

RELATIONSHIP RESEARCH NEWS

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Terri L. Orbuch

Team IARR Takes the Gold

Athens, Greece – Actually I am writing this column from my home in Michigan while I am eating a Greek salad and watching the Olympics on TV. In keeping with the 2004 Olympic theme sweeping our country, I wanted to take this opportunity to talk about several of our own IARR champions and our future goals as a team.

We recently concluded our biennial meeting in Madison Wisconsin and it was a huge success! It was a particularly exciting conference because we were back in the same spot where we were 22 years ago for the 1st ICPR and 20 years ago for the 2nd ICPR. As all athletes strive to achieve, the Madison conference broke several records that have been standing for a long time. There were over 251 papers submitted to the Madison conference and over 350 people registered and attended the conference.

Unlike the Olympics, we did not need to construct any new arenas or spend millions of dollars on security. However, similar to the planning of the Olympics, an IARR conference does not happen overnight. There were numerous hours and efforts put into the development and delivery of the conference. Gold medals are awarded to Scott Christopher, Linda Roberts, Denise Solomon, and Amy Reesing for their dedication and commitment to the overall conference success. Further, numerous other IARR members volunteered to serve as presiders, reviewers, and members of the planning and local arrangements committees. All of these contributions helped build the conference and our organization, so gold medals all the way around! At the end of the conference, we also recognized two relationship scholars who made large contributions to

our field, but are no longer with us—Harold Kelley and Michael Argyle. Their memories will always be with us and we light the torch in their memory.

After but a few months of rigorous practice, the team gold medal goes to the entire IARR Board, who once again demonstrate why they are true champions. The competition in this category is always intense but they consistently rise to the occasion. New additions to the gold medal team are Beverley Fehr (Vice President), Julie Fitness (Publications Committee Chair), and John Caughlin (Program Committee Chair). The new recruits join veteran board members: Chris Agnew, Bill Cupach, Larry Kurdek, Barbara Winstead, Joao Moreira, and myself. Supporting the team on the road are Nancy Eckstein (Mentoring Committee Chair), Leanne Knobloch (Future Conferences Committee Chair), Rowland Miller (Awards Committee Chair), Robin Goodwin (Membership Committee Chair), and Lisa Baker (Website Committee Chair). We always need interested and skilled team members, so be sure to contact me if you are interested in assisting the team. Lastly, with a degree of difficulty of 10 (not 9.9!!), Bob Milardo and Bill Cupach turned in gold medal performances as past IARR presidents.

There are several future Olympic goals to look forward to in the next few months.

1. A top priority for the incoming Publications Committee will be to select a new editor for Personal Relationships.
2. In May 2004, IARR became legally registered in the state of California as a nonprofit corporation. We are in the process of attaining tax-exempt status.
3. In preparation for future Olympic moments, we will be recruiting athletes for the 2005 mini-conferences to be held in Brazil and Indianapolis, and the 2006 biennial conference in Crete.
4. Mark Fine passes the JSPR editor baton to Paul Mongeau. Mark finishes his term as editor in December 2004.

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Relationship Research News is published twice a year, once in September and once in April. Contributions are very welcome and will be published as space permits. Announcements, letters to the editors, cartoons/humor, teaching tips, and other information relevant to IARR members are all appropriate. If you would like to contribute a feature article or personal commentary, please submit a brief (one paragraph) description to the editors first (please do not send manuscripts). Submit all materials to Susan Boon, Department of Psychology, University of Calgary, 2500 University Dr. NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1N4, Canada; sdboon@ucalgary.ca. The deadline for final copy is September 1 for the Fall issue and April 1 for the Spring issue. (Inquiries regarding Feature Articles are welcome at any time.)

5. The IARR board voted to support a new scholars workshop at least once every two years. The mentorship committee chair will be responsible for planning this workshop. Nancy Eckstein is busy planning the new scholars workshop in 2005. More details will follow soon!
6. The term of office for the elected Program Committee Chair (who serves on the IARR Board) is one year under IARR's current by-laws, despite the fact that the association holds its major conference every two years. The board voted to modify the association by-laws to make the Program Committee Chair a two-year term. Now, the membership must vote on this by-law change.
7. One of my top priorities as President this year is to recruit more scholars of color and underrepresented cultures/countries. Further, it is my expectation that "Relationships in Context" becomes a highlighted theme at the 2006 IARR conference in Crete. I also hope that we will soon be able to offer membership and registration stipends, new scholar scholarships, conference scholarships and English-speaking editors for those who need assistance. There also will be a mechanism for members to donate funds for these initiatives.

As the Olympics would be nothing without the athletes, our organization would be nothing without its members. Your support for our organization is admirable. Your commitment to our success is unwavering. As an organization, we now have 700 paid IARR members.

The Olympic flame has come to symbolize the light of spirit, knowledge, and life. It is our responsibility to ensure that the IARR flame remains lit for us and for future generations.



Terri L. Orbuch
IARR President

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

by Susan Boon
University of Calgary

This issue of *Relationship Research News* has a little of everything for your reading pleasure. For those of you who missed the Madison conference—and for those, too, who have fond memories of dinner by the lake (not to mention the really memorable things like photographs of Bob Milardo and Michael Cunningham in their youth)—Denise Solomon has submitted a journal that describes some of the excitement and anticipation that happened “behind the scenes” during “Four Days in Madison.” Dawn Braithwaite completes our conference retrospective with a listing of the most recent IARR award winners and a description of the accomplishments that earned them honours at the Awards Dinner.

We also bring you exciting news about upcoming mini-conferences in 2005 and the next IARRC in 2006. Be sure to check out Leanne Knobloch's mini-conference update and the information Kostas Kafetsios (Local Arrangements Chair) has provided about Crete, the site of the 2006 conference. Yes, you read that right. We're going to Crete in 2006 and you'll all want to be there! Mark your calendars now for early July 2006.

On the lighter side of things, Dave Kenny gives us the inside scoop on a new cable network (an IARR joint venture with Barry Diller) devoted entirely to broadcasting relationship content. Next, in a delightfully dialectical dish, Dan Canary serves up memories of His Dinner with Andrea. Finally, Paul Wright achieves insight about the post-retirement angst he's been experiencing in his latest contribution to the Retired Professionals Column (thanks to all of

you who encouraged Paul to make this column a regular feature).

You will also find three book reviews in this issue of the newsletter, each discussing a recent book edited or authored by IARR members. If you have a book you'd like to see reviewed in a future edition of the newsletter, please drop us a line and let us know the details. In addition, if you'd like to write a review for the newsletter, please send us your name and areas of interest. We're always looking for new reviewers and it's a great way to get a free copy of the book for your own personal library.

