

DECO Conference

nov. 18-19, 2020

DEVELOPING EMPATHY FOR CONSERVATION OUTCOMES

Cage Studies

① AUTUMN RUSSELL

- Current Zoo language increases disconnect between people & nature (e.g. captivity, cage, etc.)
- Replace:
captivity → human care
the wild → native habitat
holding → bedroom
cage → mesh
- New to the field were the first adopters.
- Be intentional about language



Research
Direction

Day 2

WHAT'S MISSING

- ➔ Equity & Cross-cultural work
- ➔ Empathy for non-living and non-animals
 - plants
 - taxidermy
- ➔ Intersections with other disciplines.



BARRIERS

- ✗ Access to research
- ✗ Perception of expertise
- ✗ Timelines

② INGER LERSTRUP

- How can we design rich outdoor settings for preschool students?
 - ↳ make habitats for plenty & varied creatures.
 - ↳ let children share and learn from each other.
 - ↳ support interest with tools and stories
 - ↳ allow experiments (w/in reason!)



what now?

★ increase opportunities for collaboration

★ conduct more research & evaluation

★ implement empathy work in an inclusive way

let's go!