

MORAL MOTIVES AND STEM INFORMED ACTION | 2139278

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[Moral Motives Workshop Proceedings](#)

Project Description

What motivates people to act upon scientific information (or not)? This workshop brought together science communication practitioners (that is, informal educators) and social scientists to think collaboratively about this question. The goal was to have them talk directly to each other about what questions matter most for science communication: what answers moral theory might provide, and what practical insights might better inform theory.

Key Achievements

- In 2023, Knology published the conference proceedings, “Moral Motives and STEM Informed Action,” open-access. The conference opened dialogues for understanding power structures in STEM access, and accounting for the relational and care-based motivations behind STEM learning. These broader implications are applicable across STEM fields.
- We dealt with the slipperiness of defining terms like “morality” and “norms,” and the difficulty of speaking to everyone’s moral concerns. At the same time, we learned to use moral motives to spark trust, to see the nature of disagreement in science as a positive feature, and to recognize the impossibility of neutrality

Audience & Settings

Audience: science communicators, informal educators, media outlets, social theorists

Disciplinary area: cross-disciplinary, science media, education, social theory

Learning environment: News media, museums, zoos, films

Access and Inclusion

The workshop centered questions of equity by asking “Science for whom? By whom?” and pushing practitioners to center work *with* and *by*, not exclusively *for*, their audiences. A thread throughout all of the presentations was on bridging divides, healing harms, and repairing relationships.

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This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under grant [2139278](#). Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.



From Moral Motives to STEM Learning to STEM-informed Action

