



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
OISE | ONTARIO INSTITUTE
FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

Words to the Department of Social Justice Education Class of 2020

We celebrate the achievements of our graduating class, convocating November 2020, with a selection of quotations from the work of philosopher and poet from the Caribbeans, Édouard Glissant:

The Open Boat

“We know ourselves as part and as crowd, in an unknown that does not terrify. We cry our cry of poetry. Our boats are open, and we sail them for everyone.”

Édouard Glissant, *Poetics of Relation*, University of Michigan Press, 1997, p. 9.

“We must learn to remember together”

“When it comes to relations among communities, forgetting is a particular and unilateral way to build relationships with others, whereas memory, which is not simply a remedy for forgetting, but literally its bursting and its opening, can only be common to all. Forgetting offends, and memory, when shared, abolishes this offence. Each one of us needs the memory of the other because what is at stake is not a virtue of compassion or charity, but a new clarity within a process of *Relation*. And should we wish to share the beauty of the world, should we wish to stand alongside its sufferings, we must learn to remember together.”

Édouard Glissant, *Une nouvelle région du monde*, Gallimard, 2006. (Trans. Institut du Tout-Monde).

Quotation from Édouard Glissant engraved on one of walls of the *Mémorial de l'abolition de l'esclavage de Nantes*. May 10, 2014. <https://www.lesmemoiresdesesclavages.com/memorial9.html>

The West

“The West is not the West. It is a project, not a place.”

Édouard Glissant (1989). *Caribbean Discourse: Selected Essays*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, p. 2.

November 26, 2020