thank you for your time in reading through this very long edition of the AME Forum! Christine Gouveia, Jenny Barroll, and Sarah Barry worked long and hard to pull this newsletter together, and we hope this will catch you up on the events and the people involved. We also hope it stimulates your interest in joining committees, volunteering to assist in the running of the organization, and contributing intellectually and socially to the project of moral development and education.

Remember to [renew your membership](#) in AME if you did not attend the 2022 conference (those who did attend, membership is included), and [submit your proposals](#) to present at AME 2023 in Ft. Worth! On behalf of the Board, we look forward to seeing you there in the city of "Culture and Cowboys!"

With all good wishes,

—Dawn Schrader



MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Dear AME members,

Time flies. It's almost nine months since I virtually handed over the presidency gavel to Dawn Schrader at the conference in Manchester UK. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a strange effect on my time perception. The autumn and winter have passed with stealth speed, probably because many things were happening again, while the 'COVID years' from March 2020 till the end of the spring of 2022 (at least in Europe) have become a blur of what was precisely happening when. Of course, there are exceptions and the AME conferences are among them.

I am delighted that the organisation is doing well, because running the association was everything but standard in the past years. The first online conference in 2020 was a success, although we all missed seeing each other in person. It was a disappointment that we had to organise another online conference in 2021, but that was a success again. We also realised that these meetings had two major bonuses: they were better for the environment and they allowed many more people to attend, because these conferences save travel expenses. I therefore hope that an online meeting will stay in the rotation of our annual conferences.

However, the Manchester conference was the highlight of my presidency. It was fantastic to see old and new friends from around the world rebuilding the AME community spirit within a day and extending it to the APNME colleagues. The intellectual quality of the conference was high and it was great to see that academic friendships were being formed and discussions were continued over coffee, during the communal lunches and the inclusive conference dinner. Unfortunately, for quite a number of our regular attendees the conference came too soon after the alleviation of the COVID-19 restrictions. I truly hope they will be able to join us in Fort Worth in the fall.

I look back on my presidency with pride and gratitude. I am proud of the resilience of the organisation and grateful for all the work that colleagues have done in the past years. Many things have been accomplished, for instance the installation of the Strategic Initiative Development Committee that sponsors new projects. Of course, there are items on the wish list I had at the beginning - for instance the organisation of events between the annual conferences. The members of AME have too much to offer to restrict exchanging ideas to just the conference. It would be great if there were workshops, seminars or lectures within countries or continents or between them. It takes people to organise them and with the busy agendas of academics that is a true challenge, but it would be fantastic to have a list of groups on our website organising (online) meetings. This is not only interesting for current members, but may draw in many more academics from around the world. This could turn AME into the thriving global association on moral education it aspires to be, and rightfully so!

—Doret de Ruyter



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Once again I'm grateful and enthusiastic for the opportunity to serve as Secretary of the AME. I look forward to becoming more involved in this organization by fostering dialogue, research, training, and resources that link moral theory with practice. I am a Professor at the School of Education and Psychology at University of Navarra, where I lead the Character Education Leadership Program for school leadership teams with the support of the Templeton World Charity Foundation.

Last year my team got a grant from the AME Strategic Initiative Development Committee to promote moral/character development at the university level: [Leveraging higher education residential centers for moral development through the Just Community approach](#). It is difficult to find in universities initiatives aimed at generating communities in which their climate or culture contribute to moral/character development, a relatively common approach at the school level in the character education movement. Higher education residential centers may be an ideal setting for generating such communities. However, studies, guides, or programs with this perspective are scarce or nonexistent. In this project, experts from the Just Community approach collaborate with veteran Directors of higher education residential centers to elaborate a guide to redesign these communities to promote the moral/character development of students, with a particular focus on collaborative governance practices.

—Juan P. Dabdoub

49th ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND MORAL EDUCATION: BUILDING BRIDGES



Proposal submission extended deadline: 27 April 2023

Link to Submissions Portal: <https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/5233/submitter>

The 49th Annual Association for Moral Education Conference promises to be an exciting event bringing together individuals engaged in the scholarship and practice of positive youth development with those engaged in the study and practice of moral education. These two fields share key similarities in overarching constructs and approaches, and at the same time, have often remained separate in terms of scholarship and programming. The 2023 conference program will create space and time for engagement, collaboration, and creativity across real and imagined disciplinary boundaries to increase knowledge about how to support diverse youth in communities across the world. We expect that many different individuals will enrich and be enriched by this conference theme and program, from university-based researchers, to scholar-practitioners, to most importantly, youth themselves.

Submissions Information

The conference team invites submissions from a range of disciplines in a variety of formats. Submissions that bridge positive youth development and moral education are especially encouraged and will be given priority in the review process. However, proposals more broadly addressing positive youth development and moral education and development are also welcome and encouraged.

The AME defines moral education broadly, integrating perspectives from philosophy, sociology, religion, education, psychology, and political science, among others. Submissions are welcomed from various disciplines and scholars who wish to engage in dialogue about the conference theme specifically and moral education and development more broadly.

