

Program of events



**THE LOVE
CONSORTIUM**

2026 TLC Virtual Love Conference
October 13, 2026

2026 TLC Virtual Love Conference

Schedule at a glance

Tuesday
October 13, 2026
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM*
Zoom

*Times listed are
Eastern Daylight Time

- 9:00 Welcome and vision for the day
- 9:10 Revisiting idiosyncratic effects in romantic love
- 10:25 Flash talk session 1
- 11:00 Break
- 11:30 Love through the lens of culture and society
- 12:45 Keynote: An agenda for the future of scientific research on love
- 1:30 Break
- 2:00 Flash talk session 2
- 2:35 Love and morality
- 3:50 Wrapping up and TLC funding announcement

2026 TLC Virtual Love Conference

Speaker details

9:00 AM

Welcome and vision for the day

TLC Director Sara Algoe¹

¹University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

9:10 AM

Revisiting idiosyncratic effects in romantic love

"Synchrony across relationship stages: From initial connection to enduring love" by Emily Diamond¹, Tatum Jolink², Annika From³, Eric Tu⁴, Savannah Adams¹, Kareena Del Rosario¹, Elizabeth Bruch¹, Anna Luerssen⁵, Amy Muise⁴, and Amie Gordon¹

¹University of Michigan, ²University of Wisconsin-Madison, ³University of Nebraska-Lincoln, ⁴York University, ⁵Lehman College, CUNY

"Relationships as microcultures theory" by Maya Rossignac-Milon¹, Lydia F. Emery², Emma S. Miller³, Joshua C. Jackson⁴, Erin K. Hughes⁵, and Eli Finkel⁶

¹University of Navarra, Spain, ²University of Chicago, ³Columbia University, ⁴Harvard University, ⁵Fairfield University, ⁶Northwestern University

"Sorry Gary: Love takes more than speaking the right language" by Emily Impett¹, Sharon Flicker², and Flavia Sancier-Barbosa³

¹University of Toronto, ²California State University, Sacramento, ³Colorado College

"Capturing the universal crush but missing the spark: Dominant target-specific constructs and modest idiosyncratic effects in romantic interest" by Dongming Qin¹, Jingmin Qin¹, Peilian Chi¹, and Zhiling Zou²

¹University of Macau, China ²Southwest University, China

10:25 AM

Flash talk session 1

"Parenting with pride: Authentic and hubristic pride have unique links to parental well-being" by Princeton Chee¹, Andrew Elliot¹, and Bonnie Le¹

¹University of Rochester

"The Love Neuropsychological Regulatory System (LNRS): Toward an integrative theory of human adaptation, emotional resilience, and flourishing" by Madhushani Rathnayake¹

¹The Open University, Sri Lanka

"Buying (quality time): How time saving purchases predict relationship satisfaction" by Ashley Whillans¹, Jessica Pow², and Joe Gladstone³

¹Harvard University, ²BCG (Boston Consulting Group), ³University of California, San Diego

"Love as an adaptive mechanism: A meta-analysis of paternal presence and child survival under natural fertility and mortality conditions" by Anna Kuzstal¹, Marta Kowal¹, Nela Tomala¹, Jakub Pietrzak¹, and Piotr Sorokowski¹

¹University of Wroclaw, Poland

"When sex doesn't 'Just Happen': Understanding and shifting beliefs about planned sex in long-term relationships" by Amy Muise¹, Katarina Kovacevic¹, Eric Tu¹, and Natalie Rosen²

¹York University, Canada, ²Dalhousie University, Canada

11:00 AM

Break

11:30 AM

Love through the lens of culture and society

“Age differences in the wellbeing benefits of helping are behavior-specific and culturally variable” by Irene Teulings¹ and Rui Sun²
¹University of Oslo, Norway, ²ESADE Business School, Ramon Llull University, Spain

“Learning love through black feminist thought: Black adults' reflections on love, care, and collective well-being” by Seanna Leath¹ and Alexandria Onuoha²
¹Washington University, ²University of Tennessee, Knoxville

“How social class shapes the conditions of love: Higher social classes are more sensitive to partner social worth and less sensitive to partner appreciation” by Huixian Yu¹, Arie Kruglanski¹, Ed Lemay¹, and Molly Ellenberg¹
¹University of Maryland

“Shared cultural beliefs on love in everyday life: Insights from Spain and Brazil” by Saida Heshmati¹, Jaymes Paolo Rombaoa¹, Lindy Williams², Dana Hussein¹, and Zita Oravec²
¹Claremont Graduate University, ²Pennsylvania State University

12:45 PM

Keynote address: An agenda for the future of scientific research on love

Sara Algoe¹
¹University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

1:30 PM

Break

2:00 PM

Flash talk session 2

“Observing interpersonal emotion regulation in the lab: Developing a behavioral coding system with romantic couples” by Sara Cloonan¹ and Richard B. Slatcher¹
¹University of Georgia

“The gravity of love: Quantifying the intrinsic decline of satisfaction in romantic relationships” by Jose-Manuel Rey^{1,2} and Jorge Herrera de la Cruz³
¹Complutense University of Madrid, Spain, ²Harvard University, ³CEU-San Pablo University, Spain

