

JULIA MOELLER

Dr. Julia Moeller is a Motivation and Emotion Researcher and Assistant Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Leipzig, Germany, and a Jacobs Foundation Early Career Research Fellow.

She completed her postdoctoral research at Yale University and the University of Helsinki, Finland, received her doctoral degree at the University of Erfurt, Germany and her undergraduate and graduate education at the Free University of Berlin in Germany.

Dr. Moeller studies passion in learning and work contexts, employee engagement, burnout prevention, and everything related to perseverance in the face of difficulties and obstacles. She is an expert in the assessment of momentary motivation and emotions in real-time. Her research on employee engagement has been published for instance in the *Harvard Business Review*.

The role of passion and complex emotions in creativity

Passion describes a strong, affect-intense and persevering form of motivation towards an activity or topic. Thus, people who are passionate for their work feel strong emotions at work, pursue long-term goals related to their work, identify with it, and plan around their work. Interviews with creative individuals show they describe themselves as highly passionate and organizational scholars suggests that passion fuels creativity. However, it is unknown whether these expectations about passion in creativity can be supported by research findings. This talk describes a recently developed model of passion that is based on an extensive review of scholarly work on the subject and then goes on to summarize recent findings on the relevance of passion for creativity in both adolescents and professional adults. As we studied people of different ages engaged in different activities, a commonality emerged. Passion predicted creativity and was consistently more important in predicting creativity than other relevant traits, such as positive emotions, job satisfaction, or engagement. The talk culminates in presenting a theoretical model describing how passion influences the creative process.