

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that I announce Issue XX of *Consilience: The Journal of Sustainable Development*. Over the course of 2018, we have seen the United States withdraw from the global environmental arena, and China and India have begun rhetorically jockeying to fill this power vacuum. Sustainable development, no longer an elite buzzword, has become a common issue and the focus of marches, protests, and much national legislation, even as an urgent IPCC report called for immediate and decisive action to combat the looming effects of climate change. Despite some rising international tensions and internal political strife, there must be cohesive multilateral cooperation on sustainability and the environment.

In Issue XX, the editing board of *Consilience* has chosen six carefully curated articles, which come together to deliver a truly global and interdisciplinary look at contemporary problems and solutions in sustainable development. Anna Bachan opens this issue with an expansive article focusing on gender and international labor migration. Her exploration of the social and economic development spurred by female Senegalese migrants exemplifies both the local and global impacts of the gender-development-migration nexus. She reminds us that overarching governmental policies must consider each individual in order to make sustainable, cultural change. Cultural change is also the focus of Najla Mouchrek's research in Brazil and the United States. She applies design-based approaches to educational settings in order to better facilitate sustainable thinking and living in students. Bridging the "value-action" gap to encourage concrete action based on environmental values can serve as a jumping-off point for a gradual cultural shift to a sustainably minded society.

An exemplary article from Hillary Brown engages successful implementations of circular energy economies in Brazil and India. Renewable energy in a closed-loop system utilizes energy otherwise wasted from a landfill site and agricultural waste in two Brazilian case studies, and cross-sectoral integration helped electrify rural villages with solar power in India. Brown explores these examples to show how circular energy produces not only environmental but economic and social benefits. Colton Smith, David Driver, and Gilbert Michaud also delve deeply into the possibilities of renewable energy, focusing on solar and wind potential in Ohio. Their article synthesizes a vast collection of employment and capacity data to show how both solar and wind production has changed, and how Ohio policymakers have directly and indirectly affected the renewables sector.

*Consilience* breaks away from traditional academic writing with a powerful photo essay from a study in Gojome, a rural Japanese town. Dr. Yasuko Kusakari, Dominique Chiu, Lillian Muasa, Kyoko Takahashi, and Dr. Shogo Kudo show with images and from interviews how civic pride and a sense of belonging can facilitate rural sustainability and can encourage population stability to preserve culture, tradition, and the environment.

In our previous publication, *Consilience* presented a theoretical exploration of the relationship between art and science. In Issue XX, Sadi Mosko grounds this theory with an investigation into contemporary dancers and dance companies that integrate sustainability and environmental values into both practical carbon costs as well as into their choreography and scenery. This article shows how dance can bring sustainability to everyday people and can help formulate that cultural shift which is so important to a livable future.

In this turbulent era, it is vital that we continue to assemble interdisciplinary solutions that explore every horizon. Yes, we must “push the boundaries” of sustainable development – but more importantly, we must do away with boundaries of all kinds and instead focus on integration and amalgamation. It is time for a global cultural shift towards a world where sustainability is natural, normal, and ubiquitous.

Thank you to our readers and authors for your patience as we worked on Issue XX. As always, we welcome and encourage constructive feedback and commentary. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at [consiliencejournal@gmail.com](mailto:consiliencejournal@gmail.com).

Ambria Benesch

*Editor-in-Chief*