



2020 IMPACT REPORT

**IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE
THROUGH SCIENCE**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

03	Message from the President
04	Our Mission, Vision, and Values
05	East Tampa Academy
07	East Pasco Initiative
09	Quality of Life
11	Prosocial
13	Seshat: Global History Databank
15	2020 Impact by the Numbers
17	EI board and staff spotlight

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Evolution Institute,

2020 has been a year we will all remember. As the world's population faces an unprecedented pandemic, we rely on scientists and researchers to provide the necessary medical outcomes to produce a vaccine that will allow us to return to normal living. Science is essential to conquering the epidemic that has threatened much of the world's population this year.

For 10 years, the Evolution Institute has worked to apply science-based solutions and use evidence-based practices to solve today's most pressing social issues to improve quality of life. As we reflect on this year, and the decade since we were founded, we remain convinced of the importance of this work to shaping a stronger future.

We are grateful to the funders and donors who continue to support our efforts. With

your help, our projects are addressing quality of life and reducing inequalities, early childhood education and educational outcomes, promoting positive societal change in cultural ecosystems, and the study of global history.

Throughout the past decade, EI has grown our board of directors, our associates, our funders, our organization's partners and the communities we serve. We look forward to the year ahead and are optimistic our work will continue to positively influence our world.



Best,
Michelle Shimberg

OUR MISSION

Apply science-based solutions and use evidence-based best practices to solve today's most pressing social issues to improve quality of life.

With many of our proof of concept programs focused in marginalized neighborhoods in west Florida, our aim is to develop innovative yet practical approaches that are replicable, scalable and adaptable to specific needs and opportunities of communities around the world to positively affect societal problems, and serve the needs and aspirations of its members for the public benefit of all.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to apply research, knowledge and expertise in order to elevate quality of life, advance social justice and human equality, and add value to issues affecting humanity for the benefit all people.

OUR VALUES

We are committed to being part of the solution.

- We believe in a just and fair society. Everything we do is oriented toward the welfare of others and society as a whole.
- We believe in the importance of scientific knowledge, research, evidence and facts and the importance in applying these to help others and improve the world.
- We value quality of life for humans, and the environment that sustains them, now and for future generations.
- We value diversity and have respect for all communities and cultures.
- We value democratic practices, secular education, free inquiry, and humanistic philosophy and ethics.
- We value cooperation and collaboration and believe in working together to help others and to improve the world.
- We value inclusivity and believe that first and foremost every human being deserves the same rights and respect.
- We value an understanding of cultural evolution and believe we can learn from our history, to improve our future.
- We value innovation and creativity and believe that we can all contribute to improving the world in which we live.
- We value integrity and professionalism and operate within a framework of accountability, transparency and fiscal responsibility.



East Tampa Academy

Located in Tampa's most populated, underserved and impoverished neighborhood, East Tampa Academy is a PreK - 2nd grade community focused school designed to ensure student success. Using evidence-based best practices, we engage families in supporting their students,

so all learners achieve the reading and math skills needed to be at grade level. The school provides social and emotional skills training, project-based learning activities and additional support in order to help students prepare for a successful educational career and life.



Accomplishments in 2020 include:

- Successfully adapted to new digital curriculum in order to assist students and families during e-learning phase of spring term.
- Completed significant professional development training to school staff in order to support their use of new curriculum.
- Added certified staff members with significant teaching experience.
- PreK purchased new curriculum and trained staff members in new curriculum.
- Completed administrative documents to support PreK and Charter School operations.



In 2021, we are committed to achieving the following goals in order to continue to enrich the lives and educational outcomes of our students:

- Enlarge PreK and Charter school in order to positively affect more families in East Tampa
- Facilitate physical move to larger location to support school's growth.
- Continue to demonstrate student learning growth at every grade level including PreK.
- Maintain professional staff and continue to provide learning and growth opportunities for staff.
- Engage families more in supporting education once environment allows for safe on-site meetings with family members.
- Develop more partnerships to support ETA learners and their families in order to provide necessary "outside of school" services that will allow them to make the education of students a priority.

East Pasco Initiative

In our continuing mission to address inequities within the Pasco Coalition area, we are proud to announce the opening of the East Pasco Academy. East Pasco Academy is a project over two years in the making, developed to meet the needs for a quality early childcare center in TommyTown. What makes this project unique is its vision to offer a bilingual and multicultural

space for all families that want the best for their children. Initial feedback from the families we serve has been very positive, with parents expressing satisfaction and appreciation because now there is a school just a few minutes' walk away from their homes, so they can walk child to school every morning.



