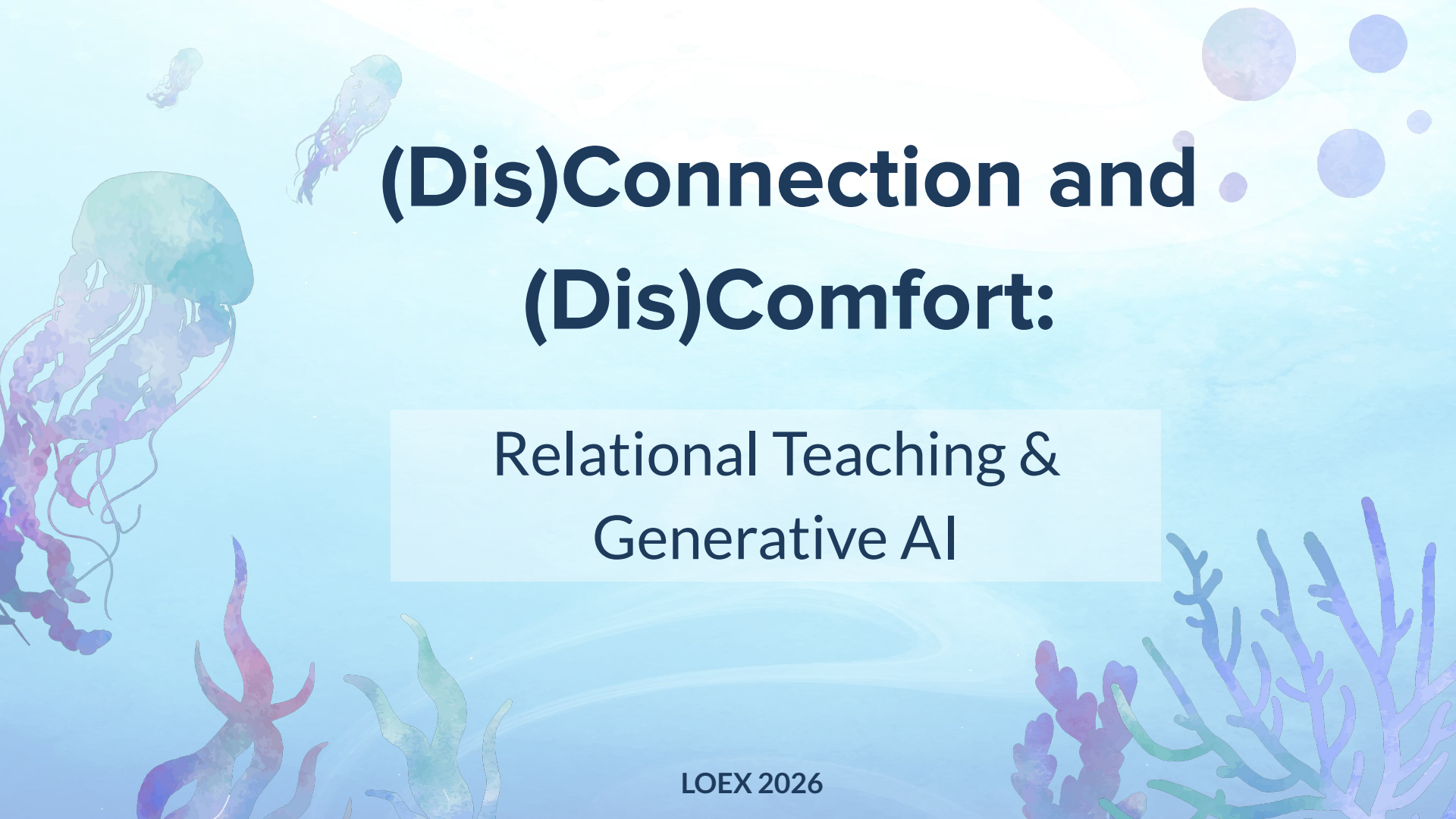