Submissions may describe research projects and other scholarly works that have not reached their final stages. However, submitters must be able to include enough information (e.g., preliminary data and analysis) for reviewers to assess the quality and potential contribution of the proposal.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you attended the AME online conference in November 2022 your dues are automatically paid for the year 2023. If you did not attend the conference, **you may renew your membership via the AME Website.**

Membership is \$95 for regular members and \$50 for students.

Your membership includes a subscription to the quarterly Journal of Moral Education (a paper version for regular members and online version for students) 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 website.

To renew your AME membership online at the AME Website (using Paypal), or to contact the webmaster with questions, go to amenetwork.org/membership.



REFLECTIONS ON THE 48th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The AME's 48th Annual Conference was held in Manchester UK. It was distinctive for many reasons, including that it was a joint collaboration between the AME, the Asia-Pacific Network for Moral Education (APNME), and the Journal of Moral Education Trust (JMET)– the second such collaborative conference. The previous partnership was in Nanjing in 2011. Further, it celebrated fifty years of the publication of the Journal of Moral Education! Lastly, and very importantly, it was a return to the pleasure of meeting in person after two years of Covid-confinement.

Participants numbered 259, including 25 virtual attendees. Unfortunately, colleagues from China and Taiwan were prevented from attending in person by government Covid-related travel restrictions. There were 78 participants from North America, 57 from the UK, 54 from elsewhere in Europe, 24 from Asia, 14 from South America, 4 from Australia, and 3 from Africa; in all from a record 38 different countries.

Four days of the conference was preceded by a day-long AME SIG-initiated Workshop on Anti-racist and De-colonializing Education, followed by a film night showing of East is East — a vintage comedy caricature of Indian Diaspora challenges set in neighboring Salford.

The programme was tightly structured, with a balance of theme-based parallel sessions, plenaries, plus the Receptions and Celebration Dinner. Each of the plenary sessions was filmed including: the Symposium about the contribution of the JME to the field of moral education, the Kohlberg Memorial Lecture delivered by Dr. Kirsi Tirri on The Moral Teacher in a Global Transition and the AME Race and Diversity Speaker Dr. Farid Panjwani's lecture 'Impatient with the Other' Reflections on the Role of Education.

The APNME nominee, Dr. Fan-Shen Wang, lectured on The Crisis of Moral Education in Modern China — A Historical Perspective. The Community Meeting was also recorded.

These recordings can be watched on the JME MoralCapital website. The recordings are located at the end of the JME and JME Trust organisation section.

—**Brian Gates, Conference Organizer**

REFLECTIONS ON THE 48th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Compiled by AME Social Media Team
Hyemin Han, Everardo Perez-Manjarrez, and Peter Kingori

The 48th Association for Moral Education (AME) Annual Conference took place between 20th - 23rd July 2022 at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK. The theme and title of the conference was 'Moral Education and Moral Development in Global Transition.' The conference was hosted in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the [Journal of Moral Education](#) (JME) and in collaboration with the [Asia-Pacific Network](#) for Moral Education. The conference brought together researchers, practitioners and activists who engaged in critical, academic dialogue in order to understand the relevance of social, political, religious and cultural interactions with philosophy, psychology, sociology, and moral education.

In his welcoming message, the joint Conference Chair and Chair of Journal of Moral Education Trust, Professor James Conroy stated that "as we confront the enormous political, cultural, economic and social challenges that have emerged from financial turmoil, the pandemic, social unrest and political instability, there has rarely been a time when our deliberations on moral education have been more important and prescient." The AME President, Professor Doret De Ruyter affirmed that the hosting of the in-person conference after 2 years of the COVID 19 pandemic and virtual conferences will "help us to rebuild the collegial spirit by providing a physical space where old academic friends can meet and newly members quickly feel to be part of the community."

The conference opening plenary session focused on 'the JME's 50-year contribution to moral education.' During the session, the Journal Editor, Professor Kristjan Kristjansson stressed that "JME is fundamentally an education journal, not a venue for pure moral philosophy or even professional ethics without an education component." The editorial team welcomed the researchers and practitioners to submit policy oriented articles that focuses on how nation states initiate moral education, but also on how ideologies are influencing moral education

"In the future, I would like to see articles addressing

moral issues from an intercultural critical perspective and articles that politicize moral education," said Susana Frisancho, JME associate Editor. Other areas for JME Submission includes: interdisciplinary work between philosophers and social scientists; research on how teachers work with students on moral development; research on how teachers deal with controversial issues, they represent moral dilemma; and articles addressing moral education and multicultural citizenship and sustainability education. The conference invited a series of speakers to explore the theme of the conference 'Moral Education and Moral Development in Global Transition.' For instance, Dr. Kirsi Tirri, a Professor of Education at the Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Helsinki in Finland delivered the Kohlberg Memorial lecture on 'the Moral Teacher in a Global Transition.' "Educating students for their purpose calls for purposeful teachers," she said. She emphasized on the need of raising moral citizens who are well equipped with the 21st Century skills by teaching all components of morality through the combination of excellence with ethics.

