

Using remote seminars to teach animal behavior

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9	Using remote seminars to teach animal behavior
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49 Abstract

50

51 In response to the COVID-19 crisis, numerous academic conferences and seminars were moved

52 online. Some remote (online) seminars have the aim to be maintained permanently after the

53 pandemic, offering weekly opportunities for scientists, postdocs, and students to learn about

- 54 research and to improve global networking. Remote seminars are a good option to promote
- 55 inclusion and diversity, allowing students worldwide to participate and to interact with
- 56 researchers from a broad cultural and ethnic background. Capitalizing on our experience with the
- 57 ongoing International Remote Seminar on Frontiers in Social Evolution (FINE), we propose four
- 58 teaching tools that can be integrated into undergraduate and graduate courses and that can be
- adapted for use with most remote seminar series. We make recommendations for the use of: 1.
- 60 Certified remote seminar attendance. 2. Relevant articles from the primary literature. 3. Teaching
- 61 slides, and 4. Recorded seminars. Our aims are to promote and facilitate the use of the proposed
- 62 teaching tools in Animal Behavior and related courses, and to encourage other remote seminar
- 63 organizers to make teaching tools available.
- 64

⁶⁵ Keywords: FINE, education, remote seminar, animal behavior, COVID-19, teaching, lecturer

GLOSSARY

Credit: Students accumulate "study credits" to finish their studies, or to be allowed to participate in exams. For example, European Credit Transfer (ECTs) and Accumulation System credits, where 1 ECT corresponds to 25-30 hours of work.

Diversity: Students and lecturers of different backgrounds, including but not limited to differences in age, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, geography, disability, socioeconomic status, area of expertise, level of experience, thinking style, native language, or skill set (*sensu* Swartz et al. 2019).

FINE: International Remote Seminar on <u>F</u>rontiers <u>in</u> Social <u>E</u>volution. A remote seminar that offers live participation in talks of 45 minutes followed by 60 minutes of discussion. Talks occur via Zoom and YouTube and are stored on YouTube where they are available for later viewing and re-viewing: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UClXFO1pLpCTBy7vSwLWH-GA

Learning: The acquisition of new understanding, knowledge, skills or attitudes. Learning can be enhanced and facilitated by the teaching approach and philosophy of lecturers.

Lecture: Any activity where teaching is done by lecturers, including modules, classes, labs, and practica.

Lecturer: Anybody who teaches, including but not restricted to teachers, instructors, and professors.

Program: A set of educational activities that lead to an academic degree, e.g., bachelors, honors, masters, doctorate.

Remote Seminar: A seminar that is held on any video communication platform. It refers primarily to seminars which store the presented talks permanently on video platforms, making them available for later viewing and re-viewing.

Student: A person enrolled at a university to obtain a degree, including Ph.D. students. **Teaching:** Any instructional effort, including 'front-of-class' teaching (whether remote or live on campus) and more interactive formats (seminars, workshops, labs), as well as student-led, self-directed approaches where the lecturer only acts as a guide or facilitator

Teaching activity: Any action by students that facilitates learning, e.g., reading, discussing, note taking, writing a summary or essay, interviewing a scientist.

Teaching tool: A resource (here derived from remote seminars) that can be used by lecturers to develop specific teaching activities. Examples include stored videos or already prepared instructional slides.

University: Any institution of higher education.

69 1 INTRODUCTION

70

71 The abrupt transition to remote learning necessitated by the COVID-19 crisis has created

numerous challenges for university lecturers (see Glossary; Bao 2020; Barton 2020; Elsalem et

al. 2021; Hughes et al. 2021). At the same time, this transition has produced new and creative

educational opportunities, many of which are just beginning to be realized. At a first step,
 numerous departmental seminar series had been shifted to remote platforms. Notably, increased

76 use of digital platforms to convene research seminars in a wide range of disciplines has revealed

