

Dear Readers,

I am, as always, absolutely delighted to present to you Volume XXI of *Consilience: The Journal of Sustainable Development*. In the face of current events – devastating fires in the Amazon, dangerous heat waves in Europe, the continued rollback of U.S. environmental policies – our journal has carefully curated an issue which will inspire hope and action. Pushing interdisciplinary boundaries, critiquing unsustainable establishments and ideas, and bringing attention to overlooked places and communities are all explored in Volume XXI.

Our featured new articles open with an exploration of the heart of *Consilience*: interdisciplinary collaboration for sustainability. S. Peyton Ellis examines various case studies in urban centers around the United States, showing how community development and historic preservation can come together to create environmentally and socially sustainable buildings and neighborhoods. Often, this new nexus helps marginalized places become thriving communities. Dr. John Choptiany et al. write about the creation of a mobile app which targets vulnerable farmers and agriculturists in mid- to low-income countries. The use of simple, easily accessible technology to promote resilience tactics for impending climate change impacts develops a key intersection for sustainability, particularly in developing countries.

Volume XXI then turns to the more well-known intersection between economics and environment. Nicole Marie Karsch presents an in-depth and convincing critique of the debated Environmental Kuznets Curve, showing that the model has very little empirical evidence. The irreversible and the unknown effects of unchecked, unsustainable economic growth are clear, contradicting the curve. A final scholarly article brings forth a critique of international healthcare investments. Michikazu Koshiba shows that an outdated understanding of established monolithic donors risks disincentivizing investment and innovation from other private sectors. He introduces a new framework for evaluating healthcare investment which addresses this gap, and advocates for national procurement mechanisms that encourage more private investment through public-private partnerships.

Sayan Bhattacharya closes our featured new articles with an arresting photo essay portraying the beauty and the destruction of the Eastern Himalayas. This article showcases the effects of climate change, increasing tourism, government projects and policies, and rising populations on the ecosystems of the mountains and the people who have traditionally made their homes there. Bhattacharya's striking images call for sustainable action and preservation in the Himalayas.

We have in Volume XXI continued the Best of Consilience series. This tradition began five years ago in Volume XII. The Best of Consilience features articles from the journal's rich history which we believe represent some of the most thoughtful, timely, or innovative works published on our site. We believe that *Consilience* has always pushed the boundaries of sustainable development, and this section of highlighted articles embodies that fully. Hopefully, it will inspire our readers to do their own exploration at the edges and corners of interdisciplinary sustainability.

Please enjoy Volume XXI, with articles and ideas both old and new. This new era in the fight for a sustainable future seems to have inspired a sense of eco-citizenship. The *Consilience* network is doubtless on the front lines of this fight, and we expect that our articles also act as an optimistic call-to-arms to defend our common rights, resources, and planet.

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.

Ambria Benesch

Editor-in-Chief