

On the Way to Global Justice: Nine Engagements



Seminar Description

Join the Pacific Center for Global Justice as we launch our nine-month seminar series on one of the more complex, significant, hopeful, and yet elusive phenomena of our age: global justice. As the life of each person on this planet becomes more and more globalized—by the global economy, information technology, planetary climate change, and in other ways—many people feel a yearning for an integrative foundation of awareness and understanding. Many seek an approach to justice that is at once cosmopolitan, personal, local, and effective at countering an array of global pressures that might otherwise fragment our lives.

How can we better understand global justice? How can we more effectively go about working for justice on such a vast scale? In a complex and increasingly globalized world, and in the face of a bewildering onslaught of injustices—including crimes against humanity, gross economic poverty alongside conspicuous wealth accumulation, dangerous patterns of militarism, ideological extremism, and other forms of global injustice—the Pacific Center for Global Justice is offering participants this nine-month program as a way to help integrate some of the more fruitful dimensions of justicemaking. We do this in our “alternative university” model as a small community (twelve to fifteen participants) engaged in contemplation, analysis, and action.

The series begins with an overview of the great variety of conceptions of global justice that can be found across the planet today. To be sure, we can’t possibly account for the full spectrum of such a dynamic concept and the practices to which it points, but we will gain an appreciation for three distinct characteristics recognized as we look around the world: a) those approaches to global justice which are noticeably informed by contemplative spiritual/religious/or secular practice, b) approaches markedly shaped by a reliance on scholarly analysis in various fields such as political philosophy, and c) approaches to global justice steeped in activism and movement mobilization. This introductory “panoramic” overview is our topic for the opening session in March 2010. Sessions two and three (April and May) go into some depth examining select contemplative approaches, such as that of Thich Nhat Hanh, the Dalai Lama, and others (women and men from diverse traditions) who draw deeply from meditation and contemplation as a wellspring of their insights into justice on the scale of a village and the planet (and the cosmos). Sessions four and five (June and July) discuss a few select analytical approaches to global justice, such as the works of Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum, among others. Our late summer sessions (August and September) put us deep into the world of activism and movement mobilization as we examine human rights work, action in response to the forces and institutions of economic globalization, and other aspects of global justice activism. In the final two sessions (October and November), we further integrate the contemplative, analytical, and active approaches that we will have studied and explored to date, and we commit to apply this integrative vision and practice going forward upon completion of the nine monthly engagements on the way to global justice. All nine sessions will come to fruition through the insights and sharing among the participants as a small community experiencing and learning the contemplative, analytical, and active way of global justice.

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Seminar Schedule and Fees

Dates	Time	Location
March 4 – November 4 (1 st Thursday of each month)	4-7PM	To be announced
<p>Facilitators: Frank Fromherz, Ph. D. Bert VanGorder</p> <p>Brief bios of the facilitators may be found on our website at: http://www.pcgj.org/About_Us.html.</p>		
<p>Fee - \$300</p> <p>The Pacific Center provides partial and full scholarships, subject to the availability of funds, to individuals who demonstrate a financial need. If you wish to request a scholarship, please briefly share your circumstances on the registration form which can be completed on-line or via a downloadable PDF document at: http://www.pcgj.org/programs.html.</p>		