

A close-up photograph of a large snail with a yellowish, translucent body and a brown, spiral shell. The snail is being held gently in a person's hand, which is visible at the bottom and right sides of the frame. The background is a soft-focus green lawn. The text is overlaid on the snail's body and shell.

# Snails as a metaphor for desire in early childhood education

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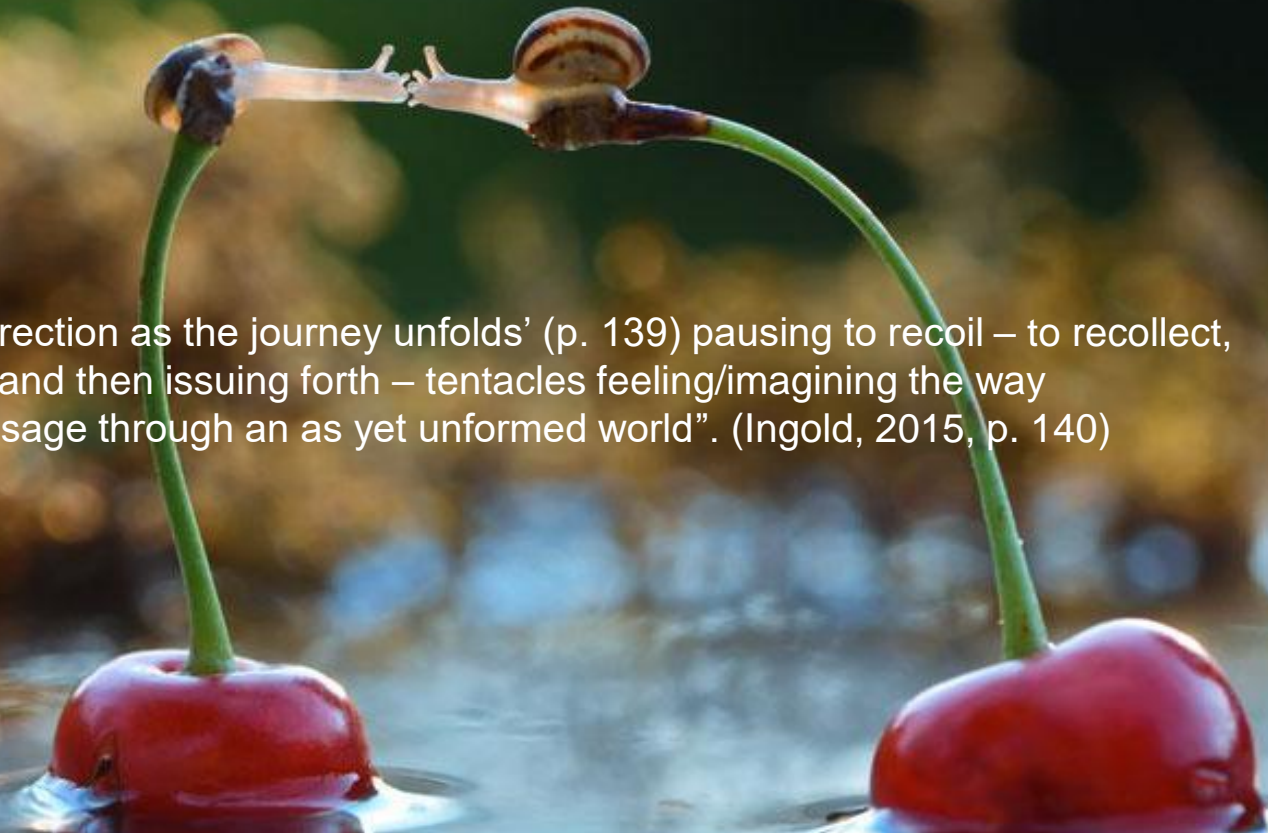
Iris Berger, UBC

Joanne Lehrer, UQO

Mari Pighini, UBC

# Thinking Movement *with* Snails (Ingold, 2015)

“Fine-tuning the direction as the journey unfolds’ (p. 139) pausing to recoil – to recollect, gather and think - and then issuing forth – tentacles feeling/imagining the way “improvising a passage through an as yet unformed world”. (Ingold, 2015, p. 140)



