



AFI RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

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EMPATHY AS A HOLISTIC PHENOMENON

Abstract: Most effort in empathy research goes into separating out distinct constructs. By contrast, I argue that: 1) to truly understand empathic affect, we must understand how the various affective states that tend to co-occur interact over the course of an experience, 2) one of the essential elements of a typical empathic episode is distress and it plays an important role in prosocial motivation, 3) what is variously called empathy, sympathy, and compassion are actually a blended emotion composed of members of the more fundamental emotion families: care, fear, and sadness (and sometimes anger), and 4) the other-directedness that is taken to be typical of empathy, sympathy, or compassion is constructed by adding care to sadness and fear.



Time: Friday, Feb. 28, 13:15-15:00

Place: Room 616, Building 1467

All are welcome!

