DECO Conference
DEVELOPING EMPATHY FOR CONSERVATION OUTCOMES

Day 2

Case Studies

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 Directions

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

INGER LERSTRUP

- How can we design rich outdoor settings for preschool students?
  1. Make habitats for plenty & varied creatures
  2. Let children share and learn from each other
  3. Support interest with tools and stories
  4. Allow experiments (w/in reason!)

What now?

- Increase opportunities for collaboration
- Conduct more research & evaluation
- Implement empathy work in an inclusive way

Day's Illustration