

The Ethics of Civility
Alfie Scholars Senior Conference
Seattle University



August 21 & 22, 2020

The Ethics of Civility

Presenters

Ernesto Chacón
Haley Cummins
Lorra Hernon
Hailey McNally
Mariah Moreno

Adrian Nava
Richard Pallangyo
Christiana Tembo
Elizabeth Vargas
Sophia Zandel

Alfie Team

Professor Natalie Cisneros
Director Carol Cochran
Professor Nathan Colaner
Research Librarian Reilly Curran

Professor Paula Lustbader
Director Scott Petit
Professor Jeff Philpott
Professor Jason Wirth

Conference Schedule

Friday August 21st

- 10:00-10:20 **Welcome**
Professor Paula Lustbader
- 10:20-10:45 **Digital Addiction: Is It Time To Log Off?**
Presenter: Sophie Zandel
Moderator: Anastasiya Davis
- 10:45-11:10 **The Ethical Positions of Physician-Assisted
Suicide/Withholding or Withdrawing Life-Sustaining
Treatment in Patients with a Terminal Illness**
Presenter: Adrian Nava
Moderator: Brenda Mata-Diaz
- 11:10-11:20 **Break**
- 11:20-11:45 **When It Is Not Safe to Stay Home: How the
Coronavirus Pandemic Led to a Rise in Domestic
Violence Against Women**
Presenter: Richard Pallangyo
Moderator: Afrikaan Osman
- 11:45-12:10 **Distance Learning: Exposing The Existing Inequalities
In Education**
Presenter: Mariah Moreno
Moderator: Viktoria Buina
- 12:10-12:50 **Lunch**
- 12:50-1:15 **Invisible Heroes: Undocumented Immigrant
Essential Workers**
Presenter: Elizabeth Vargas
Moderator: Anastasiya Davis

1:15-1:40 **Amid a Global Pandemic, a Global Community is Forgotten: Amplifying the Voices in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community**

Presenter: Lorra Hernon

Moderator: Kevin Respicio

Saturday, August 22nd

10:00-10:10 **Welcome**

Professor Paula Lustbader

10:10-10:35 **Diamonds Hidden in the Depths: What Your Textbook Never Told You**

Presenter: Haley Cummins

Moderator: Natalie Hutson

10:35-11:00 **What to do When the March is Over**

Presenter: Hailey McNally

Moderator: Chelsea Arnold

11:00-11:10 **Break**

11:10-11:35 **Money in Politics: What Can't Money Buy?**

Presenter: Ernesto Chacón

Moderator: Abem Fekade-Tessema

11:35-12:00 **COVID 19 Vaccine Trials in Africa: The Ethics of Clinical Trials**

Presenter: Christiana Tembo

Moderator: Yao Yao

12:00-12:20 **Closing**

Professor Paula Lustbader

Presentation Descriptions

Digital Addiction: Is It Time To Log Off?

Presenter: Sophia Zandel

The digital revolution, kindled by the advent of the internet and fostered by the appearance of social media and smartphones, has redefined the habits of both individuals and society. The astonishing speed of this revolution, which has impacted nearly all business fields, has given individuals the ability to access an incredible amount of information at any time from any place. This has revolutionized the way individuals live their lives. Aside from the positive impacts of the digital revolution, it appears that this phenomenon is taking a toll on physiological and psychological well-being. This presentation examines these psychological and physiological traits that are being linked, by emerging studies, to the newly established habits brought to society by the digital world. While mainly focusing on the characterization of these traits on individuals, it explores a few systemic problems and ethical implications tightly connected to this subject.

Ethical Positions of Physician-Assisted Suicide/Withholding or Withdrawing Life-Sustaining Treatment in Patients with a Terminal Illness

Presenter: Adrian Nava

Many people see healthcare as something to save a life or aid in helping the ill feel better, but they don't see it as also something to help end a life. Often, we don't think about physician-assisted suicide (PAS) or withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment (WWLST) as an option when it comes to taking care of our health. PAS or also known as Death with Dignity is "when a physician facilitates a patient's death by providing the necessary means or information to enable the patient to perform the life-ending act." This presentation will evaluate the justifications for PAS and WWLST, such as whether patients benefit from an intervention to cause death, whether there is or there is not an ethically significant distinction between PAS and WWLST, and whether it is "morally acceptable or unacceptable to intentionally cause death."