Dr. Farid Panjwani, Dean, Institute for Educational Development, Agakhan University in Karachi shared the plenary session on race and diversity. He argued that "we need to delve deeper into the causes of intolerance if we are to overcome increasing violence towards the other." He attributed 'aporophobia' as the root of several kinds of discrimination such as xenophobia, racism, religious and gender discrimination.

Dr. Fan-Shen Wang, a distinguished research fellow at the Institute of History and Philology of Academia Sinica, delivered the APNME plenary session which was titled "the crisis of Moral Education in Modern China- A Historical Perspective." He stressed on the Chinese view in the restoration of man's original nature as the goal of moral education as he said, "meditation, constraining the self, removing selfishness, suppressing angers, controlling desire are all methods to retrieve the original nature."

More information about the conference can be found [here](#).

REFLECTIONS ON THE 48th ANNUAL CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

AME 2022 was honored to have the following keynote speakers to stimulate our thinking on important issues facing our global world.

Kohlberg Memorial Lecture



Kirsi Tirri, Professor
Department of Education
University of Helsinki, Finland

The Moral Teacher in a Global Transition

Abstract

According to Kohlberg, a moral teacher is an independent moral agent capable of making decisions on moral dilemmas based on general principles of justice. In addition to moral reasoning, teachers need competencies in moral sensitivity, moral motivation and implementation of morality. In the current global transition, the component of moral sensitivity in teaching is emphasized with the skills to identify culture-invariant and culture-dependent factors in morality. In this lecture, the role of moral teacher is explored in the context of current world-wide crises and everyday moral dilemmas in teaching. Purposefulness and professional ethics are identified as important assets for a moral teacher in a global transition.

REFLECTIONS ON THE 48th ANNUAL CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

APNME Speaker



Fan-Shen Wang
Distinguished Research Fellow
Institute of History and Philology,
Academia Sinica, Taiwan

The Crisis of Moral Education in Modern China – A Historical Perspective

Abstract

Dividing the long history of China into four distinctive phases, this lecture illustrates the contours of traditional Moral Education, as well as the challenges and transformations it faced in the modern era.

In the traditional period (roughly from the 8th century BCE to the 11th century), Moral Education was represented as ‘bags’ of itemized virtues – for example, propriety, righteous, integrity, and honor, were grouped as the ‘four bonds’. From the interpretation of these bags of virtues and the ancient Classics, Confucianism emerged, and after around the 2nd century BC, became the orthodox school of thought recognized by the state.

In the second phase, which I call the ‘neo-traditional’ period (11th to 20th centuries), Confucian scholars borrowed from Buddhist and Daoist ideas to reinterpret the Classics, establishing a distinctively new tradition that saw the ‘original nature’ of mankind as the goal of Moral Education. The Classics faced fundamental challenges in the 19th century amid China’s diplomatic and military defeats. As a result, the value system surrounding the concept of ‘original nature’ gave way to modern civic virtues, such as liberty, equality, and fraternity. In the most recent phase (beginning in the 1920s and 30s) the Nationalist Party and the Chinese Communist Party employed a new ideological framework of ‘-ism’ (zhuyi), which reorganized both traditional and modern virtues, subordinating them to the cause of the revolutionary parties. This powerful concept of zhuyi, as well as the various traditional and modern virtues it drew on as intellectual resources, remain relevant in present day China and Taiwan.

REFLECTIONS ON THE 48th ANNUAL CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

AME Race and Diversity Speaker



Farid Panjwani, Dean and Professor
Institute for Educational Development
Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan

‘Impatient with the Other’: Reflections on the Role of Education

Abstract

There is a growing consensus that in many parts of the world we are witnessing what Romila Thapar calls being ‘impatient with the Other’ and the resulting violent confrontations. The scope of this violence will increase many folds if we include symbolic violence in the cyberspace. Educational response is often in the form of presenting tolerance, diversity, and pluralism as values which students are encouraged to uphold. Another educational approach is to help students gain knowledge of the Other, with the belief that it will help overcome ignorance which is often seen as the root cause of intolerance. This paper will argue that such approaches are inadequate and propose critical pluralism as the way forward. It will suggest that missing in educational responses is the analysis of the causes of intolerance which are often rooted in unjustifiable inequalities which determine one’s access to collectively desired resources. The paper will advocate for pedagogies that help students grasp the material, structural and ideological roots of intolerance. In this regard, religious education and how it responds to intolerance will serve as a case study.

REFLECTIONS ON THE 48th ANNUAL AME CONFERENCE – MENTORING LUNCH



Allegra Midgette, Texas A&M University

I had the great opportunity to participate in the AME’s mentoring lunch and to be mentored by Dr. Sharon Lamb. Our group consisted of practitioners, graduate students, and early career faculty. During the lunch we discussed the challenges and opportunities that are present in trying to build collaborations between scholars and practitioners, publishing on issues of gender, finding funding, the value in being part of various associations so to be able to build community and network with others, how to engage in interdisciplinary research, and the opportunities that are available to build our scholarship, such as considering creating and submitting to a special issue at JME. The lunch was highly enjoyable, provided the opportunity to meet other early career scholars interested in similar research topics, and also was a source of encouragement as we

were mentored by a senior and established scholar who gave invaluable advice and support. In my opinion, the mentoring lunch is one of the most important and valuable elements of AME conferences. I look forward to continuing to participate in this event!