We also resurrect the Teaching Tips Column with this issue. Special thanks are due to editorial team member Maureen O'Sullivan who has graciously offered to coordinate the effort to reinstate this column as a regular newsletter feature. For this first venture into the teaching tips arena, Maureen has crafted a piece in advice-column style. We hope that future columns will feature contributions from some of the award-winning teachers among our membership and harness the wisdom, the creativity, and the energy of those whose excellence in teaching have earned them recognition in their fields.

Finally, don't forget to read the announcements and call for papers. Julie Fitness, Terri Orbuch, and Chris Agnew bring you news on several important fronts, including impending developments regarding an on-line membership directory. In addition, Sally Lloyd and Michael Cunningham advertise opportunities that might be of interest to you.

And now I'd like to make a special request. My editorial team and I would like to ask for your help in putting together feature articles for upcoming issues of the bulletin. We're currently seeking contributions on two topics that we think will be of interest to our membership: funding for relationship research and the ethics of studying relationships. If you have tips for writing grant proposals that you'd like to share with your IARR colleagues or would like to comment on challenges you've

faced in securing funding for your research, please send us your thoughts. We are particularly interested in hearing from those who've experienced tension between the desire to "follow their heart" and seek funding to pursue questions that are of intrinsic interest to them and subtle or not so subtle pressures to follow an externally-imposed research agenda because "that's where the grant money goes." Submissions on other funding-related topics are also welcome. Our interest in featuring ethics and relationship research emerges from conversations that took place at the Madison conference about some of the difficulties and hurdles that researchers are encountering in their efforts to study important and socially significant relationship issues. Issues of ethics engendered considerable discussion in at least two symposia I attended and it became clear to me that, as a field, we could benefit from each other's experiences in the ethics review process. Perhaps some of us have found effective means of dealing with ethical issues with which others of us still struggle. We could feature those strategies in an upcoming newsletter. Perhaps a candid discussion of the obstacles we encounter in the ethical review process would help identify areas where we might work to educate members of ethics committees about the nature of our research.

For each of these feature articles, we especially encourage submissions by international members and members from disciplines that are under-represented in IARR membership. Please direct your submissions by electronic mail to Susan Boon at sdboon@ucalgary.ca or by regular mail at Department of Psychology, University of Calgary, 2500 University Dr. NW, T2N 1N4, Canada.

Thanks once again to my editorial team for their support in pulling this issue of the newsletter together. We hope you enjoy it.

FEATURE ARTICLE

AN IARRC 2004 JOURNAL: FOUR DAYS IN MADISON

submitted by Denise Solomon
Local Arrangements Co-Chair

A record number of relationship scholars enjoyed four days and nights of scholarship and camaraderie at the IARR conference in Madison, Wisconsin. The hallways, meeting rooms, and lobby of the Madison conference hotel came alive as participants rekindled friendships, discussed cutting edge research, and formed new ties. And the excitement of the days spilled over into evenings when conference attendees enjoyed IARRC events and the nightlife in Madison.

A four-day journal recorded by local arrangements co-hosts Linda Roberts and Denise Solomon provides an inside glimpse of the conference highlights. . .

Wednesday, July 21: T minus 1

After more than 18 months of planning, we find ourselves on the eve of IARRC 2004. Fortunately, we aren't alone. The seminar room in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Wisconsin is abuzz with activity as more than a dozen graduate student volunteers stuff registration packets, prepare a restaurant guide, assemble display boards, and so much more. Linda has command central running like a well-oiled machine, while Denise zips off to the hotel to check on the A/V team. At the Concourse, Denise runs into a couple of early arrivals for the

conference, Bill Cupach and Krystyna Aune. How exciting – we're on our way!

Thursday, July 22: The Grand Opening

The morning is filled with setting the stage – preparing meeting rooms, assembling the computer and projection equipment, and training the registration desk team. A/V staff from the University of Wisconsin's Department of Communication Arts work wonders, and soon we are poised for take-off. The first conference participants arrive in the early afternoon, and the staff quickly gets into a groove. Amidst the flurry of registration, greetings are exchanged and the energy builds. Relationship scholars are welcomed to Madison with hors d'oeuvres and refreshments, courtesy of the Fetzer institute, followed by the opening ceremonies. IARR president Terri Orbuch calls the conference into session, and Mary Anne Fitzpatrick (Professor of Communication Arts and Deputy Dean of the College of Letters and Science at the University of Wisconsin) welcomes participants to Madison. Harry Reis sets the scholarly standard for the conference in his role as invited speaker for the opening night by calling for us to strive for grand theory and showcasing his research on responsiveness in personal relationships. We head into dinner both relieved to be under-way and filled with anticipation for the days to come.

Friday, July 23: Let the Games Begin

Registration continues, but a remarkable number of attendees are already on site. A good thing, too, because the morning kicks off early with breakfasts for graduate students and the stepfamilies and relationships interest group. After breakfast, participants head into concurrent panels and symposia, then gather in the ballroom to hear invited speaker Laura Guerrero. But wait, where is Laura? Never fear – although an ear infection prevented Laura from flying to Madison, Brian Spitzberg and Peter Andersen are on hand to deliver her talk. The audience is awed by the Spitzberg/Andersen team, but Denise learns that Brian and Peter are

declining future bookings until they consult with an agent. After lunch, attendees enjoy another round of excellent panels, and the scholarship of Robert Milardo at the afternoon invited address. The first day of the conference culminates at the dazzling Monona Terrace, where party-goers are met by tables of morsels, and memorabilia from the 1982 and 1984 Madison conferences. We find ourselves alternating between marveling at the energy in the room and calling for more food. After a delightful ending of coffee and not-quite-enough-dessert on the rooftop, we collapse onto some couches and toast the evening.

Saturday, July 24: Smooth Sailing

We start the morning not quite believing that there are still two days of conference to go, but soon we're in full swing. An added bonus is discovering that Denise's five-month old son Quincy is featured on the front page of the local paper, along with news coverage of the conference. The rhythm of the conference takes over, as interest group breakfasts flow into morning panels and symposia, and the full group assembles for Anita Vangelisti's invited address. After lunch, another round of panels, and then it's off to the round table and poster sessions. Thanks again to the Fetzer Institute, attendees explored poster displays while trays of hors d'oeuvres were butlered through the aisles. Following an introduction to plans for IARRC 2006 in Crete at the association business meeting, relationship scholars were loosed on Madison for a free night.