Isabelle Stengers

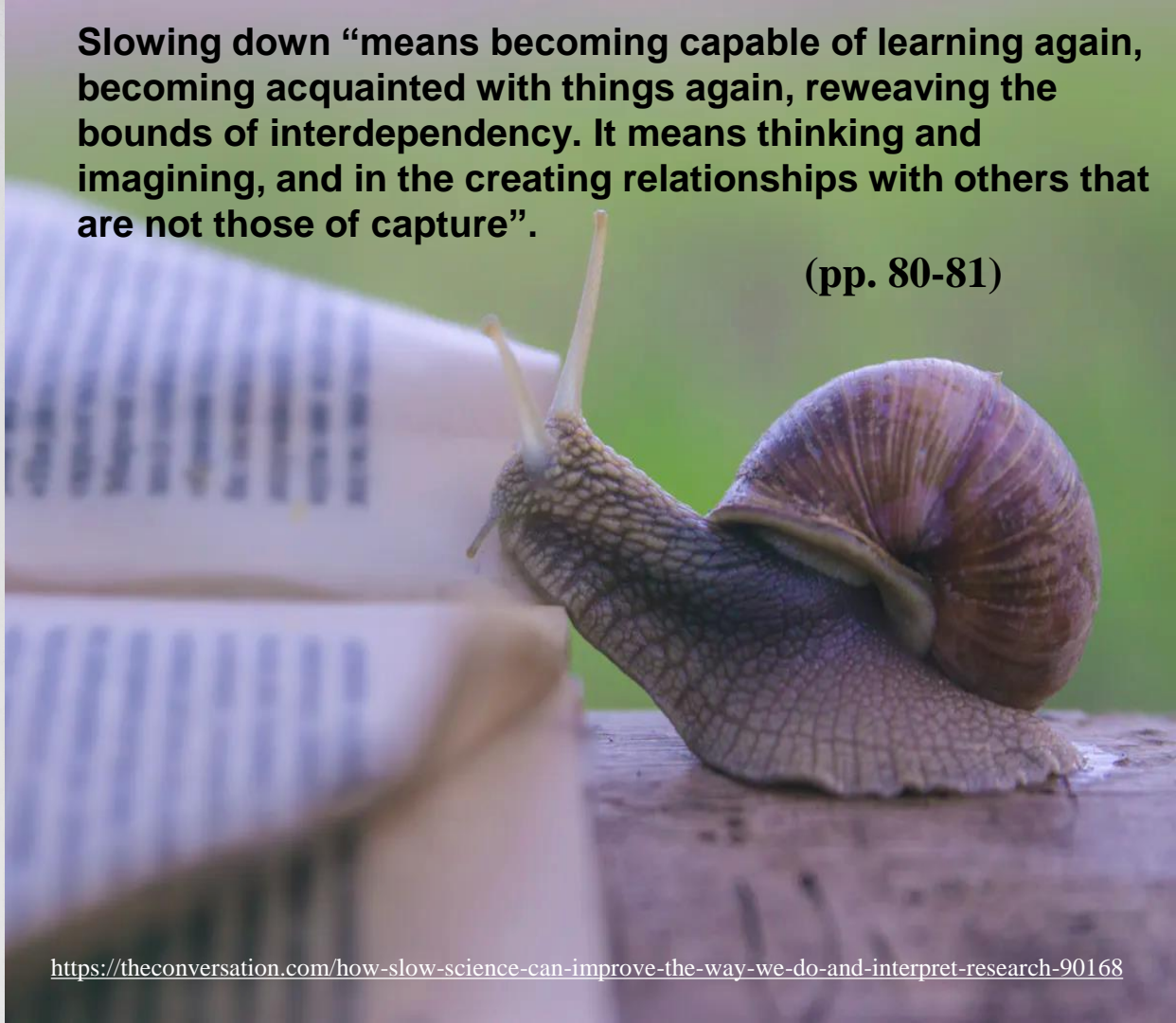
# Another Science is Possible

A Manifesto for Slow Science



Slowing down “means becoming capable of learning again, becoming acquainted with things again, reweaving the bounds of interdependency. It means thinking and imagining, and in the creating relationships with others that are not those of capture”.

(pp. 80-81)





“Desire is about longing, about a present that is enriched by both the past and the future. It is integral to our humanness”  
(Tuck, 2009, p.417)



Storying the Unknown: Expanding Story Practices  
in ECEC



...we embrace van Dooren's invitation to adopt an "ecosystems taxonomy" of "relational connections" by "storying the unknown".

“*Desire* is complex and complicated. It is constantly reformulating, and does so by *extinguishing* itself, breaking apart, reconfiguring, recasting”. (Tuck & Ree, p. 63)



- What do we desire?
- What do we want to extinguish?

