

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



Exploring ethics at the center  
of science and technology

## SAYING GOODBYE...

One day I was driving and the words of my heart came pouring out of the car speakers: "Oh, Patricia, you've always been my North Star..." The band Florence and the Machine wrote this song about the rocker Patti Smith, but you know which Patricia I thought of. I have relied on Trish Weinmann and her unique blend of humility and moral clarity for close to a decade now. If there's a tough conversation to be had about our choices as members of the MIT community and our responsibilities as citizens of the world, Trish is there, ready to ask the right questions and to do the hard work of change. Her passion for justice and her focus on hope and action point the way toward a more intentional life.

Trish helped choose the logo for Radius in 2014, selecting the image of loosely concentric blue and purple circles to represent the communities we gather and the conversations we spark. For many of us, Trish is the yellow dot at the center. She is a natural connector, building long and fruitful relationships with ethically-minded students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. I would bet that most of you can think of someone wonderful that you met because of Trish. She has also been the quiet center of all of our programs, handling the complex details of events with expert skill and hosting our guests with incomparable warmth and generosity.

After 38 years of promoting ethical reflection, Trish is leaving MIT to work more directly on creating justice in her community, and to dedicate more time to her decades-long opera directing career. We will sorely miss her at Radius, and we say our goodbyes with enormous gratitude and affection.

Thea Keith-Lucas, Chaplain to the Institute

As I leave MIT at the end of June, I depart with a mixture of sadness and joy, yet mostly with a sense of immense gratitude and love.

I'm deeply grateful for my decades at MIT. I am the luckiest person in the world. I have met and worked with countless astonishingly brilliant and extraordinary people and have learned and experienced so much. My time at MIT has certainly shaped me in more ways than I can even imagine.

I leave Radius/T&C in excellent hands. Nina Lytton, MIT Interfaith Chaplain, will be taking the helm as Acting Director of Radius. Nina is an alum of both Princeton and MIT, and comes with a wealth of experience. She also possesses a passion for social justice and equity that beams like a bright light. Shine on, shine bright, Radius!

Patricia-Maria Weinmann, Director of Radius



Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## ...AND SAYING HELLO

As many of you know, I have been serving as MIT's Chaplain to the Institute for two years now, first on an interim basis and now as the long-term leader of our Office of Religious, Spiritual, and Ethical Life (ORSEL). When it became clear that I would be changing jobs, we began conversations about the future of the Episcopal Chaplaincy and Radius.

While Radius (then known as the Technology and Culture Seminar) was founded in 1964 by the Episcopal Chaplain at MIT, it has always served the wider community, bridging the religious and the secular. With the permission of the Episcopal Diocese, we have moved Radius into the department, making it a direct responsibility of ORSEL and the Chaplain to the Institute.

This shift creates new opportunities on both sides. The Diocese of Massachusetts will be able to expand its campus ministries, particularly at state schools outside of Boston where the Episcopal Church has not had a significant presence. ORSEL gains a greater capacity to support the ethical life of the MIT community, building on the incredible legacy of the Technology and Culture Forum/Radius. We are also free now to look beyond the Episcopal Chaplaincy for the leadership of Radius. I am very excited to see Nina Lytton, a humanist chaplain and an experienced advocate for ethical thought and just action, step into the role of Acting Director.



Thea Keith-Lucas, Chaplain to the Institute



**Nina Lytton** is an Interfaith Chaplain at MIT, supporting social justice activists and student groups including the MIT Addir Fellows Interfaith Dialogue and the MIT Indigenous International Leadership Council. Most recently, she served as an Interfaith Chaplain in Clinical Pastoral Education at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Nina comes to ministry after a career in high tech and an informative detour in microbrewing. Nina has an economics degree from Princeton, a business degree from the MIT Sloan School, and a Master's of Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School.

## RADIUS PROGRAMS 2021-2022

*For more information about all of our programs, please check out the program archive at our website: [radius.mit.edu](https://radius.mit.edu)*

In September, Radius joined with **Build Up** and the **PKG Service Center** to offer a virtual workshop, **Rehumanizing Relationships: Transforming our Connections in the Digital Age**. Participants learned how to use social media to respond to polarizing messages with peace and clarity. We are deeply grateful to **Kate Mytty** (MIT '15) and **Danny Becker** of the PKG Center for their years of contributions to our programming focussed on anti-racism, social justice, and communicating across divides.

Beginning in November, Radius hosted **The Examined University**, a series of in-person conversations about the historic choices and current relationships that shape MIT. **David Shane Lowry**, Distinguished Fellow in Native American Studies, explored the role of a federal grant from native lands in the founding of MIT, as well as the Institute's ties to the industries that enabled westward expansion and the dispossession of native groups. MIT Professor of History **Craig Wilder** (pictured) put MIT's engagement with the legacy of slavery in the context of similar projects across elite universities. **Robert Simha**, MIT's former Director of Planning, traced MIT's changing approach towards its Cambridge land holdings over the past sixty years.



Over the academic year, Radius offered several virtual events responding to nuclear proliferation. In October, we partnered with the **MIT Faculty Newsletter** to host a conversation with **Elaine Scarry** (Harvard) and **Bob Redwine** (MIT Physics), **One Man Shouldn't Control the Nuclear Button**. We worked with **Mass Peace Action**, and many other national organizations, to offer a substantial conference in January, **Reducing the Threat of Nuclear War: Rebuilding a Broader Movement**, and a webinar in March on **Promoting Pro-Peace Platforms and Candidates in the 2022 Congressional Primaries**.