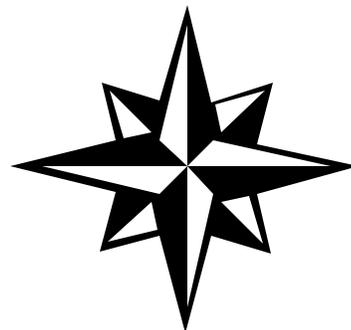
Sunday, July 25: All Good Things Must End

Refreshed by our free evening, we look forward to the final day of festivities. Interest group breakfasts and morning sessions lead into Michael Cunningham's invited address. And again, afternoon panels and symposia culminate in round table and poster sessions; this time our snacks are chocolate covered strawberries, which went fast, and baklava, which was worth saving for later. Farewells have started already, as some attendees head back to summer teaching

responsibilities. The rest of us make the trek down State Street, take in the view from the Memorial Union Terrace, and gather in the great hall of the Memorial Union for the Awards Dinner. The evening commences with an open-microphone so that people can share stories from the past Madison conferences. Terri Orbuch leads the group in a chorus of "Happy Birthday," as we mark the Madison anniversary with a tiered cake. For the evening program, Bill Cupach recognizes the many people who keep the association vibrant, Dawn Braithwaite bestows the association's prestigious awards, and Robert Milardo honors the leadership provided by Bill Cupach by presenting him with a bottle of fine pink wine. In our last acts as local arrangements chairs, we clear the floor of tables, cue the DJ, and let the dancing begin.

Epilogue

IARRC 2004 was a record setting conference both in terms of the number of registrants (over 350) and the program submissions. Yet, in the great tradition established in those first Madison conferences, IARRC 2004 brought scholars together to envision new horizons in relationship research. Even as the association grows in size, its foundation in excellent scholarship and personal networking remains strong. Nowhere was this more apparent than on the shores of lakes Mendota and Monona, in the summer of 2004.



IARR AWARDS UPDATE

IARR AWARD RECIPIENTS 2004

by Dawn Braithwaite

Ten awards were presented to IARR members for scholarship, teaching, and mentorship, as well as career distinctions at the 2004 conference in Madison. The Awards Banquet capped off the conference Sunday night. The Awards Committee, Dawn O. Braithwaite (Chair), Anita Barbee, Rodney Cate, Beverly Fehr, Rowland Miller, and Brian Spitzberg worked to combine the awards and procedures from INPR and ISSPR. A complete list of winners is below.

Highlights of the ceremony were presenting a new award, the first IARR Book Award, won by Sandra Petronio for her book, *Boundaries of Privacy*. John G. Holmes of the University of Waterloo won the Mentoring Award. In his nomination a former student had written, "John exemplifies the qualities of mentorship to which most aspire, but few achieve."

The culmination of the awards ceremony was the presentation of the IARR Distinguished Career Award to Ted L. Huston, University of Texas at Austin. One his nominators wrote, "one of Ted's most enduring contributions to the field of personal relationships had been to train and inspire an incredible number of talented younger investigators who are themselves advancing our knowledge about personal relationships. The list of 34 individuals who did their doctoral research with Ted reads like a "Who's Who" of leaders in our field."

Another prominent scholar explained, "If I were asked what single research project by any

member of IARR has had the greatest impact on our field, I would certainly suggest it is the PAIR project... I must mention another important thing about Ted's work... the meaningfulness and impact [of his publications] has been huge; nearly all the articles have appeared in demanding refereed journals...I believe strongly that Ted Huston deserved the IARR Distinguished Career Award. His work over the past 30 or more years has made major contributions to our field and it is time for us to acknowledge that prominently."

The Awards Committee encourages members to look for the call to come from the next committee for the 2006 conference and to take the time to nominate deserving members. As anyone attending the ceremony could see, winning these awards is very meaningful to the winners and this is an important way we can recognize excellence in scholarship, teaching, mentoring, and careers. Hearty congratulations to all the winners!

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

ARTICLE AWARD:

Orbuch, T. L., Veroff, J., Hassan, H., & Horrocks, J. (2002). Who will divorce: A 14-year longitudinal study of black couples and white couples. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 19, 179-202.

BOOK AWARD:

Petronio, S. (2002). *Boundaries Of Privacy: Dialectics Of Disclosure*. Albany, NY: State University Of New York Press.

DISSERTATION AWARD:

Lisa Neff, University of Florida

STEVE DUCK NEW SCHOLARS AWARD:

Jennifer L. Yanowitz, University of Minnesota

TEACHING AND MENTORING AWARDS**TEACHING AWARD:**

Pamela Lannutti, Boston College

MENTORING AWARD:

John G. Holmes, University of Waterloo

CAREER AWARDS**GERALD R. MILLER AWARD FOR EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT:**

John Caughlin, University of Illinois

Benjamin R. Karney, University of Florida

BERSCHIED-HATFIELD AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED MID-CAREER ACHIEVEMENT:

Jeff Simpson, Texas A & M University

DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD:

Ted L. Huston, University of Texas at Austin

**STUDENT & NEW
PROFESSIONALS
COLUMN**

Looking Back on Madison

by João Moreira

As I came back home from IARR's recent conference in Madison, WI, I remember telling myself that I had almost forgotten how heartwarming these events were. In fact, after the gap in my attendance (my last relationships conference had been in Brisbane, Australia, in 2000), I was delighted to recognize the same welcoming climate, the same mutual

encouragement of excellence in research, and the same meeting of old and making of new friends that seems to accompany every one of these conferences. Later, as I was rereading my latest column in preparing to write this one, I realized from what I had then written that I had not forgotten it after all. I believe the way I feel about these conferences comes through in what I wrote in the Spring issue of this newsletter.

But these feelings became even stronger as a result of things that happened at the Madison conference. In my first couple of in-person meetings of the IARR Board of Directors, one of them going for over five hours, I was again impressed by the quality of the people leading this society, and by how productively they are able to work and get through issues, no matter how controversial or complex they are. I was also thrilled to see how many of the lines of action that I had envisaged and presented in these columns are being actively and independently pursued by other people.

For example, one of my most ingrained beliefs is that associations like ours stand to gain a lot by increasing diversity in their membership. This includes not only attracting more people from outside North America, but also having more people of ethnic minorities as members and conference attendants. The good thing to see was how much this issue was important to other, highly influential people on the Board, who were even more emphatic about it than I was. In this and many other issues,

I was also able to share a lot with my dear friend Ruth Sharabany, the chair of the Mentoring Committee at the time. Remember what I said in the Spring column about having contacted the editors of JSPR and PR about the inclusion of student reviewers, and how positive the response was? Well, Ruth went even further along the same path by organizing a "Breakfast with the Editors," where graduate students and recent PhDs could meet both editors and quite a few associate editors in person and discuss possible avenues for involvement, both as authors and as reviewers. So again, if you would like to serve as a reviewer (a fundamental step in possibly becoming an Editorial Board member or, who

knows, Associate Editor), send Sue Sprecher (PR, sprecher@ilstu.edu) and/or Paul Mongeau (JSPR, jspr@asu.edu) an e-mail expressing your interest in reviewing for the journal. Make sure you include your name, e-mail address, postal address and area(s) of expertise, so that they know who to send that manuscript to! And remember, it is the explicit goal of both editors to include at least one student reviewer for every single paper that is submitted.