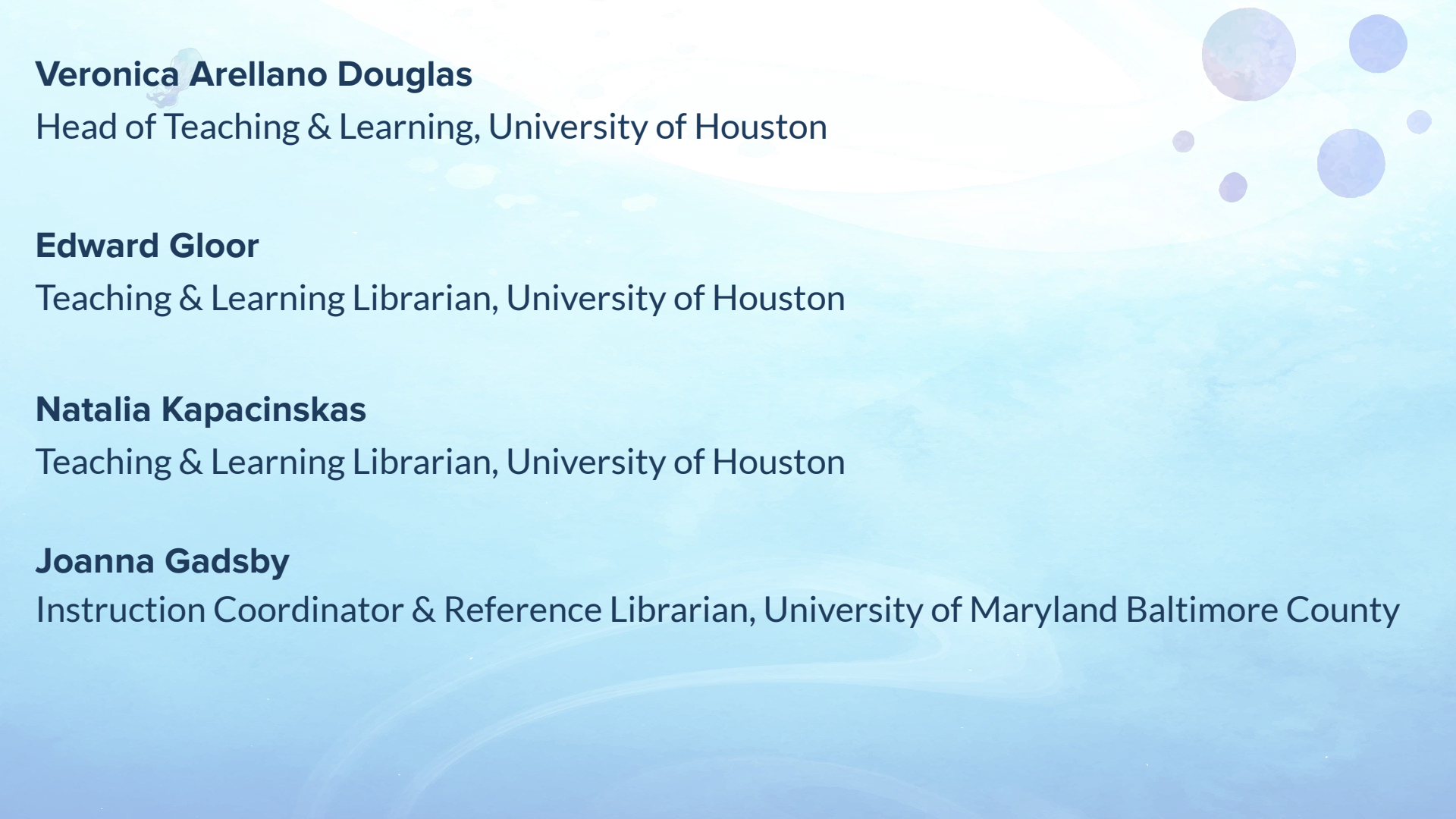


