

Faculti Summary

<https://staging.faculti.net/amplifying-informal-science-learning/>

The speaker expresses excitement about discussing their recently co-edited book on informal science learning, emphasizing its relevance to educators and enthusiasts in both science education and general education. The motivation for the book stems from long-standing relationships with influential mentors, particularly Dr. Mac Watson Lech, and collaboration with co-editor Judy Diamond, both of whom significantly contributed to the field of informal science learning.

The speaker explains that informal science learning is characterized by self-directed, experiential environments outside traditional schooling, encouraging student motivation and skills development. They outline the book's content, which encompasses various areas, including exhibits in science museums, environmental stewardship, alternative informal learning spaces (like libraries and zoos), and critical essays reflecting on the challenges and improvements needed in the field.

The book curates approximately 34 essays from 70 authors worldwide, providing diverse perspectives on current practices and research in informal science learning. It aims to define the state of the art in the field, addressing issues like connection to formal education and the importance of incorporating diverse learning modalities and social science research.

Throughout their research and writing process, the authors have emphasized collaboration, evidence-based findings, and the need for long-term learning connections. The concluding remarks focus on the need to bridge informal and formal science education and explore future research possibilities for integrating these approaches effectively.