

Our 2017 Theme: Through the Lens of Disparities



Following our Statement of Purpose (“The Global Citizenship Alliance promotes education for engaged knowledge and responsible action in an interdependent world”), each year we choose an overarching theme for our seminars which can work like a magnifying glass to organize the diverse and often confusing aspects of what constitutes the experience of a globalizing world.

In 2016, the overarching theme of our programs was the refugee situation in Europe. The focus in 2017 will shift to the topic of **DISPARITY** in its many dimensions – whether it relates to wealth and poverty, race or ethnicity, education, health, gender, political representation, or general access to resources.

Etymologically, the term *disparity* invokes the condition of *in-equality* and, by extension, of imbalance, gap, divergence and even injustice. An important factor of

global citizenship is the deliberate effort to become aware of these inequalities, to understand who gets the shorter end of the stick, and why, and to ask the question if and how we may be part of the problem. Disparities are not an evil in and by themselves but they pose the question of recognizing that there can be breaking points and turning points, crossroads and collisions.