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**DR MARIA MONTESSORI**  
**THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**  
**Lecture for the World Tour, October – December 2007**

*Phyllis Wallbank, MBE*

ABSTRACT

After a brief note on Dr Montessori's life, the lecture goes on to present three of Montessori's four stages of human development: 0-6, 7-12, 13-18, concentrating somewhat more on the 13-18 stage of adolescence. The lecture also draws upon and integrates Mrs Wallbank's rich experience of having run the Gatehouse School at London and the Gateway School at Great Missenden, as also her ongoing reading of the work of the philosopher-theologian-economist Bernard Lonergan as well as current brain research.

## **DIGITAL PERSISTENCE**

*Julian Fox, SDB*

### **ABSTRACT**

The article is a message about conservation in the digital world. The well-known acronym URL deals with a Universal Resource Indicator or an unambiguous address for every object. This is not simply a technical issue, but has more philosophical foundations. Virtue is only virtue when it becomes habitual or 'persistent.' Given the ephemeral nature of digital bits and bytes, we have to take action to obviate the danger of losing digital memory in the short term. The essay concludes with some technical but essential information about how to ensure such persistence.

## **TAKING ECONOMIC RIGHTS SERIOUSLY**

*John M. Alexander*

### **ABSTRACT**

The aim of this article is to underline the urgency of people's economic rights by deploying Amartya Sen's insights on the interdependence between human rights and capabilities. The article argues that the human rights movement can make significant progress in the realisation of people's economic rights when poverty is perceived as a serious violation of basic human rights. On the basis of a critical analysis of the reasons for the current marginalisation of economic rights, some theoretical and practical guidelines are proposed to ensure the realisation of economic rights for everyone.

**ETHICAL LEADERSHIP**  
**The Role of Character Formation**

*Manuel Mendonca*

ABSTRACT

True and effective leadership is one in which the leader's behaviour and the exercise of the leadership influence process are consistent with ethical and moral values. This paper identifies the ethics of the leader's motives and influence process strategies. As a central theme, the paper explores the nature of the self-transformation that is needed for ethical leadership—more specifically, the role of character formation through the practice of virtue.

# THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL FRAMEWORK OF TRADITIONAL YORUBA SOCIETY

Some Philosophical Implications for Contemporary Society

*Olatunji A. Oyeshile*

## **ABSTRACT**

Contemporary global society, and in particular African society, manifests deep social and political problems for which the solutions offered do not seem adequate. In Africa, for instance, Marxist, modernist, postmodernist, and post-colonial theories have been occupying centre stage. Even a variant of feminist theory has been proposed, in an attempt to get beyond the traditional patriarchal African political configuration. All these theories have had at most partial success. An adequate and viable socio-political framework for accelerated development in Africa is still being sought. In view of all this, the article focuses critically on the socio-political framework of traditional Yoruba society, proposing that such a framework can serve as a good basis for addressing the problem of socio-political development in contemporary Africa.

**INSPIRED DIVINATION AND THEURGY IN  
IAMBlichUS' *ON THE MYSTERIES*  
Allusions to Egyptian Esotericism**

*Isha Gamlath*

ABSTRACT

Iamblichus' *On the Mysteries* is the most extensive surviving treatise from late antiquity on divination and its typology. Iamblichus' description of divination enhances his exploration of theurgy and clarifies the role of inspired divination within theurgic ritual. In establishing the validity and appropriateness of theurgy for the soul's ascent to the intelligible realm and subsequent union with its sources, Iamblichus derives substantial insight and inspiration from the Near Eastern esoteric tradition, notably the Egyptian. This paper examines Iamblichus' interpretation of inspired divination and theurgy tracing a noticeable allusion to the sacrificial and hieratic rites within the framework of Egyptian esotericism.