# Child Care Hauntology

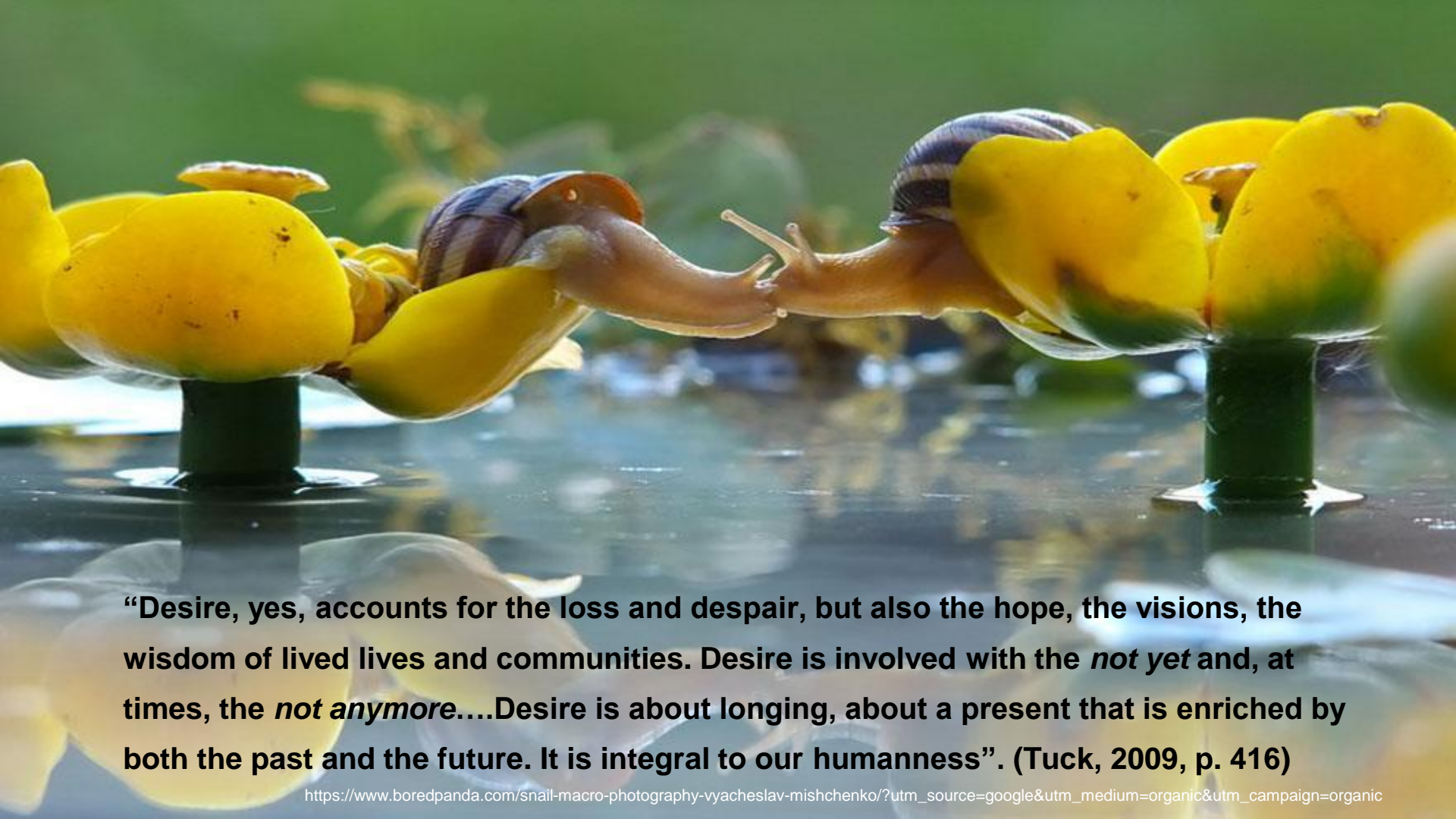
Happy Mothers' Day!

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/marianna\\_armata/42026071572/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/marianna_armata/42026071572/)



(it began with rescuing the child of) The working mother  
(by the) middle class mother  
(a presumption of) The ideal mother  
(the psychological) good enough mother  
(and the) monstrous mother (The evil stepmother)  
(politicized as) a reproductive wom(b)an=mother  
(what about) the GRAND-mother  
(and the) Blame-for-everything mother  
(contemporary) dangerous “mama bear”  
(overprotective/controlling mother)  
(and) single mother  
(and) racialized mother  
(too young/too old) mother  
(join the workforce) neo-liberal working mother  
(damaged, mined, owned) Mother Earth and The  
Mother Tree (Kimmerer, Simard)  
A “post-maternal” mother (Stephens 2016).





**“Desire, yes, accounts for the loss and despair, but also the hope, the visions, the wisdom of lived lives and communities. Desire is involved with the *not yet* and, at times, the *not anymore*....Desire is about longing, about a present that is enriched by both the past and the future. It is integral to our humanness”. (Tuck, 2009, p. 416)**

What caring practices might enable desire/hope? (van Dooren, 2016).



