

2018 Symposium Presenters

Dacher Keltner, Ph.D.

Dr. Dacher Keltner is a Professor of Psychology at the University of California at Berkeley, Director of the Berkeley Social Interaction Lab, and serves as the Faculty Director of the Berkeley Greater Good Science Center. His research focuses on the biological and evolutionary origins of compassion, awe, love, and beauty, as well as power, social class, and inequality. Dr. Keltner is the author of *The Power Paradox*, as well as the best-seller *Born to Be Good: The Science of a Meaningful Life and The Compassionate Instinct*. He has published over 190 scientific articles, including seminal works on the psychology of awe (Keltner & Haidt, 2003) and is the co-author of two textbooks. He has written for the *New York Times Magazine*, *London Times*, and *Utne Reader*, and his research has been covered in *Time*, *Newsweek*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, *CNN*, *NPR*, and the *BBC* as well as many other outlets. In addition to his university work and research, Dacher Keltner has collaborated on projects at Facebook and Google. Most recently, Keltner was the scientific consultant for Pixar's highly acclaimed film *Inside Out*, for which he helped revise the story emphasizing the neuropsychological findings that human emotions are mirrored in interpersonal relationships and can be significantly moderated by them. He has twice presented his research to His Holiness the Dalai Lama as part of a continuing dialogue between the Dalai Lama and scientists. He has received outstanding teacher and research mentor awards from UC Berkeley, and he has seen 20 of his PhD students and post-doctoral fellows become professors.

Emiliana Simon-Thomas, Ph.D.

Dr. Emiliana Simon-Thomas is the Science Director at the Greater Good Science Center at UC Berkeley, where she oversees its research fellowship program, supports key scientific initiatives like *Expanding the Science and Practice of Gratitude*, and co-instructs the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) *GG101x: The Science of Happiness*. She earned her doctorate in *Cognition, Brain, and Behavior* at UC Berkeley, examining how emotions influence thinking, and which biological systems fuel prosocial states like compassion or the urge to cooperate. As GGSC Science Director, Dr. Simon-Thomas serves as an expert voice on foundational as well as emerging scientific research on prosociality, as well as evidence-based programs geared toward fostering a kinder, more compassionate world. She also writes, teaches and lectures widely about the measurable benefits of human prosociality and how to strengthen it to improve health, well-being, social life, and work. In addition to her academic and popular publications, Dr. Simon-Thomas recently served as co-editor of the 2017 *Oxford Handbook of Compassion Science*, a transdisciplinary compendium of empirically rich

articles from world-class experts. She also provides consultation to organizations aiming to create products with more prosocial impact, or enhance levels of trust and teamwork amongst the culture within. Overall, Dr. Simon-Thomas' work spotlights the science that connects health and happiness to social connection, care giving, and collaborative relationships, as she continues to examine the potential for—as well as the benefits of—living a more meaningful life.