In another delightful convergence, I also found out that Ruth was thinking about setting up a specific area in the association's website targeting the interests of graduate students. I found this great, because I had had the same idea and had actually started planning on what to include, so we are going to join forces on this, making it all easier. So, be prepared for good stuff coming soon to the IARR website!

Finally, and perhaps the most important of all, I was amazed at the effects the simple passage of time can show. On the one hand, I saw so many of the people I had met in previous years as fellow graduate students, now well launched in their professional careers and on track to become highly respected researchers constituting the new leading generation in the field of relationship research. On the other, it was equally great to see a new batch of students coming to this conference for the first time, ensuring the future of the field and the organization. On a more personal note, I must mention my pleasure in seeing the increasing number of people coming from Europe, especially from Belgium and the Netherlands, but also, and for the first time, someone else from Portugal! It really makes me proud to be a member of a group that invests so much in supporting new people in the field. So just make sure you do your share and get the most out of it!

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF RELATIONSHIPS

RelNet

by David A. Kenny

Our Association has been in secret talks with Barry Diller to assist in the development of a new cable network channel, the Relationship Network or RelNet. I have received access to an IARR secret memo from the special advisory board for RelNet programs for RelNet. (I want to thank my confidential source. His identity will remain anonymous to my death; I will only say that his last name rhymes with a four-letter word.) Here is a sneak preview at their sensational fall line-up:

Safe Sex in the City:

Four glamorous 30 somethings (sorry, none related to a famous relationship researcher) find themselves, every week, in strange situations with a banana.

Mathematically Correct Survivor: Castaways provide round-robin peer ratings on a 7-point, 35-item, scale. Scores are corrected for the bias in judgment due to missing data; should partner variance not exceed 30% of the total variance the contestants must eat food leftover from a Paul Popiel infomercial.

Dr. Phil and Dr. Cindy:

After being interviewed by a dynamic duo of experts, the audience guesses the attachment styles of cohabitating couples who live in homes pulled by large vehicles.

The Altos:

Tony Alto, chairman of a New Jersey Studies Department at Hoboken State College, conspires to give tenure to his teenage son, his therapist, and an aging stripper, and avoids being censured by the Dean, who is his mother.

Art Aron 360:

Bridge crossing, circles moving toward each other, and bodies undergoing an fMRI -- you never know what to expect from this wacky Californian galavanting throughout New York City.

Not Everybody Loves an Editor:

The editors of relationship journals explain why they rejected your paper.

Wait, Wait, Tell Me:

Couples receive results from pregnancy tests that are based on a random number table.

Antique Roadie Show:

Rebecca Adams interviews washed-up members of touring rock bands who are waiting for liver transplants.

The Singing A-mae Chef:

Inept chefs sing karaoke to get people to feel sorry for them and then the people pretend to like their disgusting food and horrible voices.

CSI UCLA:

Dissecting just a single response to an item on a scale, the degree of loneliness is determined.

The Simpsons:

Hosted by O. J. and Jessica Simpson, famous politicians are DNA-tested to determine if they are bastards.

The King as a Queen:

Elvis impersonators, in drag, give accounts of their most recent relationship breakup.

American Idle:

Procrastinating reviewers make up their feeble excuses to authors for why they are late with their reviews, as they are suspended over a tank of unfed alligators.

Sadly it looks as if the following two shows will never be aired:

Domestic Mole:

A reality show in which a normal family is turned into a dysfunctional one by introducing a mole family member, who enables self-destructive behaviors, escalates negative behaviors, and makes faulty attributions. The producers seem to be unable to find any normal families.

Touched by a _____:

Children recount how their lives were dramatically changed after encounters with religious teachers. Producers are having difficulty with the show's name; they cannot use "Touched by a Priest" for obvious reasons, "Touched by a Rabbi" would have to be changed to "Touched by a Zionist Rabbi" because of UN pressure, and US Attorney General Ashcroft threatened to arrest anyone cast in the lead of "Touched by a Mullah."

In Search of (Dialectical) Tensions: My Dinner with Andrea

by Dan Canary

I had the most amazing time last Saturday when I had dinner with an old friend, Andrea. We met at a restaurant and soon found ourselves lost in conversation. We talked about art, politics, and (of course) relationships.

In the middle of our conversation, she shivered. I asked if she was OK. "No worries," Andrea said, "Just a dialectical tension. I think this was of the openness-closedness variety." She then explained how people in relationships experience *dialectical tensions*—or tensions that arise when people feel the pull of opposing but mutually necessary forces. Such tensions include wanting to be autonomous and connected to someone else (the *autonomy-connection* dialectic), to be open and at the same

time private (the *openness-closedness* dialectic), and to have novel experiences while also having a sense of stability (and the *novelty-stability* dialectic).

"But how do you know what you felt was a *dialectical* tension?" I asked.

"Hard to say," she admitted. "First, you have to separate dialectical tensions from other kinds of tensions, for example, leg cramps, back spasms, and nervous twitches. I usually check my pulse. If my pulse is either too fast or too slow, then it's probably a dialectical tension."

"Are you sure it's not *sexual* tension?" I had to ask.

"Absolutely," Andrea replied, "You're not that attractive."

"OK, but how do you know what *type* of tension it is?"

"Good question," Andrea continued. "The most obvious is the autonomy-connection tension. When that comes on, I feel either very needy for my partner or quite nauseated. It's simple really - if I want more autonomy, I feel like throwing-up; if I want more connection, I get hungry. Usually, I crave lamb."

"That makes sense. What about the openness-closedness tension: How did you know just now that you were experiencing that?"

"Well, a minute ago I wanted to slap you. Wanting to slap somebody is a sign that you want them to shut-up. I never actually slap anyone, mind you. But my fingers tingle and I get a clear image of the other person's face contorting in pain. If I want more disclosure, then I get thirsty."

"Yes, I noticed you were drinking a lot!"

