

## **The Art of Teaching/Learning: Nonkilling Leadership Academies 2009-2011 (A Reflection):**

### **Choreographing nonkilling movements**

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(This is a remembrance celebration to honor the legacy of Glenn D. Paige and the early CGNV and CGNK leaders. It is a call to explore possibilities for a similar academy of action/research/teaching/training/learning/service/policy/praxis in 2022 and beyond.)

An ensemble of nonkilling advocates came together in 2008 to design and choreograph a three year global leadership academy initiative. Akin to experimental theatre it was a blend of styles, approaches, pedagogy, and creative impulses. Inspired by Glenn D. Paige's book, *Global Nonkilling Political Science* and his vision, the Center for Global Nonkilling (CGNK) was launched in 2008. Professor Paige conducted the team. Like the musician he was as a younger man, Glenn helped inspire our troupe to use the rigor and discipline of a core curriculum while encouraging improvisation. In 2009-2011 the CGNK atelier brought dozens of creative colleagues together to shape the unique initiative and hosted three global leadership academies in Hawai'i with philanthropic support from Humanity United. A decade later the art of bringing young leaders together to learn and lead a nonkilling society continues to inspire. This article reminds us that teaching and training are creative enterprises requiring a vision and the passion to make it happen.



Forty two young participants from more than twenty nations and states attended the Nonkilling academies. The participants were from Bangladesh, Canada, China, Colombia, Germany, Guatemala, Liberia, Haiti, India, Iran/UK, N. Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Liberia, Nepal, Palestine, Philippines, Rwanda, Thailand, Trinidad Tobago, United States and Western Sahara.

As reported in the summary of the 2009 Academy written by Joám Evans Pim, the purpose and desired outcomes for the academies were to:

- Share personal experiences related to killing and nonkilling to generate new knowledge, insights and opportunities for nonkilling leadership;
- Introduce knowledge and skills to support nonkilling leadership;
- Evoke new ideas for action; and
- Create a network of engaged, mutually supportive nonkilling leaders.”

The Academy was supported and mentored by a core CGNK faculty who were helped in person and virtually by two Nobel Peace Laureates (Mairead Maguire and Shirin Ebadi), Global music star Juanes, Dr. Bernard Lafayette (close ally of Martin Luther King Jr.) and many others who represented governments, UN agencies and NGOs, business, military and universities. These guests, who are too many to mention here, were a galaxy of stars in peacemaking leadership who appreciated the power and wisdom of the nonkilling way.

The participants from over 20 nations were there to learn about major Nonkilling topics, as reported in the 2009 report, including:

“Human nonkilling capabilities and potential;

Current and historical examples of women and men nonkilling leaders;

Fundamental approaches to nonkilling;

Understanding the major sources and causes of killing;

Global advances and trends toward nonkilling societies;

Resources to support nonkilling initiatives;

Identifying and overcoming barriers to nonkilling;

Overview of the latest research related to nonkilling;

Cultural and spiritual implications to nonkilling;

Theories of change and effective strategies for change agents; and

Effective nonkilling leadership.”

To complement CGNK’s burgeoning global network of hundreds of universities and institutes which include thousands of scholars, professors currently producing books, articles, essays, videos, as well as CGNK’s course curriculum offerings online (see CGNK website [www.nonkilling.org](http://www.nonkilling.org)), we should reawaken the art of leadership academies.

Perhaps it is time to schedule more CGNK leadership academies starting with a virtual Zoom reunion organizing session in 2021-2022. As one of the founders and early CGNK leadership team hosting the original academies, I learned so much from the young leaders. Here are a few insights:

"We are all ohana (family) with differences, disagreements, and disputes yet with shared infinite possibilities for a better society; share stories and food and see the commonalities and differences, listen attentively;

Let’s design learning sites inside and outside - nature and classrooms, books and beaches, enjoy field trips together; just connect, and help each other;

Share resources, networks, contacts, access freely; and encourage playful, focused futures visioning a la Chaiwat Satha-Anand and Elise Boulding."

These simple lessons could be guidance for future events. I called CGNK Leadership Academy Dean Luis Botero at his home in Medellin, Colombia to discuss our work together at the Academy. He said: "I was impressed by how people who never knew each other could share together as if they had been brothers and sisters forever." Also Luis stated that he was inspired by "the academy’s participants’ grasp of the logic and applicability of nonkilling and nonviolence concepts." Through this unique three year effort and experiment to bring young leaders from across our fragile interconnected home planet together in the most remote place on Earth, we were able to initiate a web of friendships, collegiality, and professional networks. In many cases these leaders continue their efforts near and far. How do we find inspiration from the arts, literature, poetry, music, dance, sculpture, painting, cooking, theatre to develop new approaches to training young leaders in the arts and science of nonkilling?

An update with snapshot interviews of past academy participants is on our agenda. Here is my poetic visual tapestry of gratitude and possibility that continues with this montage of names as a graphic reminder of friends across cultures and geography who came together to study Nonkilling: Usha, Pamela, Pewee, Sidi, Joeven, Saiful, Pratubjit, Brad, Shalu, Anis, Prisca, Lubna, Brian, Zena, JuanMa, Kerry, John, Jennifer, Dennis, Jackie, Manish, Daniela, Wilson, Fiona, Haimeng, Aya, Wiliwu, Misha, Rameshwar, Bindu, Jaimie, Chayanit, Joseph, Nargess, James, Mira, Filibert, Paula, Diesa, Shimon, Kara, Michele, Chaiwat, Greg, Karen, Glenn, Glenda, Joám, LouAnn, Katherine, Tom, Luis. No more killing.

**\*\*Luis Botero and I commit to helping schedule a reunion of CGNK leadership academy participants, faculty, staff, and guests in 2022. We look forward to seeing you first on Zoom and eventually in person. Let's begin to design a leadership academy for each continent over this decade and encourage young leaders to work together for a nonkilling future. Grateful thanks everyone.**