- 77 the ease with which large, international communities of colleagues can be brought together to
- share information and resources that readily lend themselves to use in instructional contexts
- 79 (Botchkarev 2020, Bottanelli et al. 2020, Wood & Duchesneau 2021; Zipple & Lange 2021;
- 80 Table 1). Such remote (online) seminars create important opportunities for students to explore

81 established and emerging research in a dynamic, discovery-based format that can be tailored to

82 fit a diverse array of instructional levels, learning objectives, and institutional settings. Ease of

83 international participation by both presenters and audience members promote diversity in

- research and reduces barriers to access while facilitating new educational and researchcollaborations.
- 85 86

87 Here, we illustrate how remote seminars can be used in teaching of animal behavior. Our aims

are to (i) demonstrate what teaching tools derived from remote seminars are already available to

89 lecturers in animal behavior and (ii) inform organizers of remote seminars what teaching tools

90 they can make available to lecturers. As an example, we describe a series of teaching activities

91 that we have developed in concert with the International Remote Seminar on Frontiers in Social

- 92 Evolution (FINE), which began in September 2020 (Wood & Duchesneau 2021). Originally
- conceived as a forum for sharing research, it quickly became apparent that the FINE and other
- 94 remote seminars offer critical learning opportunities for students. To capitalize on these

95 opportunities and to share these resources more broadly, we outline multiple ways in which

students can engage with remote seminars to increase understanding of key behavioral concepts,
 improve skills associated with critical evaluation of behavioral research, and promote clear

97 improve skills associated with critical evaluation of benavioral research, and promote clear 98 written and verbal communication regarding primary research findings. For this - as for any

90 written and verbal communication regarding primary research indings. For this - as for any 91 teaching effort - it is important to first define learning outcomes, describe the proposed tools, and

100 illustrate how these tools can be integrated into the classroom. As terminology in higher

education differs among countries and institutions, we provide a glossary of the terms we use

- 102 (Glossary).
- 102

104 **2 LEARNING OUTCOMES**

105

Students at all levels may benefit from remote seminars in three domains of cognitive (learningknowledge), psychomotor (skills) and affective (attitudes and values) learning (*sensu* Bloom et al. 1956). The level at which the suggested teaching activities may be used to facilitate these learning outcomes should be contingent upon students' prior knowledge and the goals and scope of the learning experience (Cannon & Feinstein 2005).

- 111
- 112 **2.1 Knowledge**
- 113

- 114 This domain considers the question "What do we want students to know?". It encompasses facts,
- 115 terminology, principles, models, and theories (Vaughan 1980). Remote seminars and their
- 116 associated teaching tools may contribute to these various areas of knowledge. For example,
- several remote seminars (Table 1) addressed concepts in animal behavior, ecology and evolution,
- as well as the process of doing science using natural history observations, experimental
- 119 manipulations in the field or laboratory, comparative approaches, and analytic models or 120 simulations. Remote seminars offer students access to more international knowledge from
- simulations. Remote seminars offer students access to more international knowledge from
 primary sources (i.e., scientists and their students), instead of getting this knowledge via
- secondary or tertiary resources, such as textbooks. Depending on course-specific goals, lecturers
- 122 secondary of tertary resources, such as textbooks. Depending on course-specific goals, lecturers 123 could emphasize these topics in lectures and inquiry-based activities (e.g., laboratory
- experiments), as well as engage students in discussion about these topics.
- 125
- 125

127 **2.2 Skills**

128

129 This domain addresses the question "What do we want students to be able to do?". It

130 encompasses techniques for critical thinking, problem solving, and communication (Conklin

131 2005). Remote seminars give students the opportunity to observe a range of scientific

132 methodologies in action and to identify the questions, hypotheses and experimental design used

133 by the presenter, as well as to practice interpreting graphs and tables. In lectures, students can be

134 directed to work in teams to evaluate the science being presented and perhaps propose alternative

hypotheses or experimental designs. By participating in a discussion period with an invited