"Very observant of you—I noticed that too," she slurred. "Perhaps that is why we began disclosing too much. And when you told me of your monosexual experiences in college, I wanted to slap you. Not that I have anything

against monosexuals; it's simply that our relationship could not handle that much information at this time. I am sure you understand," Andrea replied.

"Of course I do," I lied. "I also felt like slapping you earlier, but for a different reason." A few years ago, Andrea introduced me to my ex-wife.

Andrea said, "Look, don't take this *personally*. Everyone in a close relationship goes through these tensions. The closer you are to someone, the more tense you will be. It's axiomatic. That is why I don't like seeing you very much."

"Ok, what about the novelty-stability dialectical tension: How do you know when you go through that?" I had to ask.

"That is the toughest, because sleep deprivation can feel like a desire for novelty or stability," Andrea replied. "My litmus test for novelty-stability is to wear a mood ring. If the ring is blue, then I need novelty. And, again, if it is blue, then I want stability."

"Wait! The ring gives you the same colors for the opposite tensions. You can't have the same behavioral outcomes for alternative hypotheses!" I protested.

"Look, Dan" she condescended, "This is *not* some simple scientific theory. You need to get over your search for falsifiable hypotheses. I think that once you give up that hopeless chase you will see the truth in beauty. Besides, you're still not attractive, and you've gained some weight."

Then Andrea did something I did not expect--she let me pick-up the check! Again, I felt like slapping her. But I realized that it might be because I was experiencing a need for less openness. Perhaps there is something to this dialectical theory after all.

I took a cab home. As it was leaving the restaurant, I looked back to see Andrea walking down the street. I wondered if I would ever see her again. I hope not. I wanted to rush home and tell my wife about my dinner with Andrea,

until I remembered that my wife doesn't know Andrea.

RETIRED PROFESSIONALS COLUMN

The Retirement Crisis: Erik Erikson Amended?

by Paul Wright

Please bear with me through some preliminary “metacolumnizing.” I am happy to report that a deal has been struck. Susan Boon had asked me some time ago to provide a retiree column as a regular feature of *Relationship Research News*. Some readers will recall that such a column appeared in the Spring, 2004 issue. There was a hint, but no guarantee, that similar columns would follow. Susan asked. I dawdled. But recently, being prevailed upon (face to face) by Susan and three other persuasive colleagues, I agreed. Terms of the deal? Simple. I write the columns; *RRN* prints them.

I was not, as you may suspect, an easy mark for this arrangement. Nosiree! Before agreeing, I asked a profoundly probing question: “Why?” Although varying somewhat from person to person, the consensual answer was that people liked the first column and thought it was humorous. Shall I say “Aw, shucks,” and pretend that I was not delighted with this answer? No way. I was. I still am.

I was especially pleased that readers found the column humorous. I was pretty sure they wouldn't. Mildly amusing, perhaps, but not really *funny*. Apparently it was, at least for

some people. This happy thought catapulted me into an exhilarating but short-lived fantasy. “Aha!” I thought, “Maybe I've found that niche for post-retirement writing that I've been moaning about so pitifully.”

In my first column, I admitted ruefully that John Grisham I ain't. Well, so what? Not all writers do weighty but gripping novels. Some writers do newspaper columns that keep their readers entertained with pithy, tongue-in-cheek observations. Maybe I could join their ranks via *RRN*. Who knows? Perhaps someone with the right connections would read the column and help me get it into syndication. How's *that* for a solution to my problem with why to write and what to write? (For readers who may not have noticed, some aging retirees have a way of waxing grandiose).

Two realizations catapulted me out of my fantasy back into reality. First, *RRN* appears only twice a year. Two 1600-word columns per year would not adequately scratch the persistent itch to write that I'd been stewing about.

Second, I made the mistake of re-reading the original column. I found it only mildly amusing. If others found it more so, I'm pleased. But the fact remains: John Grisham isn't the only writer I ain't. I ain't Dave Barry. Or Erma Bombeck. Or Art Buchwald. Or Dorothy Parker. Or Robert Benchley. Or any other past or present icon of wry, sly, sometimes ribald and always folksy humor.

Armed with the encouragement that some people liked my first column tempered by the humbling likelihood that the column will never achieve syndication,¹ it is clearly time to quit metacolumnizing. It is time, rather, to attend to my mandate to write personally and informally about my experiences with retirement.

Concerning my original column, one might suspect that I found a comforting degree of closure on my problems with writing by the very

¹ Should I perchance learn some day that you snorted derisively or laughed uproariously at this point, I will not think less of you.

act of articulating questions about them. After all, it is often said that once a question is well formulated, the formulation itself provides much of the answer. Not this time! *Au contraire*. My continued pondering of those questions (and tentative answers) spawned a series of tumultuous conversations with myself.

These introspective exercises usually caught me unawares, worming themselves insidiously into the streams of consciousness occupying my idle minutes and hours – of which most retirees have many. The conversations were not, as a rule, an experience for the squeamish. I'll spare you the agonizing details. Suffice it to say that they culminated in a startling conclusion: Writing was not the real problematic issue. It was but part of the broader and deeper matter of deciding on (and living out) the kind of relationship retiree I wanted to be. But there's more.

From this point, my egocentric conversations took the form of saying to myself, "Okay, self. Let's look at the options. Being ruthlessly realistic, what kind of PR retiree do you think you can be and want to be?" The ensuing dialogues eventually resulted in (gasp!) a resolution! A resolution, that is, of the question about the kind of PR retiree I would henceforth endeavor to be. And with it, a resolution of my problems with writing.

Concerning the kind of retiree to be, three options surfaced. The first was to pretty much call it quits as a relationship scholar, to make a clean break. This would not, of course, mean losing track of either the PR field or my PR colleagues. But it would mean staying just active enough to be minimally informed and "cordial," freeing me up to do new and different things—interesting hobbies, volunteer work, a part time job, even a new career (like writing a syndicated column [chuckle]). This option held some appeal for me. I am, in fact, doing some new things, as any of you who have scurried to avoid the searching lens of my digital camera can testify.

The second option was to put the "producing" aspect of my career behind me, but to stay involved and visible by becoming a grand old

man.² You know the kind of person I'm talking about. The kind who glides smoothly into Erik Erikson's eighth and final stage of life and resolves the Ego Integrity versus Despair crisis in the direction of Ego Integrity. The kind who says, "Okay. I've had my career. It was a good trip. I've made my contribution. I've left my legacy. It's over. But I've picked up a fund of special insights along the way. I'll stick around, stay connected, and do what I can to share those insights with scholars who are still in the fray." Erikson, you may recall, said that the ego strength ("virtue") accompanying Ego Integrity is wisdom.

