How can centuries of environmental exploitation and social injustice in the U.S. be unraveled? Robin Morris Collin, the Norma Paulus Professor of Law at Willamette University College of Law, will share her passion for creating solutions to remedy environmental injustice. She will deliver the 2020-21 Colin Ruagh O’Fallon Memorial Lecture “The Geography of Injustice and the Ecology of Reparations” on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 5 p.m. via Zoom.

Collin asserts that, driven by the legacies of colonialism and slavery, U.S. public policy has deliberately subordinated nature and people in pursuit of profit by discounting the value of people and places into commodities for transactional exchange. Our economy, which relies on patterns of extraction, consumption, and pollution, has deeply harmed the earth and its people. Poor communities, especially communities of color, are disproportionately impacted by pollution, waste disposal, hazardous sites, resource depletion, and disasters in the natural and built environment.

To visualize how people and places are affected by environmental injustice, Collin has been utilizing the EPA’s EISCREEN: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool, which collects and analyzes information to assess and compare environmental and human health risks borne by populations identified by race, national origin, or income. Injustice has literally been mapped.

Beyond defining the problems, Collin will outline key strategies that can lead to healing. She contends that in order to heal we must reestablish a reciprocity between ourselves and nature, and we need to center environmental justice in the heart of sustainability. To that end, Collin maintains that environmental justice must be included in the core curriculum so all will understand why equity matters.

What are the psychological, cultural, and political reasons why some people passionately engage with issues surrounding climate change, while others are apathetic, and some are downright dismissive and hostile?

Anthony Leiserowitz, the founder and Director of the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication (YPCCC) and a Senior Research Scientist at the Yale School of the Environment, will explore this question as he delivers the 2020-21 Kritikos Lecture “Climate Change in the American Mind” on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 5 p.m. via Zoom. His talk will be the first in the OHC’s 2020-21 Climate Justice series.

Climate change is one of the most daunting challenges of our time. Americans have diverse and sometimes opposing views about global warming, fundamentally shaping the political climate of climate change. Leiserowitz will explain recent trends in Americans’ climate change knowledge, attitudes, policy support, and behavior and discuss strategies to build public and political will for climate action.

Leiserowitz is an expert on public climate change and environmental beliefs, attitudes, policy preferences, and behavior, and the psychological, cultural, and political factors that shape them. At Yale, Leiserowitz examines how Americans and others around the world respond to the issues of climate change and other global challenges. YPCCC seeks to discover what people understand and misunderstand about the causes, consequences, and solutions of climate change; how they perceive the risks; and what kinds of policies they support or oppose.

As he explains, Leiserowitz’s research with YPCCC “suggest[s] it is continued on page 5 continued on page 5...”
Upcoming Climate Justice lectures in winter and spring

“Fighting for the Future”
Tuesday, February 2, 2021 (Eugene)
Wednesday, February 3, 2021 (Portland)

“Can Science Be Saved?”
Friday, March 12, 2021

“The Reindeer and the End of the World”
Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Vien Truong
2020–21 Tzedek Lecturer

Naomi Oreskes
2020–21 Cressman Lecturer

Bathsheba Demuth
2020–21 Clark Lecturer

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2020–21 Tzedek Lecturer

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Collin continued from page 1

and damaged places need to be recon-

nected, one by one.

Collin believes that reparations can

change the ecology of subordination, but

not with payments—payments will not

change systems. Sustainable community-

based projects create new systems that

bolster relationships between people and

the land—like the Southeastern African

American Farmers’ Organic Network

which is com-

mitted to cultur-

ally relevant,

ancestrally guid-

ed, and ecologi-

cally sustainable,

agricultural-

based living.

Healing entails a

community-by-

community focus

on restorations,

reparations, and

re-creations.

Collin, the

first U.S. law

professor to

teach sustain-

ability courses in a U.S. law school,

currently teaches Global Sustainability.

Prior to her tenure at Willamette Univer-

sity, she was a professor at the University

of Oregon’s Law School from 1993 to

2003. While at the UO, she cofounded

the Coalition Against Environmental

Racism’s Environmental Justice con-

ference and the Sustainable Business

Symposium, both of which continue into

their second decade.

She has been awarded the David

Brower Lifetime Achievement Award

from the UO’s Public Interest Environ-

mental Law Conference, the 2012 Oregon

Woman of Achievement Award, the

Leadership in Sustainability Award from

the Oregon State Bar, the Campus Com-

pact Faculty Award for Civic Engagement

in Sustainability, and the national Envi-

ronmental Justice Achievement Award

from the Environmental Protection

Agency for her work with the Oregon En-

vironmental Justice Task Force. She was

a founding board member of the Environ-

mental Justice Action Group of Portland,

and a founding member of Lawyers for a

Sustainable Future.

Collin’s talk is free and open to the

color. Registration is required to par-

ticipate in the live Zoom event. Register at:

ohc.uoregon.edu. The talk will be recorded and available for viewing on the

OHC’s YouTube channel. For more information contact ohc@uoregon.edu.

Give to the
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edu/ohc2020
Spiritual leaders speak about their social activism

How has the COVID-19 crisis, and our responses to it, revealed the injustices endemic to our culture? How can we turn things around? And what role does religion play in confronting this crisis?

The UNESCO Chair in Transcultural Studies, Interreligious Dialogue and Peace and the UO-UNESCO Crossings Institute will host a series entitled “Getting Religion Right in a Time of Crisis.” Sister Helen Prejean will talk about her recent book *River of Fire: On Becoming an Activist* (Random House, 2019) on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 7 p.m. And on the following Wednesday, October 21, also at 7 p.m., Rabbi Michael Lerner will talk about his recent book *Revolutionary Love: A Political Manifesto to Heal and Transform the World* (University of California Press, 2019). Both talks will be presented via Zoom.

In her book, *River of Fire*, Sister Helen Prejean shares the story of her growth as a spiritual leader, speaks out about the challenges of the Catholic Church, and shows that joy and religion are not mutually exclusive. She writes about the relationships with friends, fellow nuns, and mentors who have shaped her over the years.

Sister Helen has been instrumental in sparking national dialogue on capital punishment and in shaping the Catholic Church’s vigorous opposition to all executions. In 1982, she began corresponding with Patrick Sonnier in the Louisiana State Penitentiary. He had been sentenced to death for the murder of two teenagers. Two years later, when Sonnier was put to death in the electric chair, Sister Helen was present to witness his execution. In the following months, she became the spiritual advisor to another death row inmate, Robert Lee Willie, who was to meet the same fate as Sonnier. After witnessing these executions, Sister Helen realized that this lethal ritual would remain unchallenged unless its secrecy was stripped away, and so she sat down and wrote a book, *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States*. That book ignited a national debate on capital punishment and was turned into an Academy Award winning movie and an extraordinarily moving opera.

Social theorist and psychotherapist Rabbi Michael Lerner has developed a continued on page 4