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

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Speaker details

9:00 AM

Welcome and vision for the day

TLC Director Sara Algoe[1]

[1]University 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 Diamond[1], Tatum Jolink[2], Annika From[3], Eric Tu[4], Savannah Adams[1], Kareena Del Rosario[1], Elizabeth Bruch[1], Anna Luerssen[5], Amy Muise[4], and Amie Gordon[1]

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

"Relationships as microcultures theory" by Maya Rossignac-Milon[1], Lydia F. Emery[2], Emma S. Miller[3], Joshua C. Jackson[4], Erin K. Hughes[5], and Eli Finkel[6]

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

"Sorry Gary: Love takes more than speaking the right language" by Emily Impett[1], Sharon Flicker[2], and Flavia Sancier-Barbosa[3]

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

"Capturing the universal crush but missing the spark: Dominant target-specific constructs and modest idiosyncratic effects in romantic interest" by Dongming Qin[1], Jingmin Qin[1], and Zhiling Zou[2]

[1]University of Macau, China [2]Southwest 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 Chee[1], Andrew Elliot[1], and Bonnie Le[1]

[1]University of Rochester

"The Love Neuropsychological Regulatory System (LNRS): Toward an integrative theory of human adaptation, emotional resilience, and flourishing" by Madhushani Rathnayake[1]

[1]The Open University, Sri Lanka

"The gravity of love: Quantifying the intrinsic decline of satisfaction in romantic relationships" by Jose-Manuel Rey[1,2] and Jorge Herrera de la Cruz[3]

[1]Complutense Unversity of Madrid, Spain, [2]Harvard University, [3]CEU-San Pablo University, Spain

"Love as an adaptation: A meta-analysis of paternal presence and child survival under natural fertility and mortality conditions" by Anna Kusztal[1], Marta Kowal[1], Nela Tomala[1], Jakub Pietrzak[1], and Piotr Sorokowski[1]

[1]University of Wroclaw, Poland

"When sex doesn't "Just Happen": Understanding and shifting beliefs about planned sex in long-term relationships" by Amy Muise[1], Katarina Kovacevic[1], Eric Tu[1], and Natalie Rosen[2]

[1]York University, Canada, [2]Dalhousie University, Canada

11:00 AM

Break

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11:30 AM — **Love through the lens of culture and society**

"Shared cultural beliefs on love in everyday life: Insights from Spain and Brazil" by Saida Heshmati[1], Jaymes Paolo Rombaoa[1], Lindy Williams[2], Dana Hussein[1], and Zita Oravecz[2]
[1]Claremont Graduate University, [2]Pennsylvania State University

"Learning love through black feminist thought: Black adults' reflections on love, care, and collective well-being" by Seanna Leath[1] and Alexandria Onuoha[2]
[1]Washington University, [2]University of Kentucky

"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 Yu[1], Arie Kruglanski[1], Ed Lemay[1], and Molly Ellenberg[1]
[1]University of Maryland

"Age differences in the wellbeing benefits of helping are behavior-specific and culturally variable" by Irene Teulings[1] and Rui Sun[2]
[1]University of Oslo, Norway, [2]ESADE Business School, Ramon Llull University, Spain

12:45 PM — **Keynote address: An agenda for the future of scientific research on love**
Sara Algoe[1]
[1]University 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 Cloonan[1] and Richard B. Slatcher[1]
[1]University of Georgia

"Seeing conflict from a distance: Examining the effects of psychological distancing on partner responsiveness during conflict" by Hope White[1], Samantha L. Murray[2], Mark D. Seery[2], James K. McNulty[3], Andrea L. Meltzer[3], and Michael Irias[3]
[1]Unversity of Nebraska-Lincoln, [2]University of Buffalo, SUNY, [3]Florida State University

"Do repeated apologies lose their effectiveness in romantic relationships?" by Emily Bosche[1], Karina Schumann[1], and Sammy Goldman[1]
[1]University of Pittsburgh

"Buying (quality time): How time saving purchases predict relationship satisfaction" by Ashley Whillans[1], Jessica Pow[2], and Joe Gladstone[3]
[1]Harvard University, [2]BCG (Boston Consulting Group), [3]University of California, San Diego

"The role of relational uplifts in buffering and recovering from relational hassles" by Esra Ascigil[1], Emre Selcuk[2], and Gul Gunaydin[2]
[1]Brandeis Univeristy, [2]Sebanci University, Turkey