Kristie Novoa, PhD Student, University of Santiago de Compostela

It was a very inspiring and enlightening dialogue, where I could get to know and understand the diverse social, political, cultural, and psychological perspectives of my colleagues on moral education, according to their realities and ongoing projects. Without a doubt, Ann’s presence and conduct was stupendous. At all times, she was solicitous and sincerely interested in our current investigations and experiences. She even gave us the idea to keep in touch, thinking of future joint actions, connecting our works with the central theme of Civic Engagement studies and actions. I felt really safe sharing with colleagues about my work, listening to their opinions and inputs, as well as contributing to the themes and work of



Saetbyul (Clara) Kim, The Ohio State University

I had the privilege and pleasure of participating in and enjoying the luncheon mentoring session on July 22nd, 12:30 p.m. I initially believed I was missing the venue because the area of gatherings was scarcely visible. ‘No way-I’m not missing it; where is the mentoring session taking place?’ I was bewildered at the time as a volunteer student who offered to help with greeting participants. In fact, a group of people began to congregate at the very end of the venue. My heart was soothed after seeing them.

REFLECTIONS ON THE 48th ANNUAL AME CONFERENCE – MENTORING LUNCH

Saetbyul (Clara) Kim, The Ohio State University (Continued)

Our questions went on and on and Dr. Lapsley's responses continued, much like a ping pong. The hour was rich, engaging, and useful, full of authentic questions and practical advice. If I had not boldly made my mind to visit Manchester to attend the AME, I would not have had a chance to borrow Dr. Daniel Lapsley's wisdom. Insofar as it was a priceless chance for me, I also loved and valued the company of other researchers from a variety of disciplines whose focus is moral education. First, as one of just a few of scholars investigating "purpose" in the area of educational psychology,

I was thrilled to see so many sessions on the topic. Believe it or not, at one of the largest conferences I attend as an educational psychologist, I seldom encounter anyone who presents on life purpose in my division. On the contrary, I truly felt at home throughout the AME, where listened to, asked questions about, and participated in discussions about life purpose, civic learning, and moral growth.

I got reconnected to Dr. Seana Moran; I met Dr. Tobias Krettenauer in person for the first time after a virtual meeting; I introduced myself to Dr. David Ian Walker; and I had a chance to converse with David Kohlberg about just community, all of which are still so vivid in my memory.

I have this optimistic and exciting picture of a future AME community where junior and senior researchers gather around tables together, intellectually challenging and socially emotionally encouraging one another as they discuss and brainstorm the future directions, topics, and particular methodology of research in moral education. What is an alternative methodological technique to interview and self-report surveys for assessing life purpose? What are our positions as moral education scholars in regard to dealing with contentious topics? How do I present myself as a scientist and researcher if the study of morality is intrinsically founded in philosophical/religious origins? What are our thoughts on value-laden education when things are so readily construed as politically correct vs. incorrect? How implicit or explicit moral knowledge varies between cultures, and how is this portrayed in the educational landscape?

REFLECTIONS ON THE CONCLUDING EXERCISES OF THE 48th ANNUAL AME CONFERENCE

Peter Kingori

The 48th Association for Moral Education Conference's theme was Moral Development and Moral Education in Global Transition. At the conclusion of the conference, Organizer Brian Gates, of the JME Trust and Moral Capital, invited community members to review some moral statements that were titled "Towards a Global Ethic." The statements were extracted from the declaration that was made during the 1893 World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago. A similar meeting was held in 1993. Brian asked AME community members to "just take a minute to reflect please with your neighbor on whether there is anything in these recent statements for the next Moral Education Conference that we think is worth pursuing." The session ended with AME members willingly making a declaration and commitment towards observing these global ethics or universal ideals.

2022 AME AWARD RECIPIENTS

RECIPIENT OF THE 2022 KUHMERKER DISSERTATION AWARD

Katherine Kristalovich, University of Toronto, Canada



The Moral and Ethical Dimensions of Dialogic Critical Literacy Learning

Abstract

Dialogic learning is an essential element of the high school English language arts (ELA) classroom and foundational to critical literacy. Critical literacy dialogues explore controversial and conflictual issues and some dialogues may become contentious and raise ethical issues for teachers who acknowledge the importance of critical literacy but are pedagogically unprepared for dialogical conflict. Teachers should recognize the ethical concerns of politicized classroom dialogues. This research examines the theoretical foundations of critical literacy and dialogic learning, their respective moral and ethical dimensions, and the ethical implications teachers and students face when engaged in conflictual dialogic learning in the ELA classroom.

