

I am a Canadian of British settler origins and it is our custom where I come from in British Columbia to acknowledge that I have the privilege of living and working on the traditional territories of the Lekwungen Indigenous Peoples. It is also considered good manners to acknowledge that we are meeting today on the traditional territory of the Seminole People's.

I will do two things: First share the titles and themes of four very recently published books that speak to global challenges facing us in our communities both local and global, and Second to share a video that has been made for the Global University Network for Innovation in response to an invitation to students and civil society organisations around the world to imagine the world they would like to see.

1. Former US President Jimmy Carter's A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power

"The world's discrimination and violence against women and girls is the most serious, pervasive, and ignored violation of basic human rights"

2. Thomas Piketty, French Economic Historian's Capital in the 21st Century, the #1 best seller on the New York Times non-fiction list...sold 100K in two months.

"Because return on investment historically outstrips growth, wealth will concentrate to levels incompatible with democracy, let alone social justice. Capitalism, in short, automatically creates levels of inequality that are unsustainable. The rising wealth of the 1% is neither a blip, nor rhetoric."

3. Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

"Without additional efforts to reduce GHG emissions beyond those in place today, emissions growth is expected to persist driven by growth and in global population and economic activities. Baseline scenarios, those without additional mitigation, result in global mean surface temperature increases in 2100 from 3.7 to 4.8C compared to pre-industrial levels"

4. Epistemologies of the Global South: Justice Against Epistemicide by the Portuguese sociologist Boaventura de Sousa Santos

“The Understanding of the world by far exceeds the Western understanding of the world. There can be no global social justice without global cognitive justice”

According to UNESCO, approximately 600 languages have disappeared in the last century and they continue to disappear at a rate of one language every two weeks. Up to 90 percent of the world’s languages are likely to disappear before the end of this century if current trends are allowed to continue.