

— THE INSTITUTE FOR —  
GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

# Imaging A New America

*Harnessing diverging perspectives to create  
cohesive visions of peace and justice*

**Shannon Paige, Dr. Sam Onapa, Dr. Sarah Sayeed, and Virginia Swain**

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Trust Network

# Mission Statement

— THE INSTITUTE FOR —  
GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

The Institute for Global Leadership provides confidential, compassionate and skilled guidance, consultation and training to help leaders and teams through change, challenges and crises.

We recognize all human beings, institutions, nations and multilateral entities for their uniqueness, need and capacity for transformation.

Learn more at: [www.global-leader.org](http://www.global-leader.org)

# The Trust Agenda

1. Intro to the Problem: *Emotional element to distrust that facts cannot counter (5 min)*
2. Intro to the Theory of Imaging: *Diverging perspectives and how to create cohesion (5 min)*
3. Mini Imaging Session *(15 min)*
4. Reflection and Invitation to join a Longer Session *(10 min)*

# Framing the Problem

How to build trust and how to develop a shared vision across differing backgrounds, political views, and broader perspectives?

- In December, during the National Symposium on Social Cohesion and Security we discussed data and its use as a means of building trust and truth-telling. While effective with certain communities,

*How do we address individuals for whom data is not enough to change their mindsets? How do we engage with the embodied and emotional side to insecurity and distrust?*

# Trust: Who Are We Talking About, What Do We Mean?

**Safety, Respect, Vulnerability**- trust is both reason and emotion based; foundation for cooperation

- When we are trying to build trust, is it on the interpersonal, community or institutional level? Which matters most for us to have a cohesive nation?
- What makes someone or something trustworthy? Three pillars of trust and trustworthiness: ability, integrity, and benevolence (Burke, 2007)

**Ability**: delivering results- you do what you say you will do

**Integrity**: live up to the values we set; honesty, openness, being fair

**Benevolence**: concern for the well-being of others, generosity, kindness

# The Challenge of Trust Building

## Cultural Competence (Humility)

In a multiracial society, effective trust building based on the three pillars: *ability, integrity, and benevolence*, necessitates the development of competencies in the various cultures.

- Attitudes – mindset, awareness similarities and differences across cultures and how one acts towards them
- Two dominant philosophies governing most cultures globally are:
  - Utilitarianism (“Global Capitalism”) - Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill
  - Confucianism - Confucius

# Utilitarian Vs Confucius Philosophies

Utilitarian Discourse System - “Good is the greatest amount of happiness for the greatest number of people” -

- Goodness is related to the physical and mental state of an individual  
- Individualism

Confucius Discourse System – “Goodness is a matter of relationships among individuals and between people and nature” – Harmony

- Goodness is not a function of an individual but a matter of relations  
- Collectivism

(Scollon et al, 2012)

# Utilitarian Vs Rights Theory

## Rights Theory

- An action is considered ethically correct if it respects the rights of other people (legal rights, human rights, contractual rights etc.), irrespective of their number

## Utilitarian Theory

- An action is considered ethically correct if the most benefit is received by the most people in comparison to any other available action
- If a disadvantage cannot be avoided, then the decision/action that would result in the smallest number of people suffering is ethically correct.

- What does this mean for minority groups - effects mining in indigenous community land

# Theory of Imaging - *What is imaging?*

- Challenges cannot be reconciled at the level they were created
  - Imaging provides an access to our imagination where solutions exist
- Dr. Elise Boulding (Nobel Peace Prize nominee) and Warren Ziegler developed a new research approach during an imaging (imagining/visualizing) workshop to motivate behavior in the present by using images of the future.
- Then they can put their personal images into conversation with one another, develop a mindset that can work collaboratively to produce a timeline of concrete action steps
- Imaging is not about art or technique- it is about imagination, and using words, pictures that capture your imagination

# Mini Imaging Process - Overview

1. Prompt to help guide your process (leading you to a place beyond a hedge to your imagination)
2. 5 minutes of quiet reflection for you to put image and words on paper
3. 5-7 minutes of sharing

# Mini Imaging Process

*Hedge Prompt*

# Mini Imaging Process - Hedge Prompt

Visualize a USA that is multiracial, equitable, safe, and trusting

For the next five minutes, capture any words, images, and scenes that come to mind

## Reflection Questions - *What was it like to do an imaging process?*

- How was that process for you? Did you find it easy? Difficult?
- Do you think this tool would be useful for your work with communities?
- Has this process changed your interpretation of cultural competency?

# Invitations

Join us April 25th at National Association of Community Mediation at 'Big Tuesday' for a full imaging process from 7:00-8:15 pm.

<https://www.nafcm.org/>

Register with Damon Nailor at [dnailer@nafcm.org](mailto:dnailer@nafcm.org)

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First Monday monthly from 7:00-8:30 pm for America's Soul Community  
<https://global-leader.org/americas-soul-cafes/>

Next on Monday April 10.

Questions? Email Virginia Swain at [vswain@global-leader.org](mailto:vswain@global-leader.org) or cell/text  
508-245-6843