



Dear Friends,

We continue to live in challenging times in a volatile world. Suffering is pervasive. Despair is on most people's minds. In times such as these it is difficult to show off accomplishments. One step forward and nine backward is not progress but it does highlight the effort it takes to collectively take that one step forward.

The Center's work continues to offer a renewed sense of optimism to people, places, and communities in which it is embedded, now adding partnerships in Taiwan and Japan. While demands for our programs have grown, we have strategically decided not to compromise depth of learning for scale of reach.

Our work on Ethics and Governance of Artificial Intelligence began long before it was fashionable for tech companies to have ethics boards, functioning or otherwise. We challenged the blanket sentiment of creating a better world with which most corporations deflected real concerns that emerging technologies posed, not to speak of the continued disparity they would create in our world. While AI can bring good, unless regulated it will amplify our civic challenges and pose a threat to our civic institutions. It is already causing the fabric of trust to deteriorate. While we made strides in our efforts, we witnessed the whitewashing of genuine ethical concerns by overuse of the word "ethics." Ironically, distinguishing signal from noise still remains a daunting task and the world of AI is deliberately filled with noise—to overwhelm, to confuse, and to deflect deep moral concerns facing humanity and the planet. Tech companies and their leadership are operating with a similar ethos to what once dominated Wall Street. We hope that by offering programs and tools that inspire critical thinking and realistic assessments, we will help a new generation of tech designers and policy makers to address the challenges more carefully.



In a time of polarization and hate, we continue our efforts to highlight the importance of cultivating empathy and compassion and encountering 'the other' from a place of curiosity and kindness. What will be left of our humanity if we abandon the possibility of positive transformation in our selves and others?

We humans and the institutions we create are only as good as our ability to self-correct. This self-correction is preceded by a sense of recognition and the will to change. Let's use the festive days ahead to cherish and celebrate one another; to be kinder and more forgiving than we have been before; to envision a transformative possibility; to recognize and to strengthen our collective will for a better present and a better future.

The Center and its team are grateful for your continuous support and participation.

Sincerely,

Donald H. Morrison
Chair

Tenzin Priyadarshi
President & CEO

2023 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

MISSION

The Center is dedicated to inquiry, dialogue, and education on the ethical and humane dimensions of life.

OUR GOAL

As a collaborative nonpartisan think-and-do tank, our goal is to focus on the development of interdisciplinary research and programs in varied fields of knowledge, from science and technology to education and international relations.

We seek to emphasize responsibility and examine meaningfulness and moral purpose between individuals, organizations, and societies.

Think.Transform.Impact

Through our core programs including Transformative Leadership, Transformative Teachers, and Transformative Citizenship, we seek to introduce ethical imagination and values-based leadership into society at large. Our work influences and intersects with a wide range of leadership, from business to technology, from judicial systems to climate activists and policy-makers, from educators to emerging-leaders and students. Our work demonstrates how deeply interconnected we are as a world and the beauty of complex systems. Our programs have reached over 70,000 in-person participants and many more online across the globe. Our satellite centers and partnerships operate in 20 countries and our online presence is only limited by access to the Internet.

OUR FOCUS

VALUES-BASED
LEADERSHIP

EMPATHY
LEARNING

TOOLS FOR
CHANGE



Ethics and Governance of Artificial Intelligence

Earlier in 2023, The Center teamed up with Law School Faculty and the International College of Innovation at the National Chengchi University in Taipei, Taiwan to design and teach an interdisciplinary course on Ethics and Governance of AI. This program was unique in the sense that it wasn't just working with historical materials but with breakthroughs as they were happening in the industry, assessing their impact on various domains from the creative to the financial and healthcare industries. The Center will continue with this collaboration and offer classes in the coming academic years.



Transformative Leadership in Indigenous Communities

Intergenerational learning within indigenous communities embodies a profound exchange of wisdom, culture, and values across generations. Values-based leadership is the guiding force of knowledge transmission from elders to younger generations. Through storytelling, ceremonies, and shared experiences, indigenous communities nurture a deep connection to ancestral values, enabling youth to embrace their heritage while navigating modern challenges.

Our new partners in this work are members of the Wayuu Community of the Guajira Peninsula in northernmost Colombia and northwest Venezuela. They are custodians of one of the largest land masses in the world.

In partnership with Universidad del Rosario, United Nations Development Program, and several of Latin America's energy consortiums, we worked to establish and promote dialogues between

the Wayuu People Indigenous Communities. Addressing a complex array of challenges rooted in differing perspectives, priorities, and historical contexts, our role has been to help balance economic development opportunities with environmental conservation and respect for indigenous rights and culture.

This leadership model emphasizes respect, reciprocity, and communal harmony, empowering new generations to carry forward cultural legacies while infusing innovative perspectives into their evolving roles within their communities and the broader world.

Bridging this gap requires fostering mutual understanding, respecting cultural values, and engaging in transparent, inclusive dialogue. It requires acknowledging the concerns and aspirations of Indigenous communities while working toward sustainable and equitable solutions that benefit all stakeholders.





Compassionate Young Leaders

In partnership with The Richie Foundation and the Instituto Politecnico de Madrid, The Center at MIT ran programs designed for high school students and young entrepreneurs, focusing on instilling the principles of compassionate leadership in the younger generation. Through innovative curricula and experiential learning, these initiatives aimed to cultivate empathy, ethical decision-making, and social responsibility among youth.

To meet our goal of facilitating cross-cultural exchanges and collaborations, young representatives from multiple Latin American countries gathered in Boston to build bridges and cultivate a global community of upcoming leaders.

Ethics Initiative

Values are essential for creating a strong foundation for any individual, organization, or community. Values serve as guiding principles that shape decision-making, behavior, and relationships. We believe that when leaders prioritize values such as integrity, empathy, respect, and ethical conduct, they not only inspire trust and loyalty but also foster a positive and inclusive culture. Our programs are based on values-driven leadership, helping set a clear direction, aligning teams towards common goals, and enhancing the overall well-being of those they lead.

By integrating values into our decision-making process, those values become a powerful tool for driving meaningful, purpose-driven innovation that addresses critical issues and serves the greater good.

Participants explore the intersection of ethics, innovation, and purpose. Through meaningful conversations and hands-on exercises, attendees gain a deeper understanding of how aligning values and purpose can lead to more ethical, effective, and sustainable solutions.



WITH GRATITUDE FROM THE CENTER AT MIT

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