

About the Authors

(In the order of the chapters they contributed)

Doudou Diène was born in Senegal. He holds a Law degree from the University of Caen, a Ph.D. in Public Law from the University of Paris, and a diploma in Political Science from the Institut d'Études Politiques in Paris. Mr Diène joined the UNESCO Secretariat in 1977 and in 1980, he was appointed Director of the Liaison Office with the United Nations Permanent Missions and departments in New York. In 1993, he was appointed Director of UNESCO Division of Intercultural Projects, including the Slave Route (now renamed as Routes of Enslaved Peoples), Routes of Faith, Routes of al-Andalus, and Iron Roads in Africa. In 2002, Mr Diène was appointed by the Commission on Human Rights as Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. In 2017, he was appointed by François Hollande, former President of France, to lead the public interest group “Mission on the Memory of Slavery, Treaties and their Abolition.” He is the author of numerous publications and has chaired and been the distinguished guest on various panels, as well as radio and television programmes.

Scherto R. Gill is Professor of Research and Director of the Global Humanity for Peace Institute at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. She is also a Senior Fellow at the Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace and a Research Fellow at the University of Sussex. Scherto serves on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Studies in Spirituality*. She is a Life Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA) and a laureate of the 2022 Luxembourg Peace Prize. Additionally, she is a Trustee of the Rising Peace Forum and a Board Member of the Spirit of Humanity Forum.

Garrett Thomson is the Chief Executive Officer of the Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace and holds the Compton Chair in Philosophy at the College of Wooster. He is the author, co-author, or co-editor of 27 books. His works on peace and well-being include *Happiness, Flourishing and the Good Life* (2020), *Understanding Peace Holistically* (2019), *On the Meaning of Life* (2002), and *Needs* (1987). He has also written about politics and economics, including *Beyond Instrumentalised Politics* (2024) and *Beyond Instrumentalised Economics* (2025).

Vamik D. Volkan, M.D., DFLAPA, FACPsa, is internationally renowned for over 40 years of work bringing conflicting groups together for dialogue and mutual understanding. He is an Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Virginia, the Senior Erik Erikson Scholar at the Erikson Institute of Education and Research at the Austen Riggs Center, and an Emeritus Training and Supervising Analyst at the Washington Psychoanalytic Institute. He holds honorary doctorates from Kuopio University in Finland and Ankara University in Turkey. He is also President Emeritus of the International Dialogue Initiative.

Ola Osman is an Assistant Professor of Black Health at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto. She holds a PhD in Politics and International Studies from the University of Cambridge's Centre for Multi-Disciplinary Gender Studies, where she was a Gates-Cambridge Scholar. Dr. Osman earned an MA in Women's Studies from the University of Oxford, supported by the Clarendon Scholarship Fund and the Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud Scholarship.

Aria Florant is the CEO and co-founder of Liberation Ventures, an organization accelerating the Black-led movement for racial repair in the United States. She is a bridge-builder between Black and white communities, movement and mainstream initiatives, and ethnic studies and finance. She embodies the multiplicity of these worlds, and her work is grounded in creating spaces where all people's whole selves can belong.

Nina Yancy is a researcher, lecturer, and consultant whose work examines the relationship between geography, politics, and prejudice in the U.S. context. A political scientist by training, she is the author of *How the Color Line Bends: The Geography of White Prejudice in Modern America* (Oxford University Press, 2022). Currently, she serves as a lecturer at Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs, teaching graduate and undergraduate courses on race, place, and public policy.

Melissa Wood Bartholomew, PhD, JD, MSW, MDiv (she/her) is the Associate Dean for Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DIB) at Harvard Divinity School, where she also lectures on DIB. She is a Christ-centered minister and a racial justice and healing practitioner with nearly a decade of experience practicing public interest law. Dr. Bartholomew is committed to a multifaith, multidisciplinary, Afrocentric approach to healing justice, rooted in the African philosophy of Ubuntu, restorative justice, and love.

Bettina E. Schmidt, DPhil (habil.), PhD, MA, is a Professor in the Study of Religions and Anthropology of Religion at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, and Director of the Alister Hardy Religious Experience Research Centre, UK. She has previously worked at the universities of Marburg (Germany), Oxford, and Bangor and has been a visiting professor at the City University of New York and the Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo. She has published extensively on Caribbean and Latin American religions. Her research interests include the anthropology of religion, diaspora identity, religious experience, spirituality and well-being, and gender. Her fieldwork has been conducted in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Ecuador, New York City, and São Paulo.

Jeff Leonardi has over 40 years of experience as a person-centred counsellor, supervisor, and trainer and has been an ordained Anglican priest for over 30 years. His PhD focused on the spirituality of the person-centred approach in relation to Christian spirituality and its implications for ministry and pastoral practice. His postdoctoral research explores what he terms "relational spirituality." He is an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, affiliated with the Religious Experience Research Centre.

Jabriel Malik Hasan is a community healer and advocate whose commitment to service spans multiple roles, including Resident in Counselling, lay leader in The Episcopal Church, and ordained interfaith minister. He serves as Co-Chair for the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia's Truth and Reparations Task Force and as an alumni representative on Union Presbyterian Seminary's Board of Trustees. He is a recent graduate of William & Mary, and the author of numerous local publications.

Alice McCarthy Sommerville is a researcher at the Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace, where she coordinates the UNESCO Intergenerational Dialogue & Inquiry and Collective Healing Circle programmes. Her research focuses on the intersections of education, ethics, and mutual well-being. She is also a Trustee of the Seaford Environmental Alliance, which supports community and environmental regeneration.

Machiel Keestra is the Central Diversity Officer of the University of Amsterdam, where he is an Assistant Professor at the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies. He is a member of the research groups *Logic and Language* at the Institute for Logic, Language and Computation and *Neuroaesthetics & Neurocultures*. He serves on the editorial advisory board of *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies* and is co-founder of the foundation Ketu Kotu Table, a facilitated personal dialogue initiative focused on mitigating racism, discrimination, and stereotyping, particularly in relation to post-slavery and post-colonial histories.

Durwin Lynch Durwin Lynch is a driven, curious, self-forgiving, coach, mentor, bridge builder, scholar, and lecturer at the Athena Institute (VU) He also works closely with diverse grassroots organizations through various research projects, involving students as much as possible, through which he develops further and refines innovative and creative methodologies to address complex societal problems. He is a facilitator of the Ketu Kotu Table.

Mercedes Zandwijken is a social activist and the initiator of the Ketu Kotu Dialoog Tafel, a new tradition commemorating the abolition of Dutch slavery and reflecting on slavery's present-day consequences. Every year on 1st July, the day of commemoration and celebration of the abolishment of the Dutch Slavery in 1863, the Ketu Kotu Foundation organizes diverse dialogue tables, with thousands of participants to date. In 2010, she received the Democracy Ribbon from jury chairman Mr. Deetman for founding local think tanks on social cohesion and integration, fostering marginalized groups' participation in local decision-making processes.

Isadora Canela is a Brazilian artist, researcher, and co-founder of Collective WEBS, based in the mined region of Brumadinho, Minas Gerais. Her research explores the decolonization of thought, land, peoples, and bodies in the context of the Anthropocene. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Social Justice at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David.

Elsa Cuissard is an interdisciplinary researcher and project organizer based in Berlin. Her work examines the role of educational and artistic spaces in addressing contemporary socio-political issues. She co-founded Collective WEBS, an organization producing artistic projects that challenge dominant narratives, power relations, and ways of being in the world, fostering new perspectives on the "other" (both human and non-human).