RECIPIENT OF THE 2022 GOOD WORK AWARD

Geoff Thomson



At the 48th AME Conference, from July 20-23, 2022, the committee, formed by Maria Rosa Buxarrais (Chair), Vishalache Balakrishnan, Patricia Bataglia, Susana Frisancho, decided to give the Good Work Award to Geoff Thomson, founder, and chair of Youth Charter. Some of the reasons that have contributed to this decision, among others, are:

- His program Youth Charter (non-governmental organization) promotes a benefit for a community. His mission statement consists of providing sport, art, cultural and digital activity to develop the mental, physical, and emotional resilience and life-skills of young people and in particular the disadvantaged and disaffected in communities where anti-social, gang-related activity and extremism is experienced.
- His proposal of practice is exemplary, interesting, and impactful to moral educators, because his program delivers social and human initiatives with specific emphasis on moral values: dignity, honesty, integrity, respect of self, equality, diversity, and inclusion.
- It is possible to replicate his practice even with adaptations for other circumstances. The Youth Charter tackles educational non-attainment, health inequality, anti-social behaviors and the negative effects of crime, drugs, gang related activity and racism by applying the ethics of sporting and artistic excellence. These can then be translated to provide social and economic benefits of citizenship, rights, responsibilities, with improved education, health, social order, environment and college, university, employment, and enterprise.
- His practice can be verified by credible testimony. In 2019 he was included in the Top 100 BAME Leaders in Business List and was named in the Evening Standard's top 1000 influencers in London. He was also awarded an honorary professorship of the International Business School at Xi'an Jiao tong-Liverpool University, Su zhou, China.

2022 AME AWARD RECIPIENTS

RECIPIENT OF THE 2022 KUHMERKER CAREER AWARD



Kaye Cook

The Association for Moral Education awarded the Kuhmerker Career Award to Professor Kaye Cook, Chair of the Department of Psychology, Gordon College, USA during the 48th annual conference. The career award is the highest honor that the AME can give to one of its lifetime and committed members.

The Association for Moral Education awarded the Kuhmerker Career Award to Professor Kaye Cook, Chair of the Department of Psychology, Gordon College, USA during the 48th annual conference. The career award is the highest honor that the AME can give to one of its lifetime and committed members.

“Well, many of us know Kaye as the person behind the scenes that gets things done. Few people also know Kaye as a psychologist who evaluates trauma in refugees, who studies evangelicalism around the world,” said Sharon Lamb, Chair of the Kuhmerker Career Award Committee as she read the award plaque to the jubilated audience.

“Because you have shown great respect for all traditions of people in both your scholarship and in AME.

Because your scholarship creates new directions and international connections on the moral theme of suffering, forgiveness and post traumatic growth.

Because of your extraordinary record of dedicated service on the AME Executive Board as member, conference co-chair, membership chair, Secretary, President and now both archivist and webmaster, the organization improved outreach to members and contributed to a more just and caring governance structure.

Because your support of new AME members brought fresh energy to the organization and supported the intellectual and ethical growth in that generation.

And because in your thoughtful leadership at AME, you have always seen the best in people, helped friends find clarity in their struggles, and supported both their work and their individual growth.

The Association for Moral Education takes great pleasure in presenting Kaye the Kuhmerker Career Award, this 22nd day of July 2022 at the 48th annual meeting.”

In her acceptance speech, Kaye praised several AME scholars who have inspired her to greatness including Doret de Ruyter, Phyllis Curtis, Sharon Lamb and Bill Puka among others. She said, “Bill Puka taught me that it is important that moral knowledge about moral education is good, but not good enough. That we need to know, we need to do, we need to be, and we need to learn how to live morally together, because that’s the way to change the world.”

CONFERENCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A heartfelt thank you goes to our conference organizers and program support team:

Brian Gates: JME Trust and Journal of Moral Education

James Conroy: University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK

Kristján Kristjánsson: University of Birmingham, UK

Joseph McDowell: University of Birmingham, UK

Gemma Banks: Editorial Administrator, Journal of Moral Education

and all the participants who made 2022 a success!

REMEMBRANCE LINDA WHEELDON (1947-2022)



Linda Josephine Wheeldon (née Inglima)

Age 74, passed November 11, 2022, just before 1 p.m. at her home in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. She was an early supporter of differentiated and arts-based learning, the power of music, and the role of empathy, which are now philosophical pillars among contemporary educators. She was secure in her belief that unconditional love for others was the only way through difficult moments. She served as president of the Nova Scotia College of Counselling Therapists and as a national director for the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association. She wrote a book with Michelle Forrest on feminist pedagogy in teacher education and taught for decades at Acadia, as well as at Mount St Vincent, UPEI, and Cape Breton University. Her passion for strong therapeutic practices influenced generations of teachers, therapists, students, and clients. She was devoted to the idea that while together we are better, perfection is an illusion.

Looking Forward to 2023

2023 promises to be a great year!

We have Global Connections that will make us stronger. We have another year and opportunity to recognize another Kuhmerker Dissertation Award Winner, a new Good Work Award winner, and a new Kuhmerker Career Award winner! And we also recognize excellent posters as well!

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Kuhmerker Career Award 2023

The Kuhmerker Career Award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the organization and to the field. Deadline to submit the nomination is 30 June 2023: w.veugelers@uvh.nl.

