



PONENTE: Dr. Seana Moran

TITULO: "Is Life Purpose the 'Heart' that Maintains the Prosocial 'Beat' of Service-Learning Over the Life Span?"

Dr. Seana Moran focuses on helping young people build life momentum in a prosocial direction and recognize how much their contributions matter to the well-being of their communities. A life purpose is a crystallizing vision of one's future and future self, which can influence decisions made now to help realize that envisioned future. As a developmental psychologist with a professional background in design thinking, systems thinking, program development, and training, Dr. Moran works with researchers and educational practitioners around the world to design and evaluate programs and activities that support the development of life purpose, imagination, and creativity in youth and young adults. Her current projects include (a) working with Aprendizaje Basado en la Comunidad – Investigación (ABClab [Community Based Learning Lab]) at the Universidad Católica Silva Henríquez in Santiago, Chile, to develop youth "imagining better" to catalyze their life purposes into social justice contributions, and (b) supporting an education consultant in New Zealand to develop a three-year high school program on youth purpose development.

Dr. Moran was Research Associate Professor at Clark University in Massachusetts, USA, where she taught activity-, service-, and collaborative project-based courses on life purpose, creativity and collaboration, decision making, program evaluation, and general psychology—twice a finalist for the universitywide undergraduate teacher of the year. She also served as principal investigator of a \$1.45 million grant-funded collaborative study in 9 universities in 6 countries that examined the reciprocal influences between service-learning experiences and youth purpose development. She has held other prestigious invited research positions at Project Zero and the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics both at Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology / Singapore University of Technology and Design, and Stanford University's Center on Adolescence / Youth Purpose Project.

In addition to numerous presentations and workshops on six continents, Dr. Moran has co-authored or edited seven books on purpose-oriented education, ethical creativity, and multiple intelligences, plus written a teacher's guide for a secondary school youth entrepreneurship curriculum. She was an editor for three special issues of scholar journals on youth purpose development—all with an international reach and one

specifically addressing the role of service-learning as a particularly powerful educational pedagogy for young people to explore and realize their life purpose.

Her doctorate in human development and psychology and a master of education in mind, brain and education are from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She also earned a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University, master of business administration, and bachelor of arts summa cum laude with a double major in journalism and history.