In April, Radius hosted **Labor Unions Now: A Powerful Movement or Passing Moment?** This **J. Herbert Hollomon Memorial Symposium** sparked a lively conversation among labor analyst **Tom Kochan** (MIT Sloan School of Management), award-winning journalist **Steven Greenhouse**, labor historian **Priscilla Murolo** (Sarah Lawrence College) and Amazon union organizer **Isaiah Thomas**. You can find a recording of the event on the Radius website.



In early May, we screened a powerful film, **The Boys Who Said No!** that documents the growing movement of protest against the Vietnam War in the late 1960's, led by young men who resisted the draft. Later in the month, we were delighted to welcome back to campus the **16th Annual Youth Summit on Climate and Sustainability** hosted by Boston Latin School YouthCAN and Radius. Attracting more than 300 young people, this very special annual event was focused on the theme of **Intersectionality: Fighting Back Against Disproportionate Impacts**.

## THE WILLIAM R. AND BETSY P. LEITCH ETHICS SEMINAR

### Community and the Ethics of Public Life: ES.S9I

Our Ethics of Public Life course brought together three MIT students, three Wellesley students, and three incarcerated students from the Boston Pre-Release Center's School of Re-entry to discuss the ethical dimensions of friendships, local communities, and political movements. **Thea Keith-Lucas** and teaching assistant **Eden Johnson** (Boston University School of Theology) led discussions based on the work of philosophers from Aristotle and Rousseau to Hannah Arendt and Desmond Tutu. The class culminated in group presentations on topics chosen by the students: providing free public transportation, improving sleep for individual and communal wellness, and creating employment opportunities for justice-involved youth.

### Doing. Being. Thinking. (Or Not!): Ethics and Your Life: 24.19I

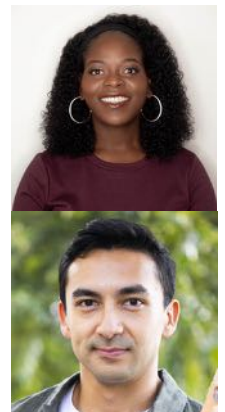
After spending almost two years teaching 24.19I via Zoom, walking into the classroom filled with lively students for our first class in early February was a joy! Over the semester, 16 engaged, curious, and thoughtful students took on tough ethical questions about complex topics. **Dr. Thomas Byrne**, an MIT postdoctoral student in Philosophy, co-taught the class with **Patricia-Maria Weinmann**, and brought a thorough and grounded approach to ethics to the conversations. We also benefited from the wonderful presence and insights of Radius intern, **Eden Johnson**, Boston University School of Theology, Master of Divinity, who forged strong relationships with the students.

Topics ran the gamut: racism, bias, ethics in the workplace, the meaning of work, the power of activism and the many forms activism can take, the history of protest at MIT, and the effectiveness of altruism and NGOs. Our speakers included:

- **David Howse**, Executive Director of ArtsEmerson;
- **Deborah Douglas**, Director of Collections & Curator, Science and Technology, MIT Museum;
- **Peter Hansen**, MIT Course Administrator, Ethics for Engineers;
- **Eliza Wells**, Doctoral Candidate, MIT Philosophy; and
- **Kevin Dorst**, Professor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh.

One of the liveliest and memorable classes was an exploration of the nature of activism. Guests **Hermese Valequez** (pictured), Executive Director of Summer Search, a non-profit serving young people in the Boston area, and **Dr. Geoffrey Supran** (pictured), MIT '15, Scientist/Activist, Harvard University, History of Science led a spirited discussion on both their own brands of activism and how their life journeys nurtured their drive to create positive change in the world.

As always, the students' written reflections and final presentations were insightful and moving. Again, our sincere gratitude to Professor **Sally Haslanger** and Professor **Kieran Setiya** for their commitment to this important partnership between Radius and MIT Philosophy.





## STEERING COMMITTEE & STAFF

### STEERING COMMITTEE

Samuel M. Allen, *Materials Science and Engineering*  
Nazli Choucri, *Political Science*  
Sally Haslanger, *Linguistics and Philosophy*  
Alison Hynd, *Public Service Center*  
Henry Jacoby, *Sloan School of Management*  
Jay Keyser, Emeritus, *Linguistics and Philosophy*  
Jonathan King, *Biology*  
William R. Leitch, '56  
Ruth Perry, *Literature*  
Robert Plotkin, '93  
Balakrishnan Rajagopal, *Urban Studies and Planning*  
Bishwapriya Sanyal, *Urban Studies and Planning*  
Keili Tucker, '23

### STAFF

Patricia-Maria Weinmann, *Director*

## RADIUS SUPPORTERS

### Endowment Leadership

William R. Leitch  
Albert O. Wilson

### Visionaries

William R. Leitch  
Peter E. Norris  
Kevin Powell  
John Suhrbier

### Leadership Circle

Samuel Allen  
Henry Jacoby  
Jeremy Clayton Johnson  
Tracy Lively  
Jeanne Paradise  
Robert Plotkin  
Alan Davidson

### Sustainers

Nazli Choucri  
Diane Davis  
Subrata Ghoshroy  
Jane Gould  
Sandra Morgan  
Ruth Perry  
Bishwapriya Sanyal  
Merritt Roe Smith  
Brigette Steadman  
Stephen Steadman  
Kristen and Christopher Wendell