136 speaker, students can develop skills for formulating and asking questions and learn about the 137 skills (including personal and administrative) the researcher needed to establish and maintain the

project. Additional activities may require students to communicate with each other, or to prepare

a presentation based on a given teaching tool, which would further enhance development of

- 140 communication skills.
- 141

142 **2.3 Attitude**

143

144 This domain is concerned with affective learning, namely how to enrich student attitudes and

145 values, in this case towards science. In the context of remote seminar tools, this domain

146 addresses the questions: "What do we, as researchers, want students to think or care about?" and

147 *"How do we as researchers engage students in developing their own attitudes and values as*

148 *future professionals?*" It includes developing awareness of ethics, morals, and the practice of

- 149 these values in one's professional and everyday life (MacLean & Cahillane 2015). Remote
- 150 seminars provide examples of real-world scientists communicating research about which they are
- 151 passionate. These seminars should also inspire an appreciation for evidence-based arguments
- 152 while illustrating the different ways that scientific problems can be approached (e.g., field and
- 153 comparative research, modeling). Additionally, such seminars exemplify the importance of
- 154 science communication, typically to peers, but may also inspire the need to communicate science
- to the general public. Finally, by involving international researchers of different backgrounds,
- accents, and experiences and showcasing research done around the world, remote
- 157 seminars promote diversity, stimulate discussion on the ethics of working in different countries,
- and highlight the scientific and cultural advantages of building teams of collaborators with
- 159 diverse backgrounds.

161 2.4 Networking

162

163 In addition to the core learning domains, using teaching tools derived from remote seminars in 164 the classroom (for details see below) will allow students to expand on other professional skills 165 that will aid their career advancement (Turnbull & Gotian 2020). Remote seminars provide a 166 safe environment where students at different levels, especially those in early career stages, can 167 build their confidence by participating in discussions and interactions with peers and near-peers 168 (e.g., group discussions involving undergraduate and graduate students). Further, attending live 169 seminars gives students networking opportunities, particularly when engaging in the discussion 170 with speakers. Such discussions allow students to practice two important skills needed to develop 171 and maintain a professional network: how to be an active listener and how to ask questions.

172 Mastering these skills provides the foundation for honest and enduring interactions with

173 colleagues that can result in productive collaborative relationships.

174

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176

5 **3** TEACHING TOOLS EMERGING FROM REMOTE SEMINARS

Here, we describe how remote seminars can be used for teaching and how teaching tools similarto those produced by FINE can be used to enhance student learning experiences (Table 2).

179 Details of tools developed by the FINE community are described in Box 1.

180

181 **3.1 Remote seminar attendance**

182

183 Historically, many universities have treated participation in seminars or conferences similarly to 184 enrolling in a course. For example, Ph.D. students in many countries have to obtain credit points 185 during their studies; participating in a seminar can contribute to this. However, it may be difficult 186 for students to prove that they have participated in a remote seminar. Organizers of remote 187 seminars can provide certificates of attendance if they can verify that students participated. This 188 is time-consuming for seminars with large audiences and can be challenging for the seminar 189 organizer while hosting a speaker and ensuring that the seminar progresses without technological 190 issues or interruptions. Another option for verifying participation is to ask students to submit 191 written summaries of presentation within 24 hours of a seminar (Supplementary Material S1). 192 Submitted summaries will provide university officials information they can use to decide how 193 many credit points can be given. This tool could be further developed by local lecturers who 194 could then give more credit to students. For example, lecturers could give their students detailed 195 instructions on what kind of syntheses they have to submit after each seminar to qualify for study 196 credit points. 197 198 **3.2 Relevant articles**

199

200 Reading and discussing the primary literature can have numerous intellectual and personal

201 benefits for students (Kozeracki et al. 2006). Reading articles related to a seminar prior to

202 viewing the presentation can improve general understanding of a speaker's research theme,

203 reducing energy spent during the seminar to understand basic terms and concepts while helping

- 204 to generate more informed questions. These benefits are amplified when members of research
- 205 groups or journal clubs discuss recommended readings together, prior to, or after seminars

206 (Glazer 2000); this can be particularly beneficial when reading groups consist of individuals

from research groups from around the world. Remote seminar organizers can facilitate these

activities by asking speakers to provide bibliographical information for several relevant articles

and making this information available to seminar participants before the seminar, such that students and lecturers can prepare themselves.

