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SP - (16664) - FOSTERING ECOLOGICAL CARE IN AN ENVIRONMENTAL STEM CAMP: INSIGHTS FROM YIN-YANG THEORY

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Short Abstract

Environmental, economic, health, and social upheaval in 2020 have heightened the importance attending to social emotional learning, ethics, racial justice, and care for more-than-humans as a part of disciplinary learning. This paper focuses on the notion of "care", which cuts across all of these themes. The study was designed to understand how youth came to care for more-than-humans in an environmental STEM summer residential camp. The authors found that, though youth were engaged, excited, and curious about the natural world, their engagement reproduced nature/culture binaries. The authors used constructs of affectionate knowing (Puig de la Bellacasa, 2017) and Yin-Yang theory to explain why youths' enthusiasm and even empathy were not adequate markers of care to disrupt nature/culture binaries.