

— THE INSTITUTE FOR — GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

Imaging: A Strategic Imaging Process With Virginia Swain

Summary

To promote collaboration, team building and individual staff development, and to create a collective vision, this innovative process allows each participant to image their unique role in achieving the goal. Virginia Swain was trained by Dartmouth Professor and International Peacebuilder Dr. Elise Boulding to facilitate imaging for organizational and individual visioning. She has been using imaging in the Reconciliation Leadership courses and the Global Mediation and Reconciliation Service she founded at the UN since 2001. [For more about Virginia go to global-leader.org, www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org and VirginiaSwain.com]

(<https://www.amazon.com/Future-Images-Processes-Elise-Boulding/dp/0803957904>

<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/258618>

<https://spssi.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1540-4560.1988.tb02061.x>

Scope of Work (SOW)

Virginia Swain, Founder and Director, Institute for Global Leadership, will facilitate three workshops described below:

- Workshop 1: **What can we dream with Imaging?**

Develop individual images

Dartmouth Professor and International Peacebuilder Dr. Elise Boulding's [imaging workshop](#) motivates present behavior using images of the future. Her theory is that people will not be able to create something they have not envisioned. As people imagine a positive future, care of the earth, and justice, they then can work back into present time to achieve a new future present.

Workshop 2: Group imaging

Discuss and arrange images as a shared quilt- a community process to re-share individual images and talk more about how the images connect to one another and bring our visions and energies together. The group shares ideas to arrange the images together in a quilt.

- Workshop 3: **Timeline & action plans:** Standing in a specific date and looking back--how does this future you have imaged come about? Looking back, remember/imagine some key events that have happened since 2025 as an example. Include major benchmarks. Larger social trends as well. What happened in the last two years (2025-2024)? Three years before (2023)? Four years? (2022) Five years before, starting with today (2020-2021)? Action plans: think through what you individually might do now, this year, to help bring about this future world you have experienced in your imagination. Think about the *action settings* available and list them: your family, neighborhood, community settings, workplace, organizations you engage in, where you shop, etc. Think about your objectives; allies; how

will you relate to decision makers. Flesh out a specific project to realize your vision & share in closing plenary.

A recent example of the imaging process can be found here: <https://virginiaswain.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Building-Civic-Bridges-press-release-4-1-22.pdf>