211

212 **3.3 Teaching slides**

213

214 Presentations in seminars, including those online, are typically 45-60 minutes long, which limits 215 their use in the classroom. Furthermore, extracting the take home messages from long seminars may require considerable effort by the lecturer. To facilitate the use of remote seminar 216 217 presentations in the classroom, presenters can prepare sets of teaching slides that are made 218 available to the scientific community. Such teaching slides will contribute to disseminating the 219 work of presenters to future generations of scientists. Presenters could be encouraged to record 220 themselves explaining the content of the slides. Together with a photo of the researcher on the 221 title slide, this brings the international expert directly into the classroom, making it a more 222 personalized experience for students. The audio portion can be muted, or deleted, from the 223 presentation if the lecturer prefers. Providing students access to slides and audio recordings will 224 increase accessibility to students with limited ability to attend seminars and promote the review 225 of relevant course information outside of class. Providing captions improves accessibility to 226 students with hearing impairments or other challenges to auditory processing of information.

220

228 **3.4 Recorded seminars**

229

230 It is common practice that remote seminars are recorded and stored on video-platforms (Zipple & 2021) This angle a last seminary (semantic of the second stored on video seminary data and stored on video sem

Lange 2021). This enables lecturers to show seminars (or parts of them) during diverse class times, or to require viewing them as an assignment to be completed at home. Several teaching

232 times, or to require viewing them as an assignment to be completed at home. Several teaching 233 activities can then be associated with these recorded seminars, including student discussions,

written summaries, and development of new activities (e.g., grant proposals, interviews with

234 written summaries, and development of new activities (e.g., grant proposals, interviews with 235 speakers). Numerous seminars are live streamed and freely accessible on specific YouTube

channels (Table 1) and other video platforms (Bottanelli et al. 2020).

237

238 Recorded seminars can be used to generate student-led discussions during lecture periods.

239 Lecturers can invite remote seminar speakers to join the discussion after students have watched

240 the seminar. Students can prepare for a discussion with the remote seminar speaker by writing a

summary and preparing a few questions about a related article. They can ask the speaker

242 questions about the seminar, the speaker's career path, and related academic issues. The benefits

243 are numerous; students improve their understanding of research, learn how to interact with

244 international scientists, build confidence, and develop networking skills (Box 2).

245

246 4 SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

247

248 The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the well-known importance of science communication

249 skills (Kelp & Hubbard, 2021), thereby underscoring calls to integrate science communication

- 250 more fundamentally into science education and training (Dahm et al., 2019). Various universities
- 251 either encourage or require students to gain work-based experience in communicating scientific

252 ideas. For example, the University of Derby, UK, runs a final year undergraduate module taken

253 by students in programs ranging from Biology and Zoology to Human Biology and Forensic

254 Sciences. As part of the course, students have to create a \sim 3 minute public facing video.

- 255 Students choose the topic, as well as the target audience. Similar assignments could be included 256 in a variety of undergraduate and graduate animal behavior courses. For example, engaging
- 257 deeply with the content of a seminar will increase understanding of principles of behavioral
- ecology. This yields clear benefits to not only the recipients but also the creators of science
- communications or outreach activities (Clark et al., 2016). Organizers of remote seminars could
 publish high quality videos of this type on their homepages and YouTube channels (for an
 example see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKKHQwT-cuQ). The prospect of creating a

video that will be publicly available and have the "stamp of approval" of established scientists could act as a powerful incentive to produce coursework of the highest standard.

