

Session 2

Human Development of Empathy and Compassion Across the Lifespan

1:15 – 2:50 ET

Moderator: Jessica Stern, Pomona College

Why examine the development of empathy and compassion?

- Describe how **typical development** unfolds
 - Identify early markers of atypical development and disorders
- Understand genetic and environmental factors that predict **individual differences** — from empathy deficits to extraordinary altruism
 - Inform parenting, education, policy, and practice
- Identify specific neural circuits, sensitive periods, social environments and experiences for targeted **intervention**
 - Advance effective therapeutic approaches



Session Objectives



- Examine developmental periods and factors that shape child and adult development of empathy and compassion
- Discuss which brain areas are critical for empathy and compassion and how these regions change across development
- Explore how social interactions (e.g., with parents, peers) and social context can affect the development of empathy and compassion

Speakers

Felix Warneken, Keynote
University of Michigan



Tobias Grossmann
University of Virginia



Ruth Feldman
Reichman University



Zach Gottlieb
Talk with Zach



Patricia Lockwood
University of Birmingham