The Kuhmerker Career Award recognizes exceptional individuals who have made outstanding, long-term scholarly contributions that have made a significant impact on the fields of moral psychology, philosophy, or education, or civic or values development and who have shown extensive commitment to the life, leadership, and functioning of the Association for Moral Education. (See full description at <https://www.amenetwork.org/awards-and-grants>). The Award Committee seeks nominations for this year's award and particularly welcomes nominations that reflect the cultural, geographical and disciplinary breadth of the organization's membership and activities.

The AME-members nominate candidates; the committee selects the winner out of these candidates.

The winner's name will be announced in the AME Conference program and a plaque will be presented at the conference. Subsequently, a detailed description of the awardees accomplishments will appear in the AME Forum newsletter.

Please submit Letters of nomination, or queries, to the current award program chair, Dr. Wiel Veugelers, w.veugelers@uvh.nl. Letters of nomination should explain how the nominated person satisfies the Award criteria. More details of these criteria can be found at the next tab. **The deadline for submission is June 30, 2023.**

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

KUHMERKER DISSERTATION AWARD 2023

The Association for Moral Education invites nominations for the annual Kuhmerker Dissertation Award in recognition of outstanding doctoral dissertations in the areas of moral development and moral education. Self-nominations are welcome. The upcoming deadline for nominations is 31 May 2023. The dissertation must have been completed and awarded within 36 months prior to the submission deadline.

The AME invites submissions from applicants of any nationality and all fields of inquiry, including but not limited to psychology, philosophy, education, and cultural studies. Awardees do not need to be a member of the Association. They will be invited to present their doctoral research during the AME 2023 Conference.

To apply, please submit the following materials (all in English) electronically by May 31, 2023, to the Chair of the AME Kuhmerker Dissertation Award Committee, Tobias Krettenauer, at tkrettenauer@wlu.ca:

- A letter of introduction that explains the main contributions of your dissertation to the field of moral development and moral education. The letter should not exceed two pages.
- The date of completion of your PhD program, name and department of the institution awarding the degree, and the name(s) and institutional affiliations of your dissertation supervisor(s) and examiner(s).
- A letter of support from your mentor, who typically will have served in an advisory role but may be someone else who is familiar with your work.
- A 3000-word summary of the dissertation describing the theoretical approach and main arguments. If the dissertation is based on empirical data, the summary includes a description of methods and main findings.
- The Dissertation Award Committee will short-list appropriate submissions for progression to the next stage. Those short-listed will be invited to submit their full dissertation document. For further information, go to amenetwork.org/awards-and-grants.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

GOOD WORK AWARD 2023

The Good Work Award recognizes outstanding examples of moral educational practice. It is a non-monetary award that is designed to bring recognition and honor to those who foster links between moral theory and educational practice.

Any AME member in good standing may nominate any person, team, practice, or organization. Selection criteria are below. The nomination shall consist of (1) a substantial narrative or description of the project or program being nominated, (2) an explanation as to why the project or program merits recognition by the AME according to the selection criteria, and (3) highlights of the curriculum vitae of the person(s) primarily responsible for the project or program, OR a history of the organization or sponsoring institution, as appropriate.

For your nomination, please submit to Maria-Rosa Buxarraais at mrbuxarraais@ub.edu before June 30 2023. Awardees will receive recognition at the AME conference, a plaque and mention in the Forum- AME newsletter, on the AME website and through other channels of communication.

Selection Criteria:

- The practice, intervention or research project shall aim at promoting a moral benefit for a community or group beyond that inherent in conducting research. This benefit will have a primarily moral cast-a contribution to the well-being or flourishing of the target group, for instance, by increasing liberty, opportunity, equality, safety, fairness or mutual respect and concern.
- The practice, which can be a one-time or ongoing program, shall exhibit moral excellence. This would be demonstrated in credible testimony from participants, practitioners, or observers, or by research on the practice by the practitioner(s) or others.
- The award may be given to a single practitioner, a team of practitioners, the project or practice itself, or a sponsoring institution, as the selection committee deems appropriate.
- Although the practice need not be replicable beyond its own circumstances, it should be exemplary within those circumstances, and of significant interest to moral educators in other circumstances.
- As this award is meant to recognize achievement in moral practices, outstanding scholarly achievements are not also required. However, scholarship by the practitioner(s) about the project or program can be a decisive reason if it proves impossible to decide between two practices.

The awardee(s) need not hold membership in the AME

WEBINAR OFFERED BY DAVID ROWSE, WHO WON THE PRESTIGIOUS AME GOOD WORK AWARD IN 2013

We face endless moral dilemmas throughout our lives—but how do we make well judged responses which satisfy both our social and personal values?

This webinar explores the ethical framework and moral competences which assist us to chart our way through the complexities of life and help point us in the right direction.

Ethical sense and moral sensibility doing the right thing for good reasons

welcome to a webinar with David Rowse, organised by Living Values Education - British Isles

David Rowse

After National Service, David taught disadvantaged secondary school students in Birmingham for 27 years. In 1990, he set up the charity **Values Education for Life** to help disadvantaged youngsters maximise their humanity through moral education and personal development.