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2:35 PM

Love and morality

"The moral weight of love: Development of relationship-based expectations for prosocial motives " by Em Berman[1] and Amrisha Vaish[1]
[1]University of Virginia

"Examining childhood and adulthood religiosity as cross-cultural antecedents for experiencing compassionate love and satisfaction in social relationships" by Atara Lonn[1], Cheryl Harasymchuk[1], and Beverley Fehr[2]
[1]Carleton University, Canada [2]University of Winnipeg, Canada

"To love and care for young children in Eastern Kentucky Appalachia" by Iris E. Jeffries[1], Shay B. Seneker[1], and Meredith L. Rowe[1]
[1]Harvard University

"Sexual racism in dating: A moral exception to prejudice?" by Hanieh Naeimi[1], Y. Andre Wang[1], and Emily Impett[1]
[1]University of Toronto, Canada

3:50 PM

Wrapping up and TLC funding announcement

TLC Director Sara Algoe[1]
[1]University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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Speaker details

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 DeBlaere[1], Emily J. Cross[1,2], and Amy Muise[1]
[1]York University, Canada, [2]St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Canada

"The relational mindfulness paradox: Greater awareness and lower relationship satisfaction after infidelity" by Julitta Dębska[1], and Katarzyna Walęcka-Matyja[1]
[1]University of Lodz, Poland

"Most first dates are with strangers, but most romantic relationships are with friends" by Katherine Jones[1], and Jessica Cameron[1]
[1]University of Manitoba, Canada

"Mindfulness, affection, and love: How affectionate behavior links relationship mindfulness to relationship satisfaction" by Dagna Kocur[1], Aleksandra Żenda[1], and Yudi Tri Harsono[2]
[1]University of Silesia, Poland, [2]State 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-Mata[1] and Sandra J. E. Langeslag[1]
[1]University of Missouri-St. Louis

"Characterizing interpersonal interactions that elicit elevation as a moral emotion: Evidence for an interpersonal exchange framework" by Samantha Mattheiss[1] and Rhett Diessner[2,3]
[1]Felician University, [2]Bahá'í Institute of Higher Education, Iran, [3]Lewis-Clark State College

"Ambivalent sexism and relational expectations: Who is expected to sacrifice in romantic relationships?" by Elif Mestanlı Sarı[1], Erica Hepper[1], and Aife Hopkins-Doyle[1]
[1]University of Surrey, England

"How does gratitude promote meaning in life?" by Muireann O'Dea[1]
[1]RPTU University of Kaiserslautern-Landau, Germany

"Intimate partner violence working indirectly through mental health in predicting identity styles" by Hans Saint-Eloi Cadely[1], and Tyler-Ann Ellison[1]
[1]Unversity of Rhode Island

"Compassion and compassionate love in first interactions" by Susan Sprecher[1], and Beverley Fehr[2]
[1]Ilinois State University, [2]University of Winnipeg, Canada

"Is the ideal family a loving one?: Attachment and sociocultural variation in family representations" by Jessica Stern[1], Mahée Gariépy[2], Amélie Gagné[2], Alice Wagneur[2], and Audrey-Ann Deneault[2]
[1]Pomona College, [2]University of Montreal, Canada

Posters (cont.)

"Cultivating love through gratitude benefits the highly anxious" by Orchee Syed[1], John Coffey[1], and Katherine Nelson-Coffey[1]
[1]Arizona State University

"Romantic chemistry: An understudied ingredient in the science of love" by Eric Tu[1], Emily Diamond[2], Annika From[3], Tatum Jolink[4], Cheryl Harasymchuk[5], Emily Impett[5], Amie Gordon[2], Harry Reis[6], and Amy Muise[1]
[1]York University, Canada, [2]Unversity of Michigan, [3]University of Nebraska-Lincoln, [4]University of Wisconsin-Madison, [5]Carleton University, Canada, [5]University of Toronto, Canada, [6]University of Rochester

"The kind lie: Can prosocial lies nurture relationship satisfaction?" by Sebastian Wnęk[1] and Katarzyna Cantarero[1]
[1]University SWPS, Poland

"Navigating new terrain: Bidirectional links between social connectedness and romantic relationship satisfaction during relocation" by Amy Zucchetti[1], Anil Topal[1], and Emily Impett[1]
[1]University of Toronto, Canada