What happens to practices of care in times like these?

How does this situation change what care might do and be?

Perhaps, alongside the concrete daily acts of feeding, cleaning, and censusing...we are called to care as a work of mourning; a work of bearing witness, of keeping faith with the dead and dying, of reckoning with what has been and will still be lost. (van Dooren, 2021, para. 7)

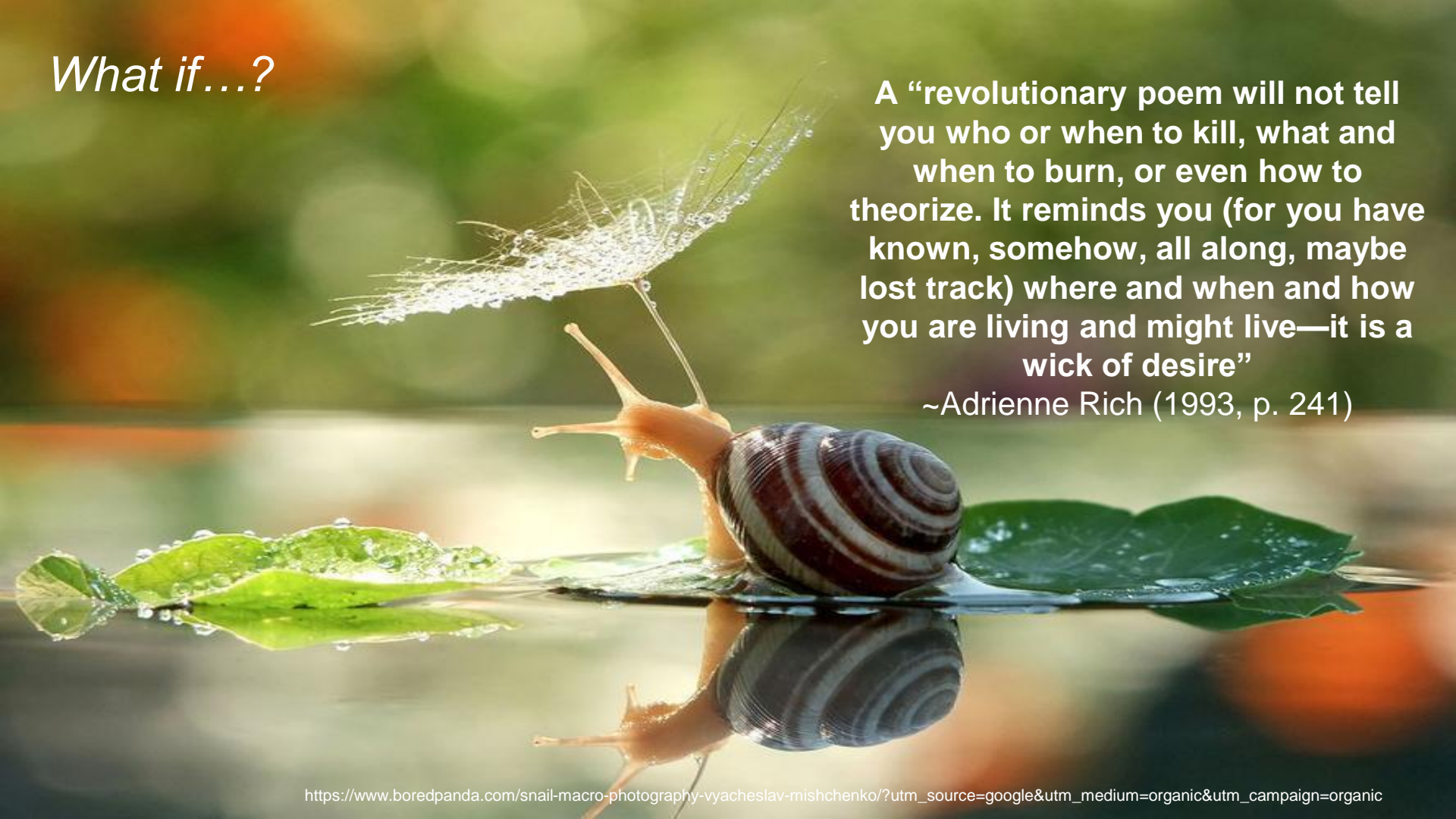


“We are in this together, but we  
are not one and the same”  
(Braidotti, 2020, p. 465).

*What if...?*

A “revolutionary poem will not tell you who or when to kill, what and when to burn, or even how to theorize. It reminds you (for you have known, somehow, all along, maybe lost track) where and when and how you are living and might live—it is a wick of desire”

~Adrienne Rich (1993, p. 241)



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\*Image credits are on the slides

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