Some highlights from 2020 for this project include:

- East Pasco Academy opened its doors for the first time in Fall 2020
- The school remained opened and dedicated staff has provided a quality early learning experience to several children
- Had the privilege of providing the local community of low-income immigrant families with a top quality VPK program.
- Continued to work towards establishing a culture of cooperative business within the local community.
- Forged additional strategic partnerships to help us achieve our goals of addressing agriculture, affordable housing, economic development, and healthcare initiatives.



In 2021, this initiative will be focused on:

- Increasing enrolment
- Cultivating meaningful relationships of trust with families and community partners
- Providing additional support to families who may be experiencing structural, cultural, and bureaucratic barriers
- Serving the needs of the community i.e. meals, transport, after-school program
- Accessing additional funding for meaningful certifications and programs that foster mental health and long-term success for children and their families
- Conducting Agricultural Assessments for the creation of community gardens that will provide a constant food source as well as economic development opportunities
- Creating an entrepreneurship cohort for community members within the geography of the Pasco County area, in conjunction with cooperative business start-up education.

Quality of Life Initiative

Our Quality of Life initiative focuses on researching and understanding the key to other nations' success in promoting high quality of life, and low inequality, among residents. Through the lens of evolutionary science theory and practice, we ascertain how these nations evolved culturally, are sustained, and to what

extent certain aspects can be successfully adopted in other communities of need. With a primary focus on Norway and collaboratives in Mondragon, Spain, we aim to understand what elements of their success we can emulate in the west Florida communities we are deeply engaged with and can benefit the most.



In 2020 we focused on expanding our research and collaborations with the following achievements:

- Conducted our first “All Virtual” Spring Seminar with Mondragon and Evolution Institute.
- Continued to connect with foundations that align with our Quality of Life initiative
- Met with Advent Health and their partners to discuss community healthcare along with their participation in purpose-built communities.
- Forged relationships with national Agricultural organizations which ultimately brought about connections to local food systems experts
- Participated in regular interactions with the Pasco Economic Development Council as we continue to value their integral role in this ecosystem
- Initiated a relationship with Democracy Collaborative that is engaged in cooperative development and networking in the US and internationally



In 2021, this initiative will:

- Engage with strategic organizations to develop a strategy for the assessment and building of Affordable Housing
- Cultivate relationships with Healthcare organizations for the purposes of creating a comprehensive community health program
- Work with local food systems experts to conduct Agricultural Assessments for the creation of community gardens that will provide a constant food source as well, as economic development opportunities
- Create entrepreneurship cohorts for community members within the geography of the Pasco County Initiative, in conjunction with cooperative business start-up education via Mondragon partnership
- Explore the strategy of converting existing businesses into worker cooperatives as a strategy to save struggling businesses and to create the foundation of a cooperative ecosystem.



Prosocial

Prosocial is a framework for working with single groups and multi-group “cultural ecosystems” around the world to achieve positive change. Prosocial makes use of many of the same techniques that experienced community

activists, but in a way that can be rapidly transmitted to communities worldwide and can be applied to any context, such as education, urban revitalization, health, and environmental sustainability.

