



DECO Conference Agenda | In-person

Updated 11.14.22

Dates: Wednesday, Nov. 16-Thursday, Nov. 17 – 9am-4pm • *There is also a pre-conference reception and poster session on Tuesday, Nov. 15.*

Theme: Living Inquiry: Using Action Research to Investigate Empathy in Informal Learning

Facilitator: Jessica Luke, Ph.D., Director, Museum Studies Program | University of Washington

DAY ONE	Time (approximate)	Description
	9:00am	Welcome, opening remarks: Jim Wharton, Seattle Aquarium
	9:30-10:00am	Plenary session: Bryan Nichols, Florida Atlantic University "Pathways to Compassion for Animals: Concepts and Progressions for More Effective Goals & Assessments"
	10:00-10:15am	Small group reflection and discussion
	10:15-10:30am	BREAK
	10:30-11:30am	Case study: Kathryn Owen, Kathryn Owen Consulting and Courtney Cordova, Henry Vilas Zoo "Testing Interpretive Messages for Empathy Impact"
	11:30-12:15pm	LUNCH
	12:15-1:15pm	Panel discussion: "New Directions in Understanding Empathy for Wildlife" Cam Whitley, Western Washington University; Bryan Nichols, Florida Atlantic University; Jeffrey Skibins, East Carolina University; Louise Chawla, University of Colorado
	1:15-2:00pm	Facilitated brainstorm: Jessica Luke Small group ideation: questions that could be pursued via action research on grounds
	2:00-2:15pm	BREAK & GALLERY WALK
	2:15-3:30pm	Presentation: "To Empathy & Beyond: Addressing the Gap Between Empathy and Conservation Action" Marta Burnet, Woodland Park Zoo; Kerrie Littlejohn, Woodland Park Zoo; Carol Strecker, Minnesota Zoo; Jennifer Kleen, Roosevelt Park Zoo
	3:30-4:00pm	Closing remarks and Day 1 wrap-up*
**5-6:30pm All conference attendees are invited to the networking Happy Hour at Ivar's on Pier 54		

DAY TWO	Time (approximate)	Description
	9:00am	Welcome
	9:05-9:45am	Plenary session: Cameron T. Whitley, Western Washington University "Using Animal Portraiture to Develop Empathetic Response"
	9:45-10:00am	Plotting a course for the day: goals and process
	10:00-10:15am	Share out from virtual convening: ideas for action research – Bradley Smith
	10:15-10:30am	BREAK & GALLERY WALK
	10:30-11:30am	Nuts & Bolts of Action Research – Jessica Luke
	11:30-12:15pm	LUNCH
	12:15-1:00pm	Working session: forming work groups, developing areas of focus
	1:00-2:00pm	Working session: refining questions, ideating methods, developing study plans
	2:00-2:15pm	BREAK
	2:15-2:45pm	Virtual working groups share out: study topic, key questions, next steps
2:45-3:15pm	In-person working groups share out: study topic, key questions, next steps	
3:15-4:00pm	Closing: planning next steps, closing remarks & farewell	