When it is not Safe to Stay Home: How the Coronavirus pandemic has led to a rise in domestic violence against women

Presenter: Richard Augustino Pallangyo

Since its outbreak last year, COVID-19 infection has significantly changed aspects of our lives. The Novel Coronavirus Disease was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. Since then, there have been more than 20 million confirmed cases and more than 700 thousand deaths, and the virus has enormously impacted everyone's life economically, physically, psychologically, and socially. Although the spread of Coronavirus is nonselective in its effect, Coronavirus has worsened and provided more clarity on the marginalization of women and girls due to the unequal power between men and women. Also, the Coronavirus crisis has compounded the pre-existing issue of domestic violence against women primarily caused by gender inequality. Domestic violence against women involves emotional abuse, physical and sexual abuse. Due to measures like lockdown and social distancing to mitigate the spread of Coronavirus, women and girls find themselves in more vulnerable environments. These unsafe environments are homes, where women and girls should typically feel and be safe. Therefore, women are dealing with two pandemics: COVID-19 and domestic violence. Also, women are unable to get the help they need because of being locked in at homes with their abusers, inadequate services to help victims of violence as well as communication challenges—particularly prevalent in developing nations. In my presentation, I intend to show how women in abusive relationships are facing two pandemics: COVID-19 and domestic violence and explain why it is not safe for women in abusive relationships to stay home. Also, I hope to suggest solutions that will address the issue to create safe homes for victims and survivors amid any crisis.

Distance Learning: Exposing The Existing Inequalities In Education

Presenter: Mariah Moreno

Parents and policymakers are understandably concerned about the safety of children in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic. These fears have led to the decision in almost every state and county, to close in person public schools for the fall 2020 school year. This decision leaves one option for the children of America, to switch to an online learning format. Along with many of you, I am concerned about the harmful effects extended school closures will have on young children, especially those who come from a disadvantaged background. I suggest that we look at the coronavirus crisis as a moment of great opportunity. A chance for us to get creative with our education system, and make it better than it ever was before. The time to reimagine a school system that is equal for all students is now.

Invisible Heroes: Undocumented Immigrant Essential Workers

Presenter: Elizabeth Vargas

Amid the pandemic, governors across the nation urged their residents to stay at home, except those whose jobs were declared as "essential," to slow down the spread of coronavirus. Among those essential workers are approximately 6 million immigrants at the front line, helping us stay at home, safe and fed. However, some immigrants, especially the undocumented, have been excluded from the safety-net benefits. Banning some immigrants from our safety net stems from a deeply rooted issue that has been present in our country for decades because undocumented immigrant labor often goes unseen. So far, we appreciate doctors, nurses, and first responders for their hard work and sacrifice; that is why we call them heroes. But we forget that we still have food on our table because many undocumented immigrants had the necessity and responsibility to go to work. We are taking advantage of their desperation so we can stay at home safely; but because they are undocumented, they are the invisible. In this presentation, I will argue that immigrants' exploitation is a systematic issue because our nation has failed to honor the dignity of immigrant labor for hundreds of years.

Amid a Global Pandemic, a Global Community is Forgotten: Amplifying the Voices in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community

Presenter: Lorra Hernon

COVID-19, also known as coronavirus, has swept through the globe, disrupting many people's lives and routines, sadly, in some cases ending lives. Leaders all around world have taken precautions such as shutting down businesses and schools, enforcing stay at home orders, advising social distancing, and encouraging people to wear masks to contain and minimize the risks of spreading the virus. In the midst of a global pandemic, few considerations have been made in regard to a community that is not bound to one country. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing community has been impacted in various ways that have not been considered when making new policy changes and safety measures concerning the virus. The pandemic has pulled the curtains to expose the further isolation, exclusion, and vulnerability this community faces every day. This presentation will dive deeper into the impacts the pandemic has caused as well as amplify the voices within the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.

