

Program of events

**Empathy: Approaches and implications
for a divided world**

May 28, 2026



THE LOVE
CONSORTIUM



ASSOCIATION FOR
PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Empathy: Approaches and implications for a divided world

Schedule at a glance

Thursday

May 28, 2026

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Barcelona Convention Center

*Times listed are local Barcelona Time

- 8:30** Breakfast
- 9:00** Opening remarks
- 9:15** Keynote address
- 10:00** Developmental approaches to studying empathy
- 11:00** Break and meet-and-greet
- 11:30** Empathy as a dyadic process
- 12:30** Integrative discussion
- 1:00** Group lunch and poster session
- 2:30** Flash talk session
- 3:00** Testing the costs of empathy
- 4:00** Break
- 4:15** Future research and funding opportunities
- 4:50** Closing remarks

Empathy: Approaches and implications for a divided world

Speaker details

9:00 AM

Opening remarks

"Why empathy?" by Sara Algoe¹

¹University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

9:15 AM

Keynote address

"For better or worse: The role of religion for empathy and intergroup relations" by Patty Van Cappellen¹

¹Duke University

10:00 AM

Developmental approaches to studying empathy

"Tracing the emergence of empathy in early childhood: A cross-cultural approach" by Zanna Clay¹, Carlo Vreden^{1,2}, Joanna C. Buryn-Weitzel³, Georgia Tuohy¹, Elizabeth Renner^{1,4}, Eunice Ndyareeba⁵, and Katie E. Slocombe³

¹Durham University, ²DIPF|Leibniz Institute, ³University of York, ⁴Northumbria University, ⁵Kabale University

"Emotion recognition in vocal bursts during early childhood predicts empathy" by Özge Ugurlu¹, Anna Luerksen², Oliver P. John³, and Özlem Ayduk³

¹Georgetown University, ²Lehman College, ³University of California, Berkeley

"Empathy and moral development: A systematic review and meta-analysis" by Anne Van de Vijver¹, Inez Stevelmans², and Natascha de Hoog²

¹University of Antwerp, ²Open University of the Netherlands

11:00 AM

Break and meet-and-greet

11:30 AM

Empathy as a dyadic process

"Build better relationships: Positive empathy facilitates capitalization" by Gregory Depow¹, Amie Gordon², Yumeng Gu³, and Chris Oveis¹

¹University of California, San Diego, ²University of Michigan, ³BetterUp

"The artificial-empathy paradox, or — What we value in human empathy" by Anat Perry^{1,2}

¹Hebrew University of Jerusalem, ²Harvard Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study

"Empathically effective perspective taking requires incorporation of new information" by Sara Hodges¹ and Murat Kezer¹

¹University of Oregon

12:30 PM

Integrative discussion

Sara Algoe leads a group conversation on the morning's talks and their implications for empathy research.

1:00 PM

Group lunch and poster session

"Does belief in unlimited empathy predict extraordinary altruism" by Paige Amormino¹, Penny Li², Jeffrey Gao², Kyle F. Law³, Ah Yeong Kim², Megan Kozak-Williams⁴, and Abigail Marsh²

¹Pennsylvania State University, ²Georgetown University, ³Arizona State University, ⁴Linfield College

"Extending empathy to old friends: Friendship resiliency and the endurance of social bonds" by Kristina K. Castaneto¹, Zhanna Lyubykh¹, and Lara B. Aknin¹

¹Simon Fraser University

1:00 PM

Group lunch and poster session (continued)

"Measuring intergroup empathy bias" by Marija V. Čolić¹ and Iris Žeželj²

¹Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research, ²University of Belgrade

"Generalization of dysregulated empathy from significant others to acquaintances links attachment insecurity to social anxiety disorder" by Emrullah Ecer¹, Muazzez Deniz Barut², Safira Matos³, Vera Badillo Sarabia⁴, Ekin Özalp⁵, Samantha Hellenbrand⁶, Karolina Zielińska⁷, and Cemre Naz Tomruk⁸

¹SWPS University, ²University of Osnabrück, ³Universidade de Coimbra, ⁴University of Valencia, ⁵Yeditepe University, ⁶University of Luxembourg, ⁷University of Lodz, ⁸University of Padua

2:30 PM

Flash talk session

"Association between parents' empathic accuracy in dyadic and triadic interactions and family shared time" by Anthony Mauroy¹, Justine Gaugue¹, and Sarah Galdiolo¹

¹University of Mons

"Empathy beyond emotion: Love as an interpersonal psychological orientation in a divided world" by Niluka Udayangani Hettige¹

¹University of Colombo

"My partner really gets me: Affective reactivity to partner stress predicts greater relationship quality in new couples" by Emre Selcuk¹, Gul Gunaydin¹, Esra Asicgil², Deniz Bayraktaroglu³, and Anthony D. Ong⁴

¹Sabanci University, ²Brandeis University, ³Cankaya University, ⁴Cornell University

"Rethinking the role of motivation in empathic accuracy within romantic relationships: A systematic review" by Cloé Rose Cetko¹, Lesley Verhofstadt², Nikki Taelmans², and Sarah Galdiolo¹

¹University of Mons, ²University of Gent

"Does receiving empathy always feel good? Sharing emotions may be less effective than other forms of empathy" by Leif D. Anderson¹, Dariya Ovsyannikova¹, Victoria Oldenburg¹, Y. Andre Wang¹, and Michael Inzlicht¹

¹University of Toronto

3:00 PM

Testing the costs of empathy

"Political divisions and the security of empathy" by C. Daryl Cameron¹, Abigail Cassario², Fade Eadeh³, James Floman⁴, Emily Kubin⁵, Sean Laurent¹, Michael Pasek⁶, Joseph Phillips⁷, Hannah Read⁸, and Karina Schumann⁹

¹Pennsylvania State University, ²Michigan State University, ³Seattle University, ⁴Yale University, ⁵Oxford University, ⁶University of Illinois, Chicago, ⁷Cardiff University, ⁸Duke University, ⁹University of Pittsburgh

"Behavioral evidence of reputational benefits and (minimal) costs of empathy" by Y. Andre Wang¹ and Leif D. Anderson¹

¹University of Toronto

"Trends in empathy over time and implications for burnout" by Sara Konrath^{1,2}, Alison Jane Martingano³, Morgan Stosic⁴, Mark Davis⁵, and Fritz Breithaupt⁶

¹Indiana University, ²University of Michigan, ³University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, ⁴NASA Johnson Space Center, ⁵Eckerd College, ⁶University of Pennsylvania

Empathy: Approaches and implications for a divided world

Speaker details

4:00 PM

Break

4:15 PM

Future research and funding opportunities

Co-chairs lead a generative conversation about future research questions on empathy, sharing information about identified funding opportunities.

4:50 PM

Closing remarks