The background is a soft-focus underwater scene. On the left, a large jellyfish with a greenish-brown bell and long, flowing purple and blue tentacles is visible. Above it, two smaller jellyfish are swimming. In the bottom right corner, there is a cluster of colorful coral in shades of purple, blue, and green. The water is a light blue with subtle white ripples and bubbles. The title text is centered in the upper half of the image.

(Dis)Connection and (Dis)Comfort:

Relational Teaching &
Generative AI



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How do you feel about Generative AI tools today?

(A) 🤔

0%

(B) 😊

0%

(C) 😐

0%

(D) 😄

0%

(E) 🤢

0%





Generative AI is irrelational, leading to shallow learning and educational alienation.

Through its manipulation and performance of emotion, generative AI presents a mimicry of the social process of learning.

How we get there



- Teaching & learning are inherently relational (and human).
- Emotion & friction are an integral part of learning.
- Generative AI is irrelational (but we are pushed to use it anyway).
- What should we do instead?

The background is a light blue gradient with soft, wavy lines. In the bottom left corner, there is a cluster of stylized coral in shades of purple, blue, and green. On the right side, several stylized fish in shades of blue and purple are swimming. There are also some small, light blue circular shapes scattered in the upper left area.

Relational teaching is not simply a strategy we enact...rather it is the **foundation of the entire teaching endeavor.**

-Harriet Schwartz
Connected Teaching

Relational aspects of teaching & learning



Mutuality



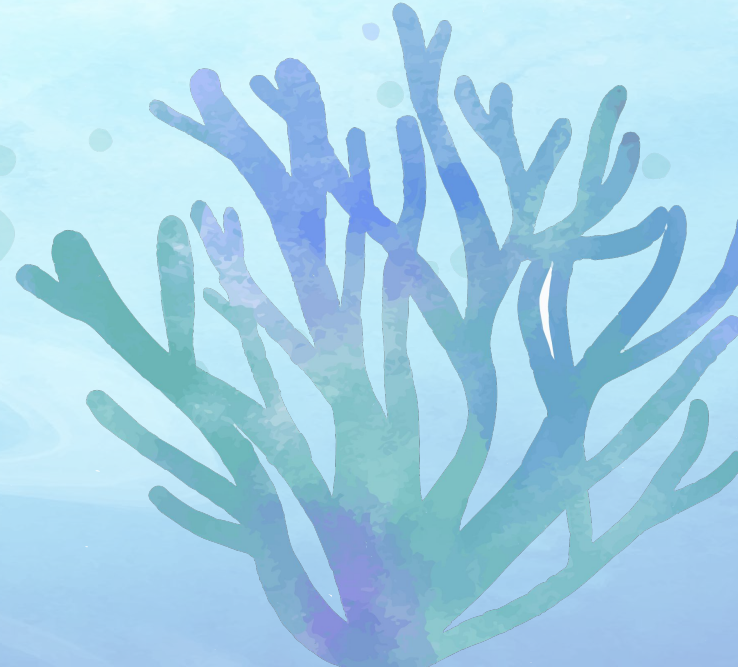
Reconstruction of knowledge



Connection & mattering



(Co)Regulation



Emotion, Friction, and Learning



Learning is socially constructed.
Emotions are embedded within it.



Embrace full spectrum of emotions in
learning, including frustration and discomfort.



Connection and relationship helps us address
necessary friction in learning.

“Learning is actually supposed to be difficult. We’re not supposed to remove all of the friction from learning...Friction shouldn’t be so high that learners can’t overcome it...We are looking for the sweet spot between challenge and ability...”

-Tressie McMillan Cottom





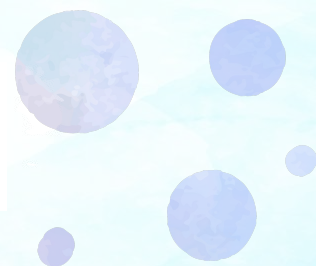
Zone of Proximal Development

Space between what the learner can do independently and what they can accomplish with help.

**Teaching & learning are
relational and inherently
human.**



A University Is Scraping Course Materials for Its New AI Platform. It Didn't Ask the Faculty.



AI Is a Better Researcher Than You

Incling launches AI research assistant

Adobe Has a New AI Study Buddy, Just in Time for Finals

 The Boston Globe

No more teachers: AI school pitched for Boston

Alpha School, which is pushing to open this fall in Boston, is a private, for-profit that claims children can “crush academics” in just two...



 Psychology Today

Students are learning with artificial intelligence, but are they learning from it?