David has also been a lecturer at the University of Birmingham, chair and vice president of the Values Education Council of the UK, and editor of *Ethos*, a magazine promoting the importance of spiritual, moral, ethical and cultural education in schools.

More recently, David designed and uses an intervention programme to help young people, who are at risk of anti-social and criminal activity that includes violence against others, to clarify their own socio/moral values and reflect on the importance of a life stance that is spiritually satisfying and morally rewarding.



How do you make good moral choices?

Date:

Wednesday 10 May 2023
6pm - 7pm BST

Zoom details:

Meeting ID: 922 2863 5131
Password: serenity



Living Values Education is an international endeavour that has been implemented in over 40 countries: www.livingvalues.net
For information on LVE in the British Isles: email uk@livingvalues.net, Facebook [Living Values Education – British Isles](https://www.facebook.com/LivingValuesEducation-BritishIsles)

If you are interested you are cordially invited to join the webinar on Wednesday 10th May; ZOOM joining details provided above. Please note that if you are joining the webinar from outside the UK it starts at 6.00pm (1800 hrs) British Summer Time.

If you require further details or information please contact David Rowse at david.rowse@vefl.co.uk

GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR PILOT PROJECT SUPPORT FROM THE STRATEGIC INITIATIVES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (SIDC) — CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Since the AME mission is “to foster dialogue, training, resources, and research that links moral theory with practice”, this new committee seeks to fund moral practices, teaching, and demonstrations linked to research and theory. The proposal for the Strategic Initiatives Development Committee (SIDC) was passed at the November 19, 2021 AME Board Meeting.

The SIDC goals offer AME members the opportunity to showcase their involvement in moral/character, civic, and values education, research, writing, and other practices that speak directly to the issues of our day and that would extend the reach of the AME. Projects may connect with local or governmental agencies or NGOs, moving the AME’s reach more solidly into international and policy-based issues. Since the SIDC offers pilot funding, applicants are encouraged to also seek other funding sources. Guidelines for project applications as well as an application template are available on the AME website (amenetwork.org/sid).

In 2022 the SIDC received an anonymous gift that made possible the funding of three projects. The funded project recipients were 1) Visha Balakrishnan, An anti-racist and decolonializing education program of workshops and film club, which held its first workshop at the 2021 AME and a film club that offers showings and discussion of racially sensitive and controversial films year around; 2) Darcia Narvaez, International expressions of kindness: Multimedia showcase, which links children across nations exploring their understandings of kindness; and 3) Juan Dabdoub, Colegios Mayores for moral development, Universidad de Navarra, Spain. The Colegios Mayores is the Spanish equivalent of the European colleges, designed to socialize future ethical leaders of society.

This project employs the Just Community approach to impact the moral development of university students, to promote policy development, and to produce moral action in higher education, by developing a guide for practitioners, designed for self-evaluation for ethical practices, and leading conversations. These three projects have flourished (see amenetwork.org)

The SIDC seeks new applications that would bring together people from different intellectual fields and practices, highlight the AME’s international membership, and give moral voices a platform. Funds for projects range between \$1000 and \$5000 for a period of 2-3 years to launch and ensure that innovative ideas can be tried with sufficient support (with co-sponsorship in part or full) for the grantees to build and expand their projects and seek more substantial funding. A call for proposals will be coming out June 30, 2023. The number of projects funded will vary from year to year.

Interested in contributing to this endeavor? The SIDC is working to identify funding sources and secure money to sustain its work. If you would like to donate, or have information about funding sources, benefactors, or patrons, please contact Ann Higgins-D’Alessandro ahiggins@fordham.edu. Signify that you would like your donation to go to the SIDC.

An example of a funded project is the International Expressions of Kindness: Multimedia Showcase (PI Darcia Narvaez).



INTERNATIONAL EXPRESSIONS OF KINDNESS: FROM THE MULTIMEDIA SHOWCASE TO “CONNECT WITH KINDNESS” CURRICULA

Tatyana Tsyrlina-Spady

“There is that false reproach... that kindness spoils the child and that the response to gentleness is impunity and disorder...But children deserve respect, trust, and kindness...” —Janusz Korczak

In January 2022, a group of AME members, encouraged by Action for Media Education, launched the International Expressions of Kindness: Multimedia Showcase with the main goal to create a safe virtual space for children worldwide to express their feelings and thoughts on kindness. Initially, we shared an understanding that kindness is a universal value celebrated by most cultures and religions and used as a cornerstone for many widely known humanistic pedagogies.

The ruthless Russian invasion of Ukraine elevated the importance and timely nature of kindness and gave the project a strong impulse initiating children’s own acts of kindness locally/nationally and worldwide. By May, over 1,800 participants, ages 4-18, from 45 countries,

individually, in groups, or families, submitted 1,000+ entries using different types of media: arts and crafts, photography, video, written word, etc.

Thorough research analysis of children’s submissions over the last summer allowed our small team, mostly comprised of two AME members Amy N. Spangler and Tatyana Tsyrlina-Spady, with support of Darcia Narvaez, Levy Farias, Dawn Schrader, and Marilyn Cohen, to compose what was later titled, “Connect with Kindness: Child-Generated Teacher-Friendly Curricula Materials” piloted during the fall of 2022.