Diamonds Hidden in the Depths: What Your Textbook Never Told You

Presenter: Haley Cummins

Marcus Garvey once said, “A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots.” This is the reality for a person of color every single time they learn US History in their K-12 classrooms. I can personally attest to this. I remember distinctly one day sitting amongst friends, listening as they talked about their ancestry, tracing back generation, after generation, when the conversation finally shifted to me. In that moment, I knew it was coming, the daunting question I had so been dreading, and they asked me “How far back can you trace your ancestry?” All I could really say is “...only back to my great great grandma.” In school when I learned about my history, I learned about slavery, Martin Luther King Jr., and most recently former President Barak Obama. That’s it. It wasn’t until college where I began paying for my education that I was finally able to learn about my history. As children, the information we learn in our classes is what shapes us, our identity and our beliefs. As we stand presently in 2020, we can no longer bear false witness to incomplete and false narratives, but rather rethink curriculum that is holistic and equitable for all students. This is why in my presentation I will uncover the impact of omitting people of color from our history education and argue that incorporating ethnic studies curricula in the K-12 public school system is an important step toward healing the harms caused by racial injustice.

What to do When the March is Over

Presenter: Hailey McNally

I knew that moving to Seattle one year ago to pursue school would offer me many opportunities. However, I was not aware to what extent. I have had personal growth within academics, extracurricular activities, and most importantly understanding what role I play in society. Although I was aware as a Caucasian individual, I had privileges in this world, I was unaware as to what extent. There are many privileges that I have due to simply the color of my white skin. Through the experiences of moving to a progressive city like Seattle and having had personal experiences in peaceful marches to support Black Lives Matter I feel passionate about vocalizing how other white individuals in our society can contribute to this movement. When the marches come to an end and the chanting of “Whose lives matter? Black lives matter!” become quite in the streets across the nation; How can a white individual continue to advocate for African American individuals?

Money in Politics: What Can't Money Buy?

Presenter: Ernesto Chacón

The political system in America was founded on democracy. Those ideal values that we hold true are increasingly threatened by the influence of money in our political system. The neo-political practice has become standard in modern American politics. Through the current system, where competition is highly encouraged, we have come to expect politicians to accept unlimited sums of money to win an election. This mindset has undermined the value of democracy in America, raising several questions -- How many politicians accept money from PAC's and Super PAC's? Have their views changed after accepting money? Are they representing the will of their donors over the will of the people? Without further introspection we face an ethical dilemma of prioritizing money over people. Do we really value money so much that we attach a price tag to people's livelihoods? As the bourgeois say, "What can't money buy?" This presentation will look at the use of money in politics, specifically campaign finance. Also, it will discuss the ethical dilemma that politicians face and the choices they have to make. Finally, it will discuss possible solutions that we could enact to alleviate the problem.

COVID 19 Vaccine Trials in Africa: The Ethics of Clinical Trials

Presenter: Christiana Tembo

The COVID-19 is an extremely complex pandemic. It became the greatest public health threat to the world because it has affected individuals in different countries and regions. As many of the COVID-19 vaccine trials started a few months ago, the controversial question was to know if African sites should be central to COVID-19 vaccine trial site mapping. The comments of two French doctors in early April 2020 stating that the vaccine trials should be done in Africa because of the low number of confirmed cases started the controversy. Given the long history of medical racism experienced by most African countries, these types of remarks provoked global outrage. Although testing COVID 19 vaccines in the continent is in the interest of public health, it raises many questions on the ethics of clinical trials. In this presentation, I will discuss the history of clinical trials in Africa. Then, I will present some of the root causes of this issue. Finally, I will address one way to solve this issue.

Presenter Biographies

Ernesto Chacón

Major: Political Sciences

Ernesto is a first-generation Chicano college student who is the middle child between two older sisters and two younger twin brothers. He grew up as the middle child which has given him a unique perspective on life. This view has led to the ability to be fluid in situations where an impartial view is the most beneficial. His impartiality has directly correlated with his desire become a lawyer in the future. Ernesto is currently majoring in Political Science with a minor in History. This combination allows him a solid understanding of current political affairs and how they could potentially play out in history. He has seen firsthand how campaign finance affects many of the politicians and how it can stifle or raise an individual depending on who donates.