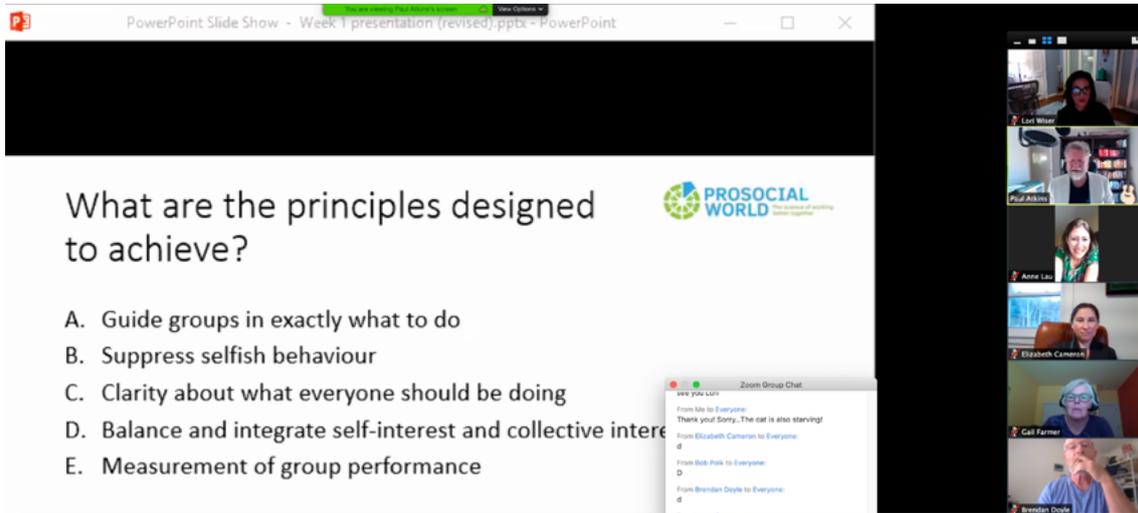


Photo taken prior to COVID

This year saw continued growth for the Prosocial project with the following achievements:

- The completion of a grant from the UK’s National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) implementing Prosocial in the UK with a sustainability focus.
- A new grant from Partners for a New Economy to implement Prosocial with their organizations.
- A new grant from the Templeton Religion Trust to add spirituality training to Prosocial.
- An article published in [Nature Scientific Reports](#) demonstrating the generality of Prosocial’s Core Design Principles and

- identifying deficits in business groups.
- A partnership with EthicalSystems.org to work with corporations to help manage their cultural evolution, with Shopify as our first client.
- A randomized control trial currently underway at Fordham University's Gibelli School of Business.



In 2021, the Prosocial project will be focused on:

- Expanding facilitator training capacity.
- Developing focus areas of economics, business, schools, spirituality, and regenerative agriculture.
- Developing collaborations with other organizations such as Sociocracy, Doughnut Economics Action Lab, EthicalSystems.org, and Boston Consulting Group.
- Developing the basic and applied scientific research arm of Prosocial.
- Integrating the activities of Prosocial with TVOL and other EI projects.

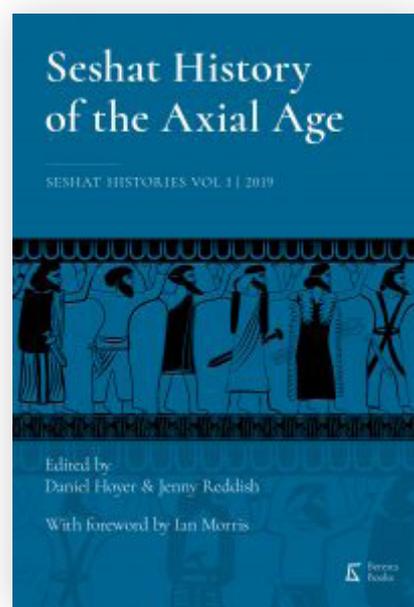
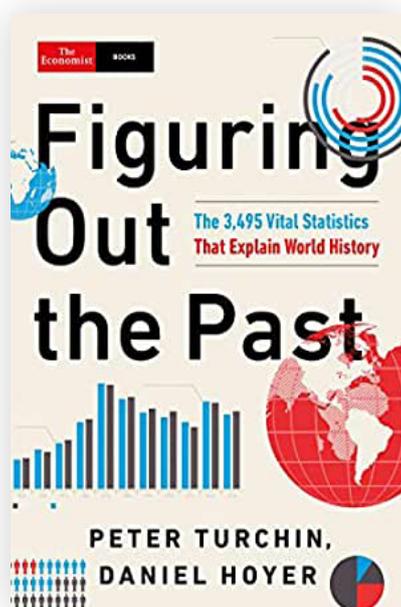


Seshat: Historical Databank

Seshat: Global History Databank was founded in 2011 to bring together the most current and comprehensive body of knowledge about human history in one place. The huge potential of this knowledge for testing theories about political and economic development has been largely untapped. Our unique Databank systematically collects what is currently known about the social and political organization of human societies and how civilizations have evolved over time. This massive collection of historical information allows us and others to

rigorously test different hypotheses about the rise and fall of large-scale societies across the globe and human history.

Working with a large international and multidisciplinary team, our project offers the means to study the past through well-established scientific techniques. We believe that our approach is the best way to provide meaningful answers to some of the most important questions about the human experience.