I kid you not, folks, that lofty option appealed to me. I would love to be a grand old man. But to do so might be impossible, and it would definitely be risky.

Why impossible? Because in order to be a grand old man, one must first have been either a grand young man or a grand middle-aged man. So I wondered, "Do enough of my PR colleagues consider me to have been a grand young or middle-aged man for me to be taken seriously as a grand old man?" Who knows? Probably not.

Why risky? Because there is a very good chance that I would not come across as a venerable sage, an unfathomable well of relationship erudition, a ceaselessly flowing stream of sound counsel. I greatly fear I would come across, instead, as a sanctimonious, pontificating old poop. (That's a pretty neat expression, isn't it? I stole it from Spencer Tracy's last movie, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, 1967).

And why (you may ask) do I think I would come across as a sanctimonious, pontificating old poop? Because in the early days of my career I was a sanctimonious, pontificating *young* poop. Need evidence? I can supply references, both published and personal. Since outgrowing that annoying inclination, I have harbored a secret dread of unwittingly reverting to type. I would

² Please pardon the gender-unneutral expression. In my defense, if a woman were writing this, "grand old woman" would seem very natural, but "grand old person" simply does not have a euphonious ring to it.

hate, while enacting the role of a grand old man, to regress into sanctimonious pontificating. Risky. Risky, indeed.

The third option was to be the kind of PR retiree who doesn't really retire, the kind who is determined to continue pushing relentlessly against the frontiers of PR ignorance, to explore innovative ideas, to do further studies, to publish exciting new findings, to write insightfully integrative books and articles. (Hoo, boy!) Okay. Let's just say, "one who maintains a respectable level of research productivity." Matter of fact, I learned from my tumultuous introspections that this is the sort of PR retiree I had implicitly decided I wanted to be. Fat chance!

My pre-retirement perception was that, unencumbered by teaching responsibilities, committee assignments and administrative duties, I would have huge amounts of time to be at least respectfully productive. The post-retirement reality was that I had lost many taken-for-granted collegial, administrative and teaching-related supports that had undergirded my academic life. Therefore, being a PR retiree who didn't really retire would likely take more dedication, concentration, self-discipline and hard work than I would be able or willing to muster. Who? Paul Wright? Yes, Paul Wright. HA! Had a lot of you fooled, didn't I?

My dialogues with myself took place at odd times over a long period, beginning shortly after I wrote my first column. But it was not until this past week that it dawned on me what they were really all about. "Hey," I finally realized, "all this fevered self-examination isn't about how to put the finishing touches on my career in a way that makes me feel satisfied and serene rather than despairing over what went before. It's about sorting through more new opportunities than I can handle and deciding which ones I can most happily and fruitfully commit myself to." It was not, in other words, a crisis of Ego Integrity versus Despair. It was a crisis of Identity versus Role Confusion. Then the full light broke. The impact was startling. "Great Scott!" I thought, "I'm a 71-year-old adolescent!"

Strange as it may seem, that way of putting the matter made the rest of the job easy. I quit treating myself as if I were an old codger with one foot in the grave and the other on a banana peel and started treating myself as if I were a teenager struggling to establish an identity – well, okay, only "sort of," but you get the idea. The resolution wasn't long in coming. I found my identity. Actually, I should say "situated identity" (a la symbolic interactionism). Know what? Realizing it was, indeed, a *situated* identity was part of the resolution.

At this point, I am tempted to wax critical on why I now think Erikson was misleadingly incomplete about the crises of old age. I will forbear. I'm afraid I would come across as a sanctimonious, pontificating old poop.

What about my situated identity? And how did that solve my problem about "writing, non-writing, and ideas for writing?" Be patient. Another column is coming up in six months.

Will the column be funny? Probably.

Why probably? Because aging retirees are especially inclined to break the 11th commandment, which is (verbatim), "Thou shalt not take thyself too doggoned seriously." To outside observers, people are seldom funnier than when they are breaking this commandment.

'nuff said?





Net News

by Lisa Baker

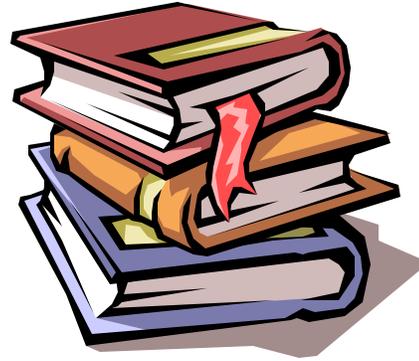
The IARR Web site (www.iarr.org) recently underwent a minor reorganization (you could call this IARR web site 1.1) and has been adding new features, including information for graduate students.

IARR recently charged the Web site committee with (1) ensuring that IARR has a stable web service provider that is able to accommodate our expanding web presence, and (2) bringing the two journal web sites (for PR and JSPP) under the “umbrella” of the IARR web site. We are also planning on a more effective web presence for this newsletter. We will be working on these tasks in the months ahead and will report back to you on our progress.

We are always collecting links to member home pages and to graduate programs that have an emphasis on personal relationships. If your web sites are not yet listed, please send me the links (Lisa.Baker@purchase.edu).

Please continue to visit the IARR web site for information on conferences, publications, membership, contact information for IARR officers, etc. And as always, any member can contact me at any time with IARR-related information to post on the Web site.

Lisa Baker (Lisa.Baker@purchase.edu)
on behalf of the Web Site Committee.



BOOK REVIEWS

The Handbook of Sexuality in Close Relationships

By J. H. Harvey, A. Wenzel, & S. Sprecher (Eds.) (2004). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum. 686 pp.

Reviewed By Gregory D. Morrow
Department of Psychology
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

The feature article in the Spring 2004 issue of *Relationship Research News* presented the views of a variety of IARR members regarding the challenges faced by relationship researchers in the coming decades. My brief contribution to that article emphasized the need for better understanding of the role sexual behavior plays in interpersonal relationships. Thus, when I became aware of Harvey, Wenzel, & Sprecher's text I jumped at the opportunity to examine it. The goal of the book is to integrate research on close relationships and sexuality, and includes research from a variety of areas including communication studies, sociology, family studies, psychology, and psychiatry. The final product is a somewhat imposing 25 chapters (686 pages) presented by over 50 authors. These chapters are, however, organized into six parts, five of which I will examine below (the sixth portion of the book consists of two excellent

commentary chapters which I will not discuss due to space limitations).