This pilot phase generated considerable interest in different settings, including preschools and K-12 public,



private, and charter schools, programs for teenagers with severe disabilities, children’s parks, and libraries.

We had the honor of working with a fantastic group of 25+ creative teachers, school administrators, librarians from Cote d’Ivoire, Croatia, El Salvador, India, Italy, Lithuania, Nigeria, Portugal, Turkey, the United States, and Venezuela. The participants’ lesson implementation projects, reviews, and surveys, presented in multiple formats, enriched our approach and understanding of how using “Connect with Kindness” materials in different cultural environments and languages impacted students’ learning, attitudes, and behavior. Final edits are now fully completed and published for three age groups: 4-10; 11-13; 14-18 together with the examples from the original Showcase.

The project has been supported by the AME grant awarded in March 2022 and by another grant from a private Seattle based business. Using the children’s submissions to the showcase, seven themes emerged, and each further develops concepts through four lesson formats ranging in instructional time from 10

minutes to 4 weeks, depending on the chosen lesson type and its complexity. Key words are embedded into each lesson which reinforce and connect the concepts to prior knowledge.

Skills associated with American social and emotional learning standards are also highlighted for each theme and age-range, enabling educators to align their instruction to standards or programming that may already be in place. Teachers are given a choice for each lesson to either originate with an idea that is provided to them or to prompt students to formulate an idea through questions.

This is where the students’ voice, culture, and experience come into play. Piloting these materials reassured us once again that children’s ideas are enriching, and that children should be trusted to know how to proceed, especially given prompts to do so. Together with the curricula we also created the so-called Kindness Vocabulary and a short executive summary for school administrators.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

AME is proud to be connected with The Journal of Moral Education and JME Trust (a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee). All AME members receive access to this academic journal. The JME is an interdisciplinary, international venue for moral theory, development, and education research in various contexts that uses a range of methodological approaches. Consider submitting your works post-conference!

APNME Asia Pacific Network for Moral Education co-sponsored the AME conference in 2022 in Manchester, England. In 2023 the Conference will be held in Joetsu, Japan from June 2 to June 6, 2023. The theme is: The Challenges Facing Moral Education in our Future Society: The Future of the Asia-Pacific Region and Moral Education. For more information see <https://www.apnme.org/>. Please contact Brian Gates with any questions.

Moral Capital is a resource for those throughout the world who are interested in moral education. Its many affiliates and connections can be found at <https://www.moralcapital.info/about/>. Contact Brian Gates.

AERA (American Educational Research Association) has a Special Interest Group (SIG 67) Moral Development and Education. Membership is just a few dollars after joining AERA. Many AME members belong. It's a great opportunity to showcase work to a global audience during its in-person and online formats. The call for papers for 2024 has a deadline in the Summer. Currently, there is a [call for Reviewers](#). AME members Dawn Schrader is SIG Chair, Hyemin Han is the Program Chair, Brandy Quinn is Communications Director, and Jason Stephens is Awards Chair. Ask any for more information. The ONLINE component of AERA 2023 is May 4 and 5. See aera.net for details.

Jean Piaget Society and AME both have roots in developmental psychology and the development of the mind—moral, social and cognitive. This year's conference is in Madrid Spain, June 1-3, 2023, with the theme "Bringing theory to the forefront of developmental neuroscience." Information is located here: <https://piaget.org/conferences/conference-2023/>

Mentoring Committee:

This committee partners AME senior researchers with new scholars to create a safe space to network, welcoming them to the association and to academia. For the 48th AME Conference in Manchester, a Mentoring Lunch focused on the following topics: Anti-racist and De-colonializing Education; Civic Engagement; Alternative Pedagogies; Gender and ethics; and Moral and adolescent psychology. Mentors included Phyllis Curtis-Tweed, Ann Higgins-D'Alessandro, Ulisses Araujo, Daniel Lapsley, and Sharon Lamb.

REMINDERS OF ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS EDITION OF THE FORUM

Thank you for reading this edition of the AME Forum. If you have news or items you wish to share, or features you would like to see in future editions, **please contact Christine Gouveia.**

Here are a few reminders of action items from this edition:

- Renew your AME membership if you have not already done so (or attended the 2022 conference, since membership is included in registration)
- Apply for grant funding for a pilot project through the Strategic Initiatives Development Committee (SIDC) p. 22
- Submit your nominations for the following awards: Good Work and Kuhmerker Career Award deadlines by June 30th. The Kuhmerker Dissertation Award by May 30th. See criteria, contacts, and deadlines on pages 18-20
- Submit a proposal by April 27th if you wish to be considered for presenting a paper, poster or symposium at the AME 49th conference October 26-28, 2023. The theme is Positive Youth Development and Moral Education: Building Bridges, yet any aspect of moral development and education will be considered. Limited student and low income country travel grants are available; apply via your proposal submission
- Book your hotel and register early for the conference to assure your stay and enjoy savings

See you at the 49th Annual AME conference in Ft. Worth, Texas USA and look for our Summer newsletter for more details!

