

Note from the Editors

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to present Issue XXII of *Consilience: The Journal of Sustainable Development*. This issue arrives at a time of broad uncertainty and turbulence. COVID-19 continues to inflict tragedy upon our world: it has torn social fabrics, exacerbated inequalities, and shuttered economies. As a field which puts these systems, among many others, in a direct conversation with one another, the study and practice of sustainable development is eminently important at this time. Another tragedy is the persistent and poisonous racial inequality in the United States, which continues to inflict violence upon Black Americans. The sustainability community, including *Consilience*, must act against the racism and underrepresentation that exists silently, structurally, and explicitly in our field – complacency must no longer be the norm.

Responses to current challenges disturbingly parallel the world's response to the climate crisis, ranging from exasperating scientific denialism to the devastating neglect of marginalized groups. *Consilience* confronts such challenges in Issue XXII by continuing to uphold fact-based research and incorporating diverse voices. The Issue opens with a Perspective by world-renowned economist and global leader in sustainable development Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, who stresses the importance of emerging from the pandemic with a multilateral global framework. In the remainder of the Issue, our writers have worked diligently to expand the boundaries of our thinking and understanding around a range of sustainable development topics. They critically evaluate traditional water structures in India, discuss the power of narratives in the lives of climate refugees, and thoroughly analyze the relationship between a nation's culture and its urban climate resilience, to describe a few. The Issue is geographically diverse, with pieces covering Brazil, Ghana, Australia, India, and others.

Issue XXII frames discourse around a solutions-oriented approach to the collective well-being of our planet and its people. Upon your completion of the Issue, we encourage you to further engage with *Consilience* through our events and Briefings column. We have expanded these branches substantially over the past year and have grown our team to over 40 Columbia students. We are incredibly proud of what *Consilience* has achieved this year, ultimately allowing the journal to provide increasingly engaging and relevant content to a larger audience.

We hope that this Issue allows our readers to envision a more sustainable future. Thank you for your readership.

Warmly,



Amar Bhardwaj and Sophia Ahmed

Co-Editors in Chief

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