I. Introduction.

This first section includes four chapters that lay the foundation for the remainder of the book. In the first chapter DeLameter and Hyde examine 'Conceptual and Theoretical Issues in Studying Sexuality in Close Relationships'. With regard to conceptual issues, they address current definitions of sexuality (defined too narrowly), models for dyadic, interactional phenomena (typically focused on the individual rather than the dyad) as well as issues of gender, race, and development approaches to sexuality. They also provide reviews and evaluations of five theoretical approaches relevant to sexuality in close relationships (evolutionary theory, social exchange, script theory, symbolic interaction, and role theory). The critiques of these theories are necessarily brief but the authors provide a good overview of each, concluding with a comparison of the five. Chapter two, 'Methodological Issues in Studying Sexuality in Close Relationships' (Wiederman) focuses on three areas; sampling, measurement, and research design and data analysis. Chapter three, 'Overview of Sexual Practices and Attitudes Within Relational Contexts' (Willetts, Sprecher, & Beck) provides a summary of current knowledge of adolescent and adult sexual behavior and attitudes. The focus is on three areas of sexuality within a relational context: Sexuality during adolescence and young adulthood, adult sexuality, and extramarital/extradynamic sex. Further, the bulk of the data presented come from large, representative national studies. Perhaps what struck me most was how little we really do know about sexuality within close relationships. In chapter four (Sociosexuality and Romantic Relationships) Simpson, Wilson, and Winterheld provide an extensive review of the literature examining the concept of sociosexual orientation. Gangestad and Simpson (1990) propose that sociosexual orientation represents a continuous dimension of individual differences in sexual attitudes, preferences, and behaviors. Unrestricted individuals tend to engage in sexual contact earlier in their relationships and may do

so without feelings of love, closeness, or commitment. Conversely, restricted individuals require emotional closeness with a partner as a prerequisite for sexual activity. Sociosexual orientation is proposed as explanation for the wide variations in sexual behavior and attitudes exhibited across individuals. Within the chapter, there are two areas of emphasis, specifically the association between sociosexuality and 1) other individual differences measures (i.e., attachment, gender roles) and 2) "mating proclivities" (i.e., mating motives, interaction patterns, etc.).

II. Role of Sexuality in the Formation, Development, and Maintenance of Close Relationships

The six chapters in this section discuss the most essential aspects of the interplay between sexuality and close relationships. In chapter 5 (Sex and the Attraction Process...) Regan examines how sexual responses and characteristics influence attraction and relationship formation. The chapter begins with a discussion of the association between sexual desire and passionate love. The remainder of the chapter examines how four factors (sex appeal, sexual passion, sexual experience, and sexual fidelity) are related to attraction. Further, each of these factors is explored from two theoretical perspectives, 1) a social context perspective, and 2) an evolutionary perspective. Chapter 6 'First Sexual Involvement in Romantic Relationships...' (Metts) examines the first sexual experience in dating couples' relationships and explores the short- and long-term consequences of those experiences. In particular, Metts focuses on the "passion" turning point, which is indicated by such events as the first kiss, one individual telling the other that they love them, and the first sexual experience between the partners. In Chapter 7 (Sex and Romantic Love...) Hendrick and Hendrick explore various theories and studies regarding the links between love and sex. The chapter is quite ambitious and examines a number of views on love and sex including philosophical, biological, attachment, psychological, and sociological approaches to this issue. In the end, Hendrick and Hendrick

conclude that the two concepts are related although there may be less agreement among scholars as to how and why love and sex are linked. In chapter 8 'Attachment and Sexuality in Close Relationships' Feeney and Noller provide a very brief review of attachment theory before discussing four of their own studies that explore the relationship between attachment and a variety of sexuality variables. Their data indicate that attachment is related to a variety of factors including the likelihood of engaging in intercourse, frequency and enjoyment of sexual behaviors, communication about sex and unsafe sexual practices. In chapter 9 (Understanding Sexuality in Close Relationships From the Social Exchange Perspective) Byers and Wang propose that social exchange theories provide a viable perspective for examining sexual behavior in close relationships. The chapter begins with a review of social exchange theories and the four components (rewards/costs, equity/equality, comparison level, & comparison level for alternatives) central to these theories. Byers and Wang point out that no single theory incorporates all four of these components. The remainder of the chapter examines how each of these components might influence four different sexual behaviors; partner selection, frequency of sexual activity, sexual satisfaction, and extradyadic sexual behavior. I found the structure of the chapter to be somewhat repetitive (although this may have been due to my own familiarity with social exchange theories) but the authors cover an impressive amount of research and make a strong case for approaching sexual behavior from a social exchange perspective. The general focus of chapter 10 (Sprecher & Cate) is on the associations between sexual satisfaction and overall relationship satisfaction and stability. As might be expected, sexual satisfaction and relationship satisfaction tend to be positively correlated although the causal direction of this association is unclear at this juncture. Research on the relationship between sexual satisfaction and stability is less common but these factors also appear to be positively related. The remainder of the chapter briefly examines research on various aspects of sexual expression (i.e., frequency of sexual activity, orgasm, sexual communication) as they relate to sexual

satisfaction, relationship satisfaction, and stability. Perhaps the most basic conclusion to be drawn from these studies is that there is a need for much more research on the relational aspects of sexual expression.

III. The Dark Side of Sex

The three chapters in this section are devoted to the some of the negative aspects of relational sexuality. In chapter 11 (Unrequited Lust) Cupach and Spitzberg examine the phenomenon of non-reciprocated sexual attraction to another. Chapter 12 'Sexual Aggression in Romantic Relationships' (Christopher & Kisler) first summarizes literature regarding the frequency of sexual aggression within various relational contexts. The chapter then discusses various factors associated with relational sexual aggression (i.e., relational dynamics, social support for sexual aggression, etc.). Finally, the authors provide brief summaries of the victim outcome and prevention program literatures. In 13 (Sexual and Emotional Jealousy) Guerrero, Spitzberg, and Yoshimura first summarize how these two types of jealousy are conceptualized as well as some of the correlates of both. The main focus of the chapter, however, is an argument for the application of the parental investment model (Trivers, 1972) to the study of jealousy. Guerrero et al. provide a persuasive literature review in support of their position and end the chapter with a nice discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of framing jealousy within an evolutionary paradigm.