When AI is used as a study partner, it affects motivation. Students who might otherwise

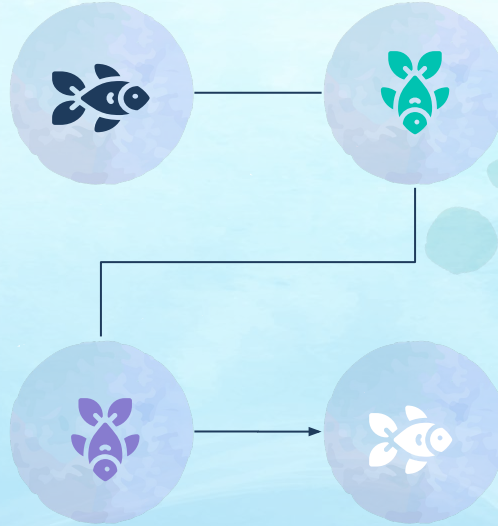


Generative AI as

- Collaborator
- Study buddy
- Research assistant
- Teaching assistant
- Tutor
- Teacher
- Student

Generative AI is actually

Promoting cognitive
offloading
(Kosmyna et al., 2025)



Giving a false sense of
control and expertise
(Flenady & Sparrow, 2025)

Decontextualizing
information
(Blechinger, 2026)

Creating detachment
and disconnection
(Baer, 2025; Elden, 2026;
Flenady & Sparrow, 2025)

GenAI is Irrelational

 Mutuality Reconstruction (Co)Regulation Connection & mattering

Mimicry & Probability

Ease & Comfort

Sycophancy & Reassurance

Transaction

GenAI is Irrelational



Reconstruction



(Co)Regulation

Ease & Comfort

Sycophancy & Reassurance

I am comparing solar energy and wind energy for a class paper, can you give me sources to help with the paper?

Here are **credible, citable sources** you can use for your class paper comparing solar and wind energy. I've grouped them into **academic/research**, **government & institutional**, and **general explanations** so you can mix strong evidence with easy-to-understand background.

If you want, I can also help you:

- Turn these into MLA/APA citations
- Build an outline or thesis
- Or write a sample paragraph using these sources

    Sources

GenAI is Irrelational



Mutuality

Mimicry & Probability



APA References

Academic & Research Sources

1. Brown, T., Reichenberg, L., & Deane, P. (2014). *Features of a fully renewable U.S. electricity system*. arXiv. <https://arxiv.org/abs/1402.2833> ↗
2. Schmitt, F., & others. (2016). *Short-term fluctuations of wind and solar power systems*. arXiv. <https://arxiv.org/abs/1606.03426> ↗
3. (If no author listed) *Solar and wind power forecasting using artificial intelligence*. (2025). arXiv. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2509.24059> ↗



Government & Institutional Source



4. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. (n.d.). *A closer look at the environmental impact of solar and*

+ Ask anything



Voice

GenAI is Irrelational



Connection & mattering

4. Suggested Databases & Search Strategy

For your scoping review (PRISMA-ScR style), search:

Databases

- PubMed / MEDLINE
- PsycINFO
- Embase
- CINAHL
- Scopus

Example search string

You can adapt this:

```
("autism" OR "ASD" OR "autism spectrum disorder")  
AND (adult* OR adulthood)  
AND (screen* OR assessment OR instrument OR questionnaire OR scale)  
AND (validation OR psychometric OR sensitivity OR specificity)
```



I am working on a scoping review on autism screeners or assessments for adults, can you help me find sources for this review?

Absolutely—this is a well-established but still evolving area, and I can help you build a strong evidence base for your scoping review. Below is a **curated set of key sources + how to structure your search**, along with **major screening/assessment tools** you'll want to include.

Transaction



“...GenAI is designed to produce a particular reaction in its users--to convince its users of the usefulness of the response--rather than to say something true of the world. They are, then, fundamentally bullshitters.”

-Flenady & Sparrow, 2025, p. 166

Neoliberalism in society

- Neoliberal shift in the 1970s
- Corporation as the model for social all organization
- Technology is used to cut out the human labor force
 - Efficiency + Production

Neoliberalism and higher education

- Higher education is organized around the corporate model
 - Knowledge is the product
- Increasing stressors on faculty and students
- Pressure to be more productive and efficient

GenAI in higher education

- GenAI offers a solution
 - Saves time and effort
 - Frictionless education
- GenAI as accelerant
- Vicious cycle

How is your institution asking you to incorporate GenAI into your work?



Nobody has responded yet.

Hang tight! Responses are coming in.



So what do we do instead?



Recenter
relationships in
education



Recommit to
friction in learning



Understand and
demystify AI

“Nothing about this form of AI coming to the fore or even existing at all was inevitable; it was the culmination of thousands of subjective choices, made by the people who had the power to be in the decision-making room. In the same way, future generations of AI technologies are not predetermined. But the question of governance returns: Who will get to shape them?”

-Hao, 2025, Prologue

Questions?



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