

JOHN KONICEK

Academic Advisement

How do you define “global equity” or “justice”?

For me, global equity means that all people, countries, communities have fair access to resources, technologies, and investment opportunities. Justice for me includes policies and procedures that take into account how all of the stakeholders are impacted by production, natural resources, wealth management, and education opportunities. Behaviors and policies which are “just” are those that consider first the ones who are the most vulnerable.

What international programs or projects have you participated in as part of your professional or academic career?

I studied in a German language intensive program in Munich, Germany and lived in Munich from May until August. It fulfilled part of the language requirement for my doctoral program. I am currently assisting to teach a course through Santa Clara University to which the theme is Global Justice and has students from around the world. I am fortunate to have been asked to teach the class again next year.

How has your perspective of global equity and justice challenged or informed by international education experiences?

It seemed that the Germans did a very good job of making sure everyone got what they needed in order to receive the best education, no matter who they were. There also didn't seem to be such a disparity of housing or living conditions. I also found that the Germans were willing to admit mistakes of the past and then to be determined to not repeat them.

#globalequity&justice



International Education Week

November 16-20, 2020

To promote International Education Week, the Center for Civic & Global Engagement is highlighting the international education experiences of faculty, students and staff in diverse fields of interest.

Join us in upcoming events and activities focused on this year's theme:

Global Equity & Justice

Learn more here:

<http://tiny.cc/MaricopaEW>



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Center for Civic &
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What skills have you gained from your global education experience(s)?

Although I took every opportunity to wander museums, relish the architecture, participate in festivals, eat the food, and drink the beer, the most profound learning experience was a trip to the Concentration Camp at Dachau. No history book or documentary could have prepared me for the overwhelming sadness that coursed through my body as I walked through the horror of barracks, "showers," and ovens, where so many thousands had suffered and died. I was able to contain my emotions until I came across photos of children held there. I suddenly recalled that my beloved German language teacher back in the US wore the mark of the evil of this place with her concentration camp number tattooed permanently on her arm. The thought of my dear professor struggling as a small child to survive was too much to keep in and I wept openly. I will be forever grateful for this experience, for it taught me to remain passionately committed to fight against the evils of the injustice of racism, especially in our own cultures.

How do you think you will apply these experiences in your future (or current) career?

This experience gave me a strong understanding that living as a globally just person or culture takes practice and a willingness to look at ourselves honestly. Like any skill, if we do not seek to be aware of those areas where we need to work for and remain committed to justice, we run the risk of losing remembrance of those who suffered and died because of injustice. And then we are often destined to keep repeating injustice.

How important are intercultural communication skills in your FOI?

Why do students need to build these skills to be successful in this industry?

Practicing intercultural communication skills involves the willingness to acknowledge that another person might have a very different context or experience. True intercultural communication requires sharing ideas to learn and grow, rather than just being right. We are much stronger when all perspectives are allowed a place at the table. All students can benefit from these skills to help all to be successful, rather than the destructive practice of needing winners and losers.