263

5 ACCESSIBILITY & DIVERSITY

265 266

267 The expansion of remote seminars and other remote means of scientific discussion (e.g., virtual 268 conferences) during the COVID-19 pandemic has increased accessibility of research to students 269 and lecturers from around the world (Skiles et al. 2020; Estien et al. 2021). Accordingly, remote 270 seminars reach a diverse audience and have the potential to improve the diversity of the animal 271 behavior community (Lee 2020; Tang-Martinez 2020; Hughes et al. 2021). For example, the 272 FINE community consists of > 300 individuals, including students and lecturers at various career 273 stages, from > 25 countries spread over 5 continents. The FINE organizers have shared teaching 274 tools with their community (Box 1). To capitalize upon this diversity, organizers of all remote 275 seminars should share teaching tools with their community.

276

277 Organizers of remote seminar series can also take additional steps to increase accessibility and 278 diversity. Advertising remote seminars across multiple platforms, including email distribution 279 lists and various forms of social media will reach a diverse audience. Using multiple forms of 280 livestreaming (e.g., FINE seminar is livestreamed on Zoom and YouTube) makes the seminars 281 accessible to a broad audience, including students and lecturers with conflicting schedules and 282 non-scientists, alike. Recording the seminars to freely accessible video platforms increases 283 access to students and lecturers with restrictions (e.g., limited computer access, some learning 284 disabilities). Finally, organizers of remote seminar series should invite speakers from institutions 285 that serve individuals from members of under-represented minority groups.

286

287 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

288

289 (1) Use remote seminars and teaching tools in lectures. A key feature of many remote seminars

- is that they can be adapted to suit the needs of a wide range of courses, ranging fromintroductory to advanced undergraduate and graduate classes. This is true for many different
- 291 Introductory to advanced undergraduate and graduate classes. This is true for many different 292 countries (Supplementary Material S3). Lecturers can choose teaching tools and teaching
- 292 countries (Supplementary Material S5). Lecturers can choose teaching tools and teaching 293 activities based on numerous factors including specific course learning outcomes, method of
- lecture (e.g., in person, asynchronous or synchronous online), class size, course level (e.g.,
- 295 undergraduate, graduate), format (e.g., lecture, discussion), and students' access to resources. As
- such, remote seminars offer quality and flexibility for learning in a changing world. For example,
- students in introductory courses can be introduced to key concepts and hypotheses using

teaching slides provided by remote seminar speakers. These activities can be followed by class

- 299 discussion or preparation of written summaries of key points. Students in upper-level courses
- 300 (see Box 2 for a detailed example the implementation of FINE teaching tools) can explore topics
- 301 in greater depth by watching an entire remote seminar. Associated activities can include visiting 302 a speaker's website, writing grant proposals, or summarizing additional papers by the speaker.
- 303 We encourage lecturers to create the combination of activities that best suits their goals,
- 304 including developing exercises of their own that stem from remote seminar presentations.
- 305

306 (2) Use remote seminars in institutional seminar series. At institutions around the world, in-

307 person seminar series have been used as an instrument to disseminate scientific advances.

- 308 However, prohibitive travel costs and lack of funds limit the ability of many institutions to host 309 national and international seminar speakers. Remote seminars offer a cost-effective (and
- 310 environmentally friendly) way to diversify seminar series and opportunities. Incorporating
- 311 remote seminars into institutional seminar series would benefit students and lecturers at the host
- institution, as well as speakers who are unable to travel for personal, financial, and professional
- 313 reasons.
- 314