Haley Cummins

Major: Strategic Communications

Haley is a rising Senior at Seattle University and currently studying Strategic Communications. Haley chose this as her major because people are truly her passion. At a young age, Haley was bullied which would later go on to diminish her sense of value and self-worth as an individual. However, Haley has worked hard to break through stereotypes and preconceived notions once said in an effort to stop her. She now finds passion in being an encouragement to other young students and reminding them of their inherent worth and value. She was named 1 of 100 local changemakers by the Gates Foundation Discovery Center's Youth Ambassador Program. Since transferring to Seattle University and becoming a member of the Alfie Scholar program, Haley has further developed her potential as a leader. Haley is the Vice President of the Tau Sigma Gamma Mu transfer honor society. Haley is passionate about doing the work to strengthen her voice as an advocate and to work alongside people who are left in the margins. After graduation, Haley sees herself consulting with organizations and helping them to see the value of including the underrepresented in their decision and policy-making processes, especially the decisions that have a direct impact on the underrepresented.

Lorra Hernon
Major: Nursing

Lorra Hernon is a first-generation student, airman, and spouse. She currently serves at McChord Air Force Base in the Air Force Reserves as a fuel systems mechanic. She continues her journey this fall as a senior nursing student at Seattle University. As someone who grew up with Deaf parents, she has witnessed first and second hand how this world does not favor someone who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she has seen the further exclusion and marginalization for her parents and this community. Needless to say, there has been progress within society to support the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, but at what expense? Although the safety precautions benefit the majority, this community's well-being should not be thought of last. There is absolute dignity in all human life, therefore Lorra hopes to increase Deaf awareness for further allyship and inclusion of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community when discussing the pandemic.

Hailey McNally
Major: Nursing

Hailey McNally was born in Portland, Oregon and has lived most of her young life in Longview, WA. Hailey is passionate about helping others and is looking forward to becoming a registered nurse and continuing to serve others for the rest of her life. Hailey has discovered her passion to help others through volunteering for a dialysis clinic, emergency room, and hurricane Harvey relief. As a student nurse at Seattle University, Hailey looks forward to learning the skills necessary to not only care for a patient in terms of their medical needs, but also for their needs as a whole human being. She looks forward to growing not only as a nurse, but also as an individual.

Mariah Moreno
Major: Diagnostic Ultrasound

Mariah Moreno is a first-generation college student who was raised by a single mother that struggled with mental illness. Growing up this way had its challenges. Stepping up to be someone her mom and younger brother could depend on at a very young age formed her in to a responsible and self-motivated individual. Mariah moved to Washington from Utah a few years ago, and that was the best decision she ever made. Although she did not have any role models in her family that went to college and she was nervous to fail, Mariah enrolled at her local community college and began the journey of achieving her educational goal of becoming a medical professional. In addition to attending Olympic College in pursuit of her associate's degree, she also volunteered at Harrison Medical Center and worked full time as a nanny for three years. Her experience

volunteering at the hospital helped her to discover her interest in Sonography, specifically Pediatric Echocardiography. Mariah is proud to say after all the work, time, and sacrifice she has put in, she is now closer than ever to achieving her goals. Acceptance to the Alfie Scholar Program and Ultrasound Program at Seattle University are proof that hard work and determination make your dreams come true.

Adrian Nava

Major: Nursing

Adrian and his family moved from the Philippines to the United States when he was six years old. He is the second eldest out of four children and is also an identical twin. He is the first in the family to attend college. He hopes to be a good example for his siblings and to inspire them to pursue a higher education, an opportunity his parents never had in the United States. Pursuing a higher education was a challenge for Adrian. He worked full-time to support himself financially through community college. Learning to balance his time for work and school was a maze of its own, but he managed to get himself through community college to earn his Associate of Arts degree. Adrian values his education. He has worked and volunteered at many health organizations and has developed a passion for community health. He saw many underrepresented families in the healthcare system. His goal as a future nurse is to advocate for the underrepresented people in our community, especially those who cannot access proper healthcare. He will be continuing the road of higher education to pursue his Doctor of Nursing Practice degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner. He wants to further educate families, especially those in minority groups, on how to stay well and live a healthy life.