Highlights from our achievements over 2020 include:

- Published Figuring Out the Past, a fact book based on Seshat methodology and data collection accessible to the wider public.
- Released the [Equinox 2020 dataset](#) in March 2020 on a new Mediawiki-based platform. This data includes updated general and social complexity variables and newly released warfare and religion variables.
- The Social Complexity dataset has been used in tutorials and hackathons by our partner TerminusDB (formerly DataChemist). Read more about this [here](#) and [here](#).
- Work has continued on our Seshat Histories project. Seshat History of Human Sacrifice and Seshat History of Moralizing Religion are slated to be published in 2021.
- Colleagues at the Santa Fe Institute used Seshat data as the base of a [Nature Communications paper](#). This is an exciting example of the use of Seshat data by the wider academic community.
- Members of the Seshat team lent research, modelling, and editing skills to the Complexity Hub, Vienna [in their analysis](#) of the effectiveness on COVID-19 policies.
- Associated Pieter Francois and Harvey Whitehouse secured a large grant from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office.
- We have also secured a 6-year grant from the Austrian Research Promotion Agency for the Social Complexity and Collapse research group at the Complexity Science Hub, Vienna, headed by Dr. Peter Turchin.

Seshat will be focused on the following in 2021:

- We will publish Seshat History of Human Sacrifice and Seshat History of Moralizing Religion
- We plan to hold three virtual or in-person workshops on cleaning Seshat data using R, CrisisDB analyses, and archaeological and anthropological evidence in partnership with Seshat contributor Prof. Alan Covey.
- We have four preprints that have been submitted for publication. At least five additional papers will be finished and submitted for publication in 2021.
- We plan to hire a database technician through the Complexity Science Hub to help us convert our database into a fully functional triple-store with help from TerminusDB.
- The first analyses for the Historical Peace Index and CrisisDB will be undertaken.

2020 IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

PEOPLE

170	Students impacted	22	Seshat workshop attendees
97	Families impacted	50	Quality of Life workshop attendees
200	trained by Prosocial as facilitators	388,424	Unique website visitors
800	Prosocial group members		

PARTNERSHIPS

- Tampa Housing Authority
- Frameworks
- Hillsborough County Public Schools
- Rainbow Heights Civic Association
- Kiwanis Club
- Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Gamma Eta Chapter
- Florida Department of Education
- Children's Board of Hillsborough County
- Straz Center for Performing Arts
- James & Amy Shimberg Foundation
- Bible Truth Ministries
- Potter Elementary School
- Early Learning Coalition
- Cornerstone Family Ministries Child Care Food Program
- Hillsborough County Florida Affordable Housing Services
- Farmworkers Self-Help
- Resurrection House
- Moore Mickens School
- Tri-Lacoochee Steering Committee
- Pasco Economic Development Council
- Lanki Institute of Cooperative Research
- LKS Next of Mondragon
- Arne Naess Center University of Oslo
- De Facto Norway
- Sociocracy for All
- Doughnut Economics Action Group
- Shopify
- Fordham University's Business School
- Ethical Systems.org
- Issachar Fund, Templeton Religious Trust
- National Institute of Economic and Social Research
- Kauffman Foundation
- Templeton World Charity Fund
- Partners for a New Economy
- Complexity Science Hub, Vienna, Science Complexity and Collapse Research Group
- Institute for Economics and Peace, Historical Peace Index
- University of Oxford
- TerminusDB
- Cooperative Development Institute (CDI)

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH



5

Prosocial training workshops



10

Quality of Life workshops



2

Seshat workshops



100

TVOL Magazine articles published



5

Articles published on the Prosocial project



28,598

Followers on social media channels

85%

of all donations received go directly to supporting our applied projects.



RESEARCH



5

Scientific research articles published (1 Prosocial, 4 Seshat)



48,336

Data points collected for the Seshat Databank



2

Books published related to the Seshat Databank

EI BOARD AND STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Aisha Vasquez

East Tampa Academy School Director

I am very fortunate to have worked alongside the best in the fields of education and business. At East Tampa Academy, this fortune continues to grow. So much of my work as the School Director is focused on collaborating with my staff to establish a community culture of care, compassion, and consistency for our students and their families. It's no surprise that we are making this happen at East Tampa Academy on a daily basis, and I couldn't be more proud of what we are able to accomplish together.

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Dave Bjorklund

Evolution Institute Vice President

I'm proud to serve on the Board of Directors because I share the Evolution Institute's belief in using science (especially evolutionary science) to solve real-world problems.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN CREATE
A BETTER WORLD IN 2021 –
ONE THAT VALUES SCIENCE
AND ITS IMPORTANT
APPLICATIONS IN IMPROVING
QUALITY OF LIFE AND
ADVANCING SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EQUALITY.**

JOIN THE EFFORT!

On Our Website | www.evolution-institute.org/give-science
PayPal Giving Fund | www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/74200
Cash or Check Mail to | 10627 Machrihanish Cir. San Antonio, FL 33576

**ALL OF THIS IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE
OF SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU**