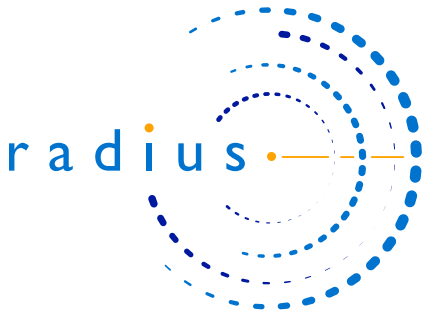


ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



Exploring ethics at the center
of science and technology

Dear friends,

This was a year of many changes. Our MIT community experienced the challenge of finding our footing after the pandemic, and the joy of welcoming a new president with a strong vision for creativity and collaboration. Throughout the Institute, we have needed to step back, take stock, and make plans for the future we want to see.

Here at Radius, we benefited greatly this year from the leadership of Acting Director Nina Lytton, who combines the thoughtful listening of a chaplain with the clear analysis and forward thinking of her prior career as a strategic and organizational change consultant. Nina met with a broad selection of students, faculty, staff, and alumni to understand the history, strengths, and opportunities for Radius. Her well-considered recommendations are on page 2 of this report, along with an update on page 3 about her new role with the Office of Religious, Spiritual, and Ethical Life.

In order to make an even stronger contribution to ethical reflection at MIT, we are bringing Nicholas Collura on board as the first full-time Director of Radius in August. Radius and the Technology and Culture Forum have built a unique legacy here at MIT, one that deserves the full attention of a creative and strategic leader.

I am excited to be making this investment in the future of Radius, and grateful for your partnership as we seize the unique opportunity of this moment.

With appreciation,

Thea Keith-Lucas, Chaplain to the Institute



Please join us in welcoming **Nicholas Collura** as Director of Radius. Nicholas brings thirteen years' experience as a chaplain and leader for a variety of communities, including college students, adults with intellectual disabilities, and incarcerated youth. Most recently, he founded and expanded programs for spiritual care at health care institutions in the Philadelphia area. Nicholas is completing a Doctor of Ministry degree integrating depth psychology and contemporary neuroscience through Fordham University. He is also a peer leader in the Jewish Heritage Museum's Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics program, which creates dialogues among engineers, businesspeople, attorneys, journalists, religious professionals, and physicians on pressing ethical issues of the day. Our search committee highlighted his capacity to listen well, develop a strategic vision, and invite collaboration.



Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Five Recommendations for a Campus - and World - in Transition

Situation Analysis from Nina Lytton, Acting Director

1) For decades, friends of Radius have valued the program's independence from the MIT administration and its ability to raise a dissenting voice. There are few other programs like it, other than the Faculty Newsletter. As of January 2022, after more than half a century, Radius is no longer an outreach of the Episcopal Diocese, and is now more embedded in the structure of MIT.

After discussion with the Steering Committee members, who include key members of the Faculty Newsletter, Radius will actively complement the Faculty Newsletter to support the vital role of questioning business as usual.

2) Radius is now a part of Student Life at MIT.

This opens the doors to many new partners, and makes it easier for Radius to collaborate in important initiatives that affect student welfare, such those expressed in President Kornbluth's February 17, 2023 letter on freedom of expression on campus.

3) After the pandemic shutdown, Radius had almost no brand awareness on campus. Among current undergraduates, only the seniors had been exposed to Radius in real life through posters, events, classes, or support in connection with sit-ins and demonstrations. Because of COVID disruptions, three cohorts of undergrads had no opportunity to run across Radius.

Getting Radius back into student awareness is a top priority. This academic year, Radius partnered with student leaders of the **Sustainability Group of the Undergraduate Association**, **Divest MIT**, the **Graduate Program in Science Journalism**, the **Knight Science Journalism Fellows**, the **Addir Interfaith Dialogue Fellows**, the **Interfraternity Council**, the **Native American Student Association**, the **American Indian Society of Engineers and Scientists**, and the **Planetary Health Alliance**.

4) Bill Moyer taught that four roles are required in activism and social change—the citizen, the rebel, the change agent, and the reformer. So far, Radius has helped students take on two of these roles. Radius supports the education of citizen-scientists via the course, 24.191: Ethics in Your Life. Radius staff have served as mentors to students who are in the rebel phase of their activism.

Today, there is an opportunity to help student activists build leadership skills as change agents and reformers. Radius can create opportunities for students to:

- Move from espousing to embodying their values
- Make a strong ethical argument in person as well as on a poster
- Change the world by changing MIT



5) Over the years, Radius brought many speakers to campus. The demand for the live lecture format has changed in the wake of the pandemic.

Now, when folks do get together live, there is a pent-up hunger for in-depth, interactive conversation that contributes to building relationships, rather than the mostly one-way Q&A format. Radius events should be catalysts of connection.

What's Next for our Acting Director



We are excited to share that, with Suzy Nelson's support, the Division of Student Life (DSL) has created a new opportunity for ORSEL to strengthen our spiritual care of our Indigenous students. As a pilot program in response to students' requests for more cultural and spiritual support, we have invited Nina Lytton to serve as spiritual advisor to the Indigenous community at MIT. Nina will begin this new affiliate role in August, expanding and formalizing the work she has done with Indigenous students over the last two years in her role as interfaith chaplain. She will also continue to lead the Addir Interfaith Dialogue program.

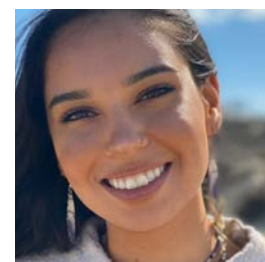
The primary goal of the spiritual advisor is to support Indigenous students as they develop their cultural identity and build their self-esteem. As spiritual advisor, Nina will help students build relationships with Indigenous elders, including leaders from local Native Nations, visiting scholars and culture bearers, and students' own extended families and communities. Together with our Graduate Community Fellow Alvin Harvey and student leaders of the Native and Indigenous Student Association, she will also provide ongoing cultural and spiritual support through community gatherings and individual mentoring. She will partner with Indigenous student leaders and Native American Studies faculty to educate the MIT community about Indigenous culture and sovereignty, Indigenous contributions to science, and ethical issues that intersect with Indigenous concerns.

A Sloan School graduate and successful business consultant with expertise in enterprise systems computing, Nina was inspired to make a change by her encounters with students in the Fossil Free MIT movement. Through her master's degree from the Meadville Lombard Theological School, field study at the Humanist Hub at Harvard, and clinical pastoral education at Brigham and Women's Hospital, she followed her dream to become an interfaith chaplain and help people connect to their own spiritual and ethical roots. Nina's pastoral sensitivity, deep knowledge of MIT, grounding in native Hawaiian cultural practice, and commitment to the larger Indigenous community make her uniquely suited to this role.

RADIUS PROGRAMS 2022-2023

For more information about all of our programs, please see the program archive on our website: radius.mit.edu

Radius engaged with 293 students through partnering with 24 MIT organizations and student clubs during the 2022-23 academic year. In the Radius tradition, we hosted speakers and discussions. **AI With A Soul**, featuring **Blake Lemoine**, attracted a standing-room only crowd and featured discussion facilitated by MIT Office of Religious, Spiritual and Ethical Life chaplains. **Madeline Ostrander**, author of **At Home on an Unruly Planet**, joined us for an author talk and writing workshop in partnership with the **Knight Science Journalism Office** and the **MIT Humanist Chaplaincy**. Radius partnered with the **Native American Student Association** and the **Addir Interfaith Dialogue Fellows** to offer a **Thanksgiving Mythbusting Dinner and Dialogue** featuring Aquinnah Wampanoag activist **Samantha Maltais** (pictured).



To cultivate the student leaders of social justice movements, Radius introduced a new format – student activist mixers – focused on building community around reproductive rights and planetary health. **The Planetary Health Mixer**, cosponsored by the **MIT Climate Nucleus**, the **MIT Environmental Solutions Initiative** and **Earth Month at MIT** brought together representatives of 13 MIT student clubs.

In partnership with the **Native American Student Association**, and with financial support from the **Interfraternity Council**, Radius offered a road trip to the **Indigenous National Day of Mourning** on Thanksgiving Day. We were joined by the **Harvard Natives** and the **Harvard Kennedy School Women of Color**. The partnership with the Native American Student Association also supported a discussion and dialogue on **Indigenous Ethics** with **Dr. Juan Carlos Chavez**, and a screening of the movie, **We Still Live Here**, with the **Addir Interfaith Dialogue Fellows**.

Embodying the value of solidarity, Radius supported programming by community organizations including: **Class Action's 10th annual First-Gen Summit**, **Massachusetts Peace Action's** annual conference **Reducing the Threat of Nuclear War**, and The **Boston Latin School's Youth Climate Action Network Conference**.