315 (3) Use remote seminars to promote international collaborations. Remote seminars can connect 316 students and lecturers across states (or provinces) and countries, promoting national and 317 international lecturer-student and student-student networks. For example, lecturers can facilitate 318 journal clubs involving multiple research groups, members of which discuss the relevant articles 319 prior to watching remote seminars. These joint journal clubs could be informal, or part of formal 320 student training programs, such as those that support international student research (e.g., U.S. 321 National Science Foundation International Research Experiences for Students). As is the case for 322 FINE, organizers of remote seminar series could arrange virtual, individual meetings with 323 speakers and members of their research groups before and after seminars. Likewise, we 324 recommend that organizers of remote seminar series allow time for extended discussion 325 immediately following the seminar. Our experience is that these extended discussions allow a 326 diversity of attendees – including students – to participate while providing important feedback to 327 speakers. Finally, we encourage lecturers to work with their respective universities to encourage 328 cross-listed courses that allow students from multiple institutions to engage in remote seminars. 329 Ultimately, these ways of connecting students and lecturers could promote international 330 collaboration and provide novel ways of teaching and informing animal behavior research. 331

332 7 CONCLUSIONS

333

334 Remote seminars give international lecturers and students free access to leading scientists in their 335 discipline. When these seminars are stored on video-platforms, this resource is available 336 indefinitely. Students that previously had limited, or no access, to international conferences can 337 now have weekly access to international experts. Using remote seminars in teaching can be 338 beneficial to students, particularly when presenters join discussions. Such interactions can 339 humanize scientists, broadening the impact of their science and increasing student interest in 340 scientific endeavors and careers. Given their educational value, we think it will be beneficial if 341 such collaborative international remote seminars persist after most universities return to live 342 instruction of students. We encourage organizers and lecturers to think creatively as to how to

343 incorporate remote seminars in classes, discussion groups, and university seminar series. Doing

- 344 so will increase access of cutting-edge science and researchers to a wide audience and promote a
- 345 broader participation in scientific endeavor.
- 346
- 347 ETHICAL STATEMENT348
- 349 Ethics approval was not required for this research.

350351 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 352
- 353 The authors declare no conflict of interest.
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- 451 **TABLE 1.** Examples of remote seminar series and other video channels related to studies in
- 452 animal behavior that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic. Series are listed in the order of
- 453 the launching of its first seminar.
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Full name	Platforms	First seminar	Continuation
Evolution & Ecology	YouTube / Slack	15 April 2020	At least until 2021
Seminars (EvoEcoSeminars)			
Long-Term Animal Research	YouTube	12 May 2020	Ongoing
Seminar Series		-	
International Remote	Zoom / YouTube	1 September 2020	Ongoing
Seminar on Frontiers in			
Social Evolution (FINE)			
Virtual Seminar on the	unknown	September 2020	Ongoing
Economics of Risky Health	(not all seminars		
Behaviors (VERB)	are recorded)		
Animal Behavior Society	YouTube	8 October 2020	Ongoing
World Wide Neuro	unknown	unknown	Ongoing

- 456 **TABLE 2.** Different teaching tools and how remote seminar organizers can make them available
- 457 for lecturers, who then develop different teaching activities.
- 458

Teaching tool	Action by organizer of	Examples of teaching	How to access the tool
Online seminar attendance	Provide certificate of participation upon request and attendance	Students sign up and participate in remote seminar, receive credit.	Supplementary Material S1.
Relevant articles	Request that presenters provide bibliographical information for 2-3 relevant articles.	Students read and discuss articles, write summaries.	Available for free download on homepage ¹
Teaching slides	Request that presenters make important slides available.	Include in lecture; provide online and ask for summary.	Available for free download on homepage ¹ and ResearchGate ²
Recorded seminar	Store recorded seminar on a video platform.	Summaries, discussion, essay, invite speaker. Creation of scientific communication material	YouTube page of FINE ³

459 ¹https://www.socialevolutionseminar.com/portfolio-3/project-two-f6cnw

460 ²https://www.researchgate.net/project/FINE-Teaching-Slides-for-Social-Evolution

461 ³ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UClXFO1pLpCTBy7vSwLWH-GA

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BOX 1. FINE teaching tools

Teaching slides: FINE presenters are invited to submit up to two sets of teaching slides, each consisting of a title slide, three slides with results and figures, and a conclusion slide (Supplementary Material S2 for instructions to FINE presenters). These slides are most often created in Powerpoint which allows the lecturers to modify them to their specific teaching needs. While the level of complexity of slides is determined by the FINE presenter, lecturers can still adjust them for teaching students of different levels. FINE presenters are encouraged to record themselves explaining the content of the slides.