IV. Sexuality in Special Types of Couples and Contexts

This section is comprised of six chapters that explore what might be considered understudied aspects of relational sexuality. In chapter 14 (Sexuality of Lesbians and Gay Men) Peplau, Fingerhut, and Beals review the literature relevant to sexual expression in lesbian and gay relationships. Specifically, issues such as sexual frequency and satisfaction, gender roles and sexual activity, and sexual exclusivity and openness are examined separately for both types of couples. Chapter 15 'Exploring Marital Sexuality...' (Christopher & Kisler) is a brief

examination of what little is currently known regarding sexuality within marriage. Chapter 16 'Family Foundations of Sexuality' (Fisher) explores family influences on individuals' sexuality. The primary focus of the chapter is parent-child communication but a variety of other issues (i.e., parental values, family closeness, siblings) are also briefly addressed. In chapter 17 (Sexuality and the Partner Relationship During Pregnancy and the Postpartum Period) Haugen, Schmutzer, and Wenzel discuss how pregnancy and childbirth impact sexual functioning. Main points of emphasis include sexual activity and interest, and sexual difficulties faced by couples during pregnancy and postpartum. While there is some discussion of male sexuality during these periods the primary focus of the chapter is understandably on female sexuality. In chapter 17 (Sexuality in Midlife and Later Life couples) Burgess examines the effects of aging on sexuality. Examined first are sexual behavior patterns among older individuals followed by a review of the effects of aging on sexual functioning. Finally, chapter 19 'Sex in "His" Versus "Her" Relationships' (Vohs, Catanese, & Baumeister) presents several fascinating new theoretical approaches to relational sexuality. The authors first present convincing evidence for a stronger male (as compared to female) sex drive. They then discuss the notion of female erotic plasticity (Baumeister, 2000) and examine the implications of and possible explanations for the proposed greater flexibility in female sexuality. Finally, sex exchange theory (Baumeister & Vohs, in press), in which social exchange theory is applied specifically to sexual behavior in males and females, is presented.

V. Applications and Clinical Aspects

In this section four more applied areas of relational sexuality are examined: Sexual dysfunction, safer sex, sexuality and psychopathology, and therapy. In chapter 20 (Sexual Dysfunction From a Relationship Perspective) Aubin and Heiman present a convincing argument for approaching sexual dysfunction from a relationship perspective versus the more traditional emphasis on individual sexual functioning. In the chapter the

authors address the assessment/diagnosis of dysfunction, couple/relationship variables that may influence sexual function, and issues regarding coping with sexual dysfunction. The chapter concludes with a case discussion that clearly illustrated many of the points raised in the chapter. My only complaint with regard to the chapter is that discussion did not address treatment issues, leaving me without a sense of closure. In fairness to the authors, however, treatment of sexual dysfunction is the emphasis of chapter 23 (Integrating Sex Therapy and Couple Therapy). In this chapter McCarthy, Bodnar, and Handal argue for greater recognition of the importance of sexuality and sexual dysfunction in couple therapy. In doing so, they present an overview of cognitive-behavioral sex therapy and therapy approaches for various common dysfunctions. I found myself wishing for more detail regarding the therapy process. The chapter, however, seemed to be geared toward a clinical audience, with the goal of encouraging the integration of sex therapy and couple therapy by couple therapists. In chapter 21 (Safer Sex...) Noar, Zimmerman, and Atwood examine safer sex and sexually transmitted infection issues as they occur within a relationship context. Chapter 22 'Psychopathology, Sexuality, and the Partner Relationship (Wenzel, Jackson, & Brendle) explores the associations between sexuality and various psychopathologies (i.e., emotional disorders, eating disorders, alcoholism) within a relational context.

In summary, the editors (Harvey, Wenzel, & Sprecher) indicated in the preface that their goal for this book was to link the fields of sexuality and close relationships. They and their authors have done an outstanding job in this regard.

Handbook Of Closeness And Intimacy

By D. J. Mashek & A. Aron (Eds.) (2004), Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum, 464 pp.

Reviewed by Beatriz Ventrini
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In the middle of the 20th century, the science of interpersonal relationships was beginning to take shape; in the early years many studies were developed but integration between them was still lacking. In this context, Robert Hinde published *Towards Understanding Relationships* (1979) and, later, *Relationships: A Dialectical Perspective* (1997), aimed at highlighting the way in which the contributions could become an integrated body of knowledge on personal relationships.

Hinde proposed categories of dimensions (aiming to identify properties common to virtually all relationships) that were useful in describing relationships. One of these categories was intimacy, regarding topics like sharing activities with the partner, revealing private aspects to the partner, estimating intimacy “depth” and “breadth,” setting limits on intimacy in relationships, and overestimating the degree of intimacy in relationships. Hinde often insisted on the need for a firm descriptive base before much progress could be made. Studying relationships demands selective and progressive tasks: As we reach deeper understanding, we can search for additional information and try to integrate new knowledge into the earlier sketch. I think the *Handbook of Closeness and Intimacy* has just met Hinde’s requests for integrated advances in knowledge. After the *Handbook of Personal Relationships* was published by Steve Duck (1997), we have accumulated a lot of knowledge and thinking on closeness and intimacy. We still lack integration in this field, and the *Handbook of Closeness and Intimacy* is aimed at bringing together the latest thinking in the area of closeness and intimacy, integrating the thinking of researchers and clinicians from many disciplines.

The *Handbook* brings together contributions from many authors, organized into six sections. Each one builds around one of the following interrelated questions: What are closeness and intimacy? How can closeness and intimacy be measured? What are the general processes of closeness and intimacy? What individual differences play a role in closeness and

intimacy? What situational factors play a role in closeness and intimacy? And is there a dark side to closeness and intimacy?

In fact, the authors present in each chapter clear definitions of closeness or intimacy, particular theoretical overviews focusing on closeness and intimacy, new theoretical connections, ideas and applications, and applicable cross-references between some chapters.

The first section of the book presents a conceptual framework focusing on closeness and intimacy, based on research findings supporting theoretical views and on a series of studies on the conventional understanding of intimacy. The first chapter in this section, by Fehr, presents and discusses findings of a series of studies on a proposed prototype model of intimacy interactions in same-sex friendships. The seven studies presented are sequential and complementary, regarding topics like conceptions of the term intimacy, through tests of the P-I-P-M (prototype interaction-pattern model) of intimacy, including tests of prototypical and non-prototypical patterns and a rating of the model by the participants. The second chapter, by A. Aron, Mashek and E. Aron, presents a conceptual framework (appropriately supported by research findings) regarding the view of closeness as including other in the self; this chapter discusses how the inclusion of another person in the self proceeds, what it means, the motivation aspect (others’ resources, perspectives and identities) and evidences of this kind of inclusion, and complementary issues. The third chapter, by Prager and Roberts, explores topics related to deep intimate connection in couple relationships, regarding conceptualization of intimate interactions and intimate relationships, intimacy in committed couple relationships, verbal and non-verbal intimate relating, an articulation of self-concept, organismic self and deep intimate connection, and the dynamics of intimacy regulation. The last chapter in this section, by Laurenceau, Rivera, Schaffer and