



Agenda

November 18 and 19, 2020 | 9am–1pm Pacific each day

Preconference: Tuesday, November 17 (all times Pacific)

Preconference evaluation clinic (optional)

Practical tools for measuring empathy-related outcomes in zoo and aquarium programs.

11:30am–1:30pm | Zoom

Facilitators: Sarah Brenkert, principal evaluator at the Seattle Aquarium, and Kathayoon Khalil, Ph.D., conservation impact manager at the Oregon Zoo.

There is no cost to participate in the virtual evaluation clinic, but please [register here](#) by November 13.

[Join clinic via Zoom.](#)

Empathy movie night watch party (optional)

My Octopus Teacher | Netflix Watch with Friends; Zoom for discussion afterward 4–6pm; film is 85 minutes long and post-movie discussion is 30 minutes.

[Join Netflix watch party.](#) (See Watch with Friends instructions in November 12 email for setup directions.)

[Join post-movie discussion via Zoom.](#)

Day one: Wednesday, November 18 (all times Pacific)

[Zoom link for all conference sessions.](#)

9–9:45am Welcome, purpose of convening and participant introductions.
Facilitator: Jessica Luke, Ph.D., University of Washington Museology Program.
Welcome: Jim Wharton, director of conservation engagement and learning, Seattle Aquarium.

Facilitated animal encounter: Kraken (giant Pacific octopus).
Conversation and octopus Q&A with Aquarium staff.

9:45–10:20am **B.N. Horowitz, M.D., and the species-spanning nature of empathy**
(30–35 min).
B.N. Horowitz, M.D., is on the faculty of Harvard Medical School, the Harvard Department of Human Evolutionary Biology and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.
Format: one-on-one interview facilitated by Kathayoon Khalil, Ph.D., conservation impact manager at Oregon Zoo.

10:20am Break.



10:25–11am Mapping the landscape of empathy research.
Format: Lightning Talks. Five minutes from each presenter on:

- One to three things research tells us about empathy, especially vis-à-vis empathy for animals/wildlife and conservation.
- One question or research direction that would be interesting to pursue.

Lightning Talk presenters:

- **Sara Konrath, Ph.D.** *The science of empathy.*
- **Susan Clayton, Ph.D.** *Predictors and consequences of empathy.*
- **Jerry Luebke, Ed.D.** *Empathy for animals: state or trait?*
- **Nette Pletcher.** *Evaluation marks the spot: empathy is the treasure.*
- **Louise Chawla, Ph.D.** *From empathy to environmental despair: helping children cope.*

11:05–11:15am Fishbowl discussion: Jim Wharton, Wei Ying Wong, Ph.D., and Kathayoon Khalil, Ph.D., briefly reflect on and discuss key points from Lightning Talks.

11:15–11:50am Small-group break-out rooms to discuss (30–35 minutes plus optional break).
Conceptboard documentation of themes from discussions.

noon–12:40pm Begin facilitated brainstorming of intriguing questions/new research directions. Whole-group discussion.
Facilitator: Jessica Luke.

12:40–1pm Reflection: Summarize key themes and learnings from the day. Plan for what needs to happen next.

[End day one]

2:30pm **Virtual Happy Hour** (optional)

Bring your empathy-themed cocktail or mocktail and get to know your colleagues! Bonus: we'll do a meet and greet with our pets, plants or anything else we've cared for (sourdough starter, anyone?).

Please join us!

[Zoom link to join happy hour.](#)



Day two: Thursday, November 19 (all times Pacific)

[Zoom link for all conference sessions.](#) (Same as day one.)

- 9–9:30am Warm-up and greeting.
Reflection on first-day themes: think/pair/share conversations.
- 9:30–9:50am **Investigating empathy case study No. 1.**
Autumn Russell, director of education at Akron Zoo, presents a case study of empathy-related action research.
- 9:50–10:10am **Investigating empathy case study No. 2.**
Inger Lerstrup, Ph.D., University of Copenhagen, presents on preschoolers' interactions with small animal life and with each other, and how these experiences may prepare a foundation for motivation to conserve forests and biodiversity.
- 10:10–10:15am Break.
- 10:15–11am **Part one:** Generating a research framework—**articulating** questions that could guide future research for the field.
Facilitator: Jessica Luke.
- 11–11:10am Break.
- 11:10am–noon **Part two:** Generating a research framework—**refining and prioritizing** questions that could guide future research for the field.
Facilitator: Jessica Luke.
- noon–12:30pm Participants present opportunities for action research and/or ideas that may have come up during the conference and invite collaborators.
Facilitator: Jessica Luke.
- 12:30–12:50pm Whole-group discussion: next steps.
Facilitator: Jessica Luke.
- 12:50–1pm Wrap-up, thank-you and farewell.

[End day two]