Richard Augustino Pallangyo

Major: Computer science

Biography: Richard Pallangyo is an international and first-generation college student. He grew up in a small village in Tanzania, where he couldn't imagine the dreams he holds dear today. Pallangyo's community had no electricity and no running water. When Richard looks back at his life, the ideas of attaining a college degree and having dreams that will change lives were almost comical to ponder. The course of his life changed in 2008 when an education-focused NGO called The Foundation For Tomorrow (TFFT) took him in, and he embarked on a path that led him to Seattle Central College and, now, Seattle University. Through TFFT, he attended excellent schools in Tanzania and had access to resources that enabled him to advance his academic and leadership skills. Richard believes that his mother's inspiration and the life struggles he has

endured have not only strengthened but also encouraged him with purpose. Richard firmly believes that it's the generosity of others that have helped him get where he is today. For example, he is pursuing a degree in computer science at Seattle University through scholarships, including the Alfie Scholars program and support from his host family. Richard thinks that he has been incredibly fortunate and believes it is his purpose to help others who face tremendous obstacles in realizing their own dreams. Richard's career goal is to become a security analyst or a data scientist as he also practices civility in his work and community to create a better world. He intends to use his gifts, opportunities, and academic skills to help others improve their lives and their community. Pallangyo has realized and witnessed that his culture treats women as having no value. Therefore, he intends to use his leadership skills and gifts to elevate the importance of women in his culture through advocacy. Also, he hopes to establish a technology school in Tanzania for young people to realize their potential to end the cycle of poverty in their communities.

Christiana Tembo

Major: Electrical and Electronics Engineering

Christiana Tembo was born in Kinshasa, but spent most of her childhood in the small village of Muanda in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She came to the United States in 2016 and considers herself as a first-generation student. Christiana speaks three different languages: French, Lingala, and English. Although she has been in the United States for almost 4 years, Christiana has always been preoccupied and concerned about the issues happening in the African continent, especially during the COVID 19 pandemic. Christiana is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering. She is the president of the National Society of Black Engineers at Seattle University and an ambassador for diversity in STEM. One of Christiana's missions is to advocate for women all over the world by breaking stereotypes and misconceptions people have about women in the STEM field.

Elizabeth Vargas

Major: Social Work

Elizabeth was born and raised in a small village in the central region of Mexico. In 2003, at the age of fifteen, Elizabeth and her family moved to Riverside,

California, where she attended high school and graduated in three years. She is the first one in her family to graduate from high school and pursue higher education. She is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Social Work. Her goal is to continue on the educational path to obtain her master's degree, which will help her to assist better the most vulnerable population, especially the Latinx community, because as an immigrant she understands the challenges an immigrant faces in the United States.

Sophia Zandel
Major: Nursing

Sophia was born in Russia and immigrated to Israel at the age of 8. With the move to Israel Sophia's parents had to start from the bottom of the ladder, since their degrees were not accepted in Israel. Her family valued education but did not succeed in getting access to a better life. After finishing high school, Sophia joined the military for two years. She served in an Air Force defense unit where she was trained to monitor radar information along the northern border. After the military she was considering education but was frightened by the difficulty of the entrance exams and the program requirements. After volunteering in a non-profit organization providing relief for victims of human trafficking, she learned that her passion is to treat the medical needs of under-privileged people, and she decided to pursue a degree in nursing. After earning her degree from Seattle University, Sophia would like to use her nursing degree to serve the medical needs of disadvantaged people, expanding her knowledge of nursing and focusing especially on gynecology and women's health. In the future she would like to join a relief organization that would allow her to put her skills and heart at the service of others as a nurse, in both local and international context