“Seeing conflict from a distance: Examining the effects of psychological distancing on partner responsiveness during conflict” by Hope White¹, Sandra L. Murray², Mark D. Seery², James K. McNulty³, Andrea L. Meltzer³, and Michael Irias³
¹University of Nebraska-Lincoln, ²University of Buffalo, SUNY, ³Florida State University

“Do repeated apologies lose their effectiveness in romantic relationships?” by Emily Bosche¹, Karina Schumann¹, and Sammy Goldman¹
¹University of Pittsburgh

“The role of relational uplifts in buffering and recovering from relational hassles” by Esra Ascigil¹, Emre Selcuk², and Gul Gunaydin²
¹Brandeis Univeristy, ²Sebançi University, Turkey

2:35 PM

Love and morality

“The moral weight of love: Development of relationship-based expectations for prosocial motives” by Em Berman¹ and Amrisha Vaish¹
¹University of Virginia

“Examining childhood and adulthood religiosity as cross-cultural antecedents for experiencing compassionate love and satisfaction in social relationships” by Atara Lonn¹, Cheryl Harasymchuk¹, and Beverley Fehr²
¹Carleton University, Canada ²University of Winnipeg, Canada

“To love and care for young children in Eastern Kentucky Appalachia” by Iris E. Jeffries¹, Shay B. Seneker¹, and Meredith L. Rowe¹
¹Harvard University

“Sexual racism in dating: A moral exception to prejudice?” by Hanieh Naeimi¹, Y. Andre Wang¹, and Emily Impett¹
¹University of Toronto, Canada

3:50 PM

Wrapping up and TLC funding announcement

TLC Director Sara Algoe¹
¹University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Posters

*While there will not be a formal poster session, links to the posters will be shared with attendees at two designated times during the conference and by email with all registered attendees after the conference.

"Love as a context for recognizing sexism: Men's perceptions of their romantic partners' experiences of sexism" by Alyssa DeBlaere¹, Emily J. Cross^{1,2}, and Amy Muise¹

¹York University, Canada, ²St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Canada

"The relational mindfulness paradox: Greater awareness and lower relationship satisfaction after infidelity" by Julitta Dębska¹, and Katarzyna Walęcka-Matyja¹

¹University of Lodz, Poland

"Most first dates are with strangers, but most romantic relationships are with friends" by Katherine Jones¹, and Jessica Cameron¹

¹University of Manitoba, Canada

"Mindfulness, affection, and love: How affectionate behavior links relationship mindfulness to relationship satisfaction" by Dagna Kocur¹, Aleksandra Żenda¹, and Yudi Tri Harsono²

¹University of Silesia, Poland, ²State University of Malang, Indonesia

"What does parasocial love feel like? Subjective feelings and electrophysiological responses to love-stimuli in parasocial love" by Magda K. Martinez-Mata¹ and Sandra J. E. Langeslag¹

¹University of Missouri-St. Louis

"Characterizing interpersonal interactions that elicit elevation as a moral emotion: Evidence for an interpersonal exchange framework" by Samantha Mattheiss¹ and Rhett Diessner^{2,3}

¹Felician University, ²Bahá'í Institute of Higher Education, Iran, ³Lewis-Clark State College

"Ambivalent sexism and relational expectations: Who is expected to sacrifice in romantic relationships?" by Elif Mestanlı Sarı¹, Erica Hepper¹, and Aife Hopkins-Doyle¹

¹University of Surrey, England

"Intimate partner violence working indirectly through mental health in predicting identity styles" by Hans Saint-Eloi Cadely¹, and Tyler-Ann Ellison¹

¹University of Rhode Island

"Compassion and compassionate love in first interactions" by Susan Sprecher¹, and Beverley Fehr²

¹Illinois State University, ²University of Winnipeg, Canada

"Is the ideal family a loving one?: Attachment and sociocultural variation in family representations" by Jessica Stern¹, Mahée Gariépy², Amélie Gagné², Alice Wagneur², and Audrey-Ann Deneault²

¹Pomona College, ²University of Montreal, Canada

Posters (cont.)

“Cultivating love through gratitude benefits the highly anxious” by Orchee Syed¹, John Coffey¹, and Katherine Nelson-Coffey¹

¹Arizona State University

“Romantic chemistry: An understudied ingredient in the science of love” by Eric Tu¹, Emily Diamond², Annika From³, Tatum Jolink⁴, Cheryl Harasymchuk⁵, Emily Impett⁵, Amie Gordon², Harry Reis⁶, and Amy Muise¹

¹York University, Canada, ²University of Michigan, ³University of Nebraska-Lincoln, ⁴University of Wisconsin-Madison, ⁵Carleton University, Canada, ⁶University of Toronto, Canada, ⁶University of Rochester

“The kind lie: Can prosocial lies nurture relationship satisfaction?” by Sebastian Wnęk¹ and Katarzyna Cantarero¹

¹University SWPS, Poland