FINE teaching slides are available for free download on the FINE homepage <u>https://www.socialevolutionseminar.com/portfolio-3/project-two-f6cnw</u> and sometimes on the homepages of the individual presenters. Additionally, many FINE teaching slides are available on ResearchGate and can be accessed from the project "FINE teaching slides for social evolution" (https://www.researchgate.net/project/FINE-Teaching-Slides-for-Social-Evolution). By following this project, lecturers will be notified when new slides become available.

Relevant articles: The FINE organizers request that speakers provide a summary and bibliographical information for three articles related to their seminar. This reading list is then sent to the FINE community before the seminar and is made available to the general public on the FINE homepage (<u>https://www.socialevolutionseminar.com/portfolio-3/project-two-f6cnw</u>).

Remote seminar attendance: To get a certificate of attendance, the requirement for students is to submit a minimum of three key-points from each talk in a written summary (PDF). Interestingly, students typically submitted much longer and more detailed summaries, indicating their commitment and learning achievements. To verify attendance, organizers did not mark the summaries but only registered their submission.

Recorded seminars: Multiple authors of this paper have already invited FINE speakers to engage with students taking their undergraduate behavior courses (detailed example in Box 2).

BOX 2. Using FINE teaching tools in a behavioral ecology course

In 2021, the lead author (Hayes) used the FINE seminar to promote inquiry-based learning and discussion by 3rd and 4th year undergraduate and Master's students who were taking his remote, behavioral ecology course. During the academic term, the students engaged with ten recorded FINE seminars on the FINE YouTube page. Student engagement involved multiple steps (Figure 1). First, the students wrote 200-word summaries and three questions (emphasizing Tinbergen's 4 questions; Tinbergen 1963) about an article provided by the FINE speaker in a journal. Students then watched a recorded seminar together during the first hour of a three-hour class session. Next, the students discussed the seminar topic. For eight out of ten lectures, the speaker joined the discussion via zoom for 45-60 minutes, answering questions about the science and process, as well as their career path. This activity not only promoted inquiry-based learning, but also developed student confidence and ability to interact with leading scientists. To facilitate an inclusive discussion, Hayes moderated the session, calling on students who had a question. If speakers did not join the discussion (two of the 10 lectures), students watched 15-20 minutes of the recorded discussion among FINE participants following the seminar, after which they engaged in discussion with Hayes. After watching the seminar, the students added two layers to their summaries -(i) 2-3 themes of the seminar, written for a non-scientist and (ii) final thoughts and outstanding questions. Altogether, the summaries for each FINE seminar were one-page in length, requiring that students write succinctly. At the end of the academic term, the students wrote a synopsis of the FINE seminars, an activity that emphasized students' abilities to synthesize information. Instructions to students taking Hayes' course are posted at the FINE website (https://www.socialevolutionseminar.com/portfolio-3/project-four-2lsai).

Student feedback played an important role in the process. In response to verbal student feedback, Hayes changed the organization of the three-hour session. Subsequently, students first discussed a relevant article, preparing them for the seminar. The students then watched the seminar after which they engaged in discussion with the speaker or Hayes. We encourage such flexibility; responding to student suggestions improved the learning process in this class.



FIGURE 1. Flow of activities used in Hayes' Behavioral Ecology course for 3rd and 4th year undergraduates and Masters' students.

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Recorded seminar	Store recorded seminar on a video platform.	Summaries, discussion, essay, invite speaker. Creation of scientific communication material	YouTube page of FINE ³

¹https://www.socialevolutionseminar.com/portfolio-3/project-two-f6cnw

²https://www.researchgate.net/project/FINE-Teaching-Slides-for-Social-Evolution

³ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIXF01pLpCTBy7vSwLWH-GA



Figure 1