

KEYNOTE

From Neurobiology to Culture: Fostering Sustainable Wisdom and Compassion

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Bio:

Darcia Narvaez is Professor of Psychology at the University of Notre Dame. She publishes extensively on moral development and education. Author or editor of 13 books, her most recent authored books include *Embodied Morality: Protectionism, Engagement and Imagination*, and *Neurobiology and the Development of Human Morality: Evolution, Culture and Wisdom*, which won the William James Book Award from the American Psychological Association. She is a fellow of the American Psychological Association and the American Educational Research Association. She writes a popular blog for *Psychology Today* ("Moral Landscapes"). Her books include: *Contexts for Young Child Flourishing: Evolution, Family and Society* (ed. with Braungart-Rieker, Miller-Graff, Gettler, Hastings; OUP, 2016); *Embodied Morality: Protectionism, Engagement and Imagination* (Palgrave-MacMillan, 2016); *Contexts for Young Child Flourishing: Evolution, Family and Society* (ed. with Braungart-Rieker, Miller-Graff, Gettler, Hastings; OUP, 2016) *Ancestral Landscapes in Human Evolution: Culture, Childrearing and Social Wellbeing* (ed. with Valentino, Fuentes, McKenna, & Gray; OUP, 2014) (discount): *Evolution, Early Experience and Human Development: From Research to Practice and Policy* (ed. with Panksepp, Schore, & Gleason; OUP, 2013).

Abstract:

Why do some humans turn to self-focused values and behaviours such as violent tribalism, self-aggrandizement and dominance? Why are some cultures so ecologically mindless? Are these a normal part of human nature or the effects of misguided child raising? Darcia Narvaez argues for the latter, offering an explanation for the malleability of human nature based on evolutionary systems theory and epigenetics. Integrating insights from anthropology, evolutionary biology and developmental and affective neurosciences, Darcia Narvaez addresses the current status of human wellbeing and morality and how we can better aim for the wisdom seen in wise and sustainable communities. Early life experience sets up the biopsychosocial development that underpins social and moral functioning into adulthood. She discusses how we can shift from undermining development to fostering flourishing.

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