

Bio: Dr. Jim Thomas was a professor of epidemiology and ethics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill for more than 30 years. He has worked in more than 40 countries. His epidemiologic focus was on the influence of social forces such as mass incarceration on the distribution of disease. He was the principal author of the U.S. public health code of ethics. During Covid, he advised, wrote and spoke on pandemic ethics. He remains active internationally as a teacher and speaker and is writing a book on the distance between our intentions in addressing global health and the eventual outcomes.

Title: Decolonizing the Western Mind

Summary: Emeritus Professor, Dr. Jim Thomas is looking back at his career for ways that he participated in colonizing systems. He is identifying narratives that drive a Western colonial mindset within himself, but also in American colleges and universities. In his talk, Dr. Thomas will share some of those narratives and ways of resisting them as ways of decolonizing the mind.