THE WILLIAM R. AND BETSY P. LEITCH ETHICS SEMINAR

Doing. Being. Thinking. (Or Not!): Ethics and Your Life: 24.191

Over the semester, 14 engaged and curious students took on tough ethical questions about complex topics. **Dr. Anni Raty**, an MIT postdoctoral fellow in Philosophy, co-taught the class with Interfaith Chaplain **Nina Lytton**, and brought a thorough and grounded approach to the conversations. Guest philosophers included **Dr. Quinn P. White** (Harvard), **Dr. Samia Hesny** (Boston University), and **Eliza Wells 'G** (pictured).

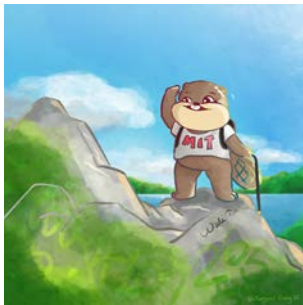


The Leitchs' generous sponsorship enabled the class to break bread together each week. Perfect strangers developed into a trusting and open community, with students lingering to talk afterwards.

Topics included racism, capitalism, environmentalism, love, workplace culture, community, and the power of activism. Some of the liveliest and most memorable classes explored Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in higher education. One week, we watched the **MIT Free Speech Association's** debate, **Should Academic DEI Programs be Abolished?** The next week, students practiced holding disagreements not only by examining the arguments, but also by discerning the emotions, assumptions and motivations of the debaters.

The students' written reflections and final presentations were insightful, moving and deeply personal. Students confidently articulated their ethical positions, and outlined how they could better embody their values in their personal, professional and community lives. They discovered their power to influence others through the example of their own everyday behavior.

Once again we offer our sincere gratitude to Professor Sally Haslanger and Professor Kieran Setiya for their commitment to this important partnership between Radius and MIT Philosophy.



“Has my thinking changed? Beginning the semester, I thought nothing can be done. Now, I see that community action can have an impact, but we must start with organizing.”

- Pedro Colon '23

“Before this course, I had the mindset that my actions had little effect on others and therefore were not wrong.”

- Jose Gomez '23



Wide Tim art - Margaret Zheng '23

Community, Ethics, and Leadership: ES.S90

In partnership with the **Educational Justice Institute**, Chaplain **Thea Keith-Lucas** taught our second Leitch Ethics seminar this Spring, bringing together women from **MIT, Harvard, and Wellesley** with incarcerated women at the **South Bay House of Corrections in Boston**. This course combines philosophy, psychology, and political theory to explore how small communities work and what skills leaders need to collaborate well. It is powerful to witness women of different ages and backgrounds supporting one another in their development as leaders.

INTO THE ARCHIVES

Following her departure from MIT, **Patricia-Maria Weinmann**, long-time Associate Director of the **Technology and Culture Forum/Radius**, embarked on a thorough and fascinating archival project. Beginning with the year 1978, Weinmann began organizing the files of former Episcopal Chaplains and Directors of the Technology and Culture Forum. This list includes **The Rev. Scott Paradise, The Rev. Jane S. Gould, The Rev. Amy McCreath**, and **The Rev. Janie Donahue**.

In addition to this rich collection of files, nearly 200 audio and video recordings (many decades-old cassettes, Betamax tapes, and even reel-to reels!) of programs spanning over 40 years were identified, cataloged, and assessed for audio and/or video quality.

Approximately 50 of these recordings will be digitized and made easily available via the Radius website in the coming months. These digitized recordings are a modest representation of the depth and breadth of the program. The remaining recordings are now housed in the MIT Collections, along with files containing program information, correspondence, planning committees, and relevant newspaper and journal articles. We will also publish a comprehensive listing of all events hosted and co-hosted by T&C/Radius from 1978-2023.

The programming of T&C/Radius over these decades is nothing less than remarkable. Reading through the list of programs, it's clear that T&C, particularly in the 1980s and 1990s and into the 2000s, was well ahead of its time. T&C events covered topics such as climate change and sustainability, technology and unemployment, environmental justice, women's role in science and technology, the development of the internet and its effect on democracy, runaway capitalism, artificial intelligence and the future of work, nuclear proliferation, the university-corporate connection, and the social responsibility of the scientist, years before these topics were front-page news. The range and scope of guest speakers is extraordinary.

The impact of this storied program is immense. As T&C/Radius approaches its 60th Anniversary, may similar programming continue for decades to come. Providing the MIT community with the opportunity to come together and explore the ethical dimensions of technology and innovation has never been more urgent.



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