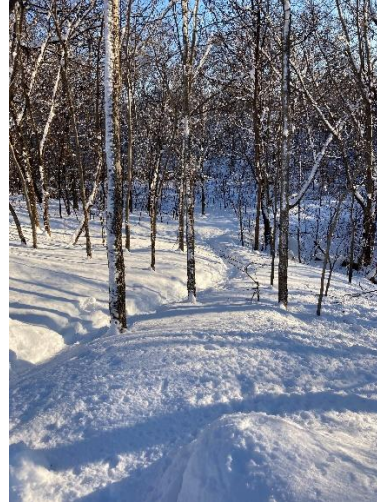


January 2024



Letter from the Executive Director

Speaking of Good Stuff, I've just added [The Wisest One in the Room](#), by renowned psychologists Thomas Gilovich and Lee Ross, to my own list of things I'm grateful for as we welcome the new year 2024.

It's a book I bought on a whim years ago and, as life happens, I let sit on my bookshelf until a few weeks ago. It's a book that emphasizes problem solving, by focusing on how people think and why it matters. It seems especially relevant now.

Our focus at t2pRI is on moral, purposeful, and emotionally intelligent leadership in contextually-specific organizations, without boundaries.

I can't help but wonder how we can connect this work to other big issues and everyday life.

During times like this, when (where I live) winter-with-snow is more of an idea than a lived reality, I'm reminded of my friends and former colleagues in places like Samoa where there is no separation between humans and the natural world. (Just imagine Samoa's ethereal teal-purple-blue sunsets as you read this.)

In Samoa, the concept of the environment, separate from humans, is a wholly imported one not because the natural world isn't valued, but because humans are simply a small if powerful part of the natural world rather separate from it. (I recognize we don't need to travel to Samoa to learn from cultures with similar perspectives!)

For the uninitiated, such of-the-natural-world human humility requires an emotional shift and a wholly different form of self-awareness. I spent years working as part of a team to foreground indigenous epistemologies through intentionally designed learning experiences. We hoped individual students connecting with communities might create opportunities for new, emotionally-aligned ally-ships in both policy initiatives and lived lives based on shared values, mutual dignity, and empathy.

I can't wait to see what 2024 holds for our community as we welcome new Future Leaders, Mentors and Research Fellows. Their guiding light will challenge us and stretch us in new ways that will make our path crunch with added meaning, whether it's the crunch of snow or sand beneath our feet.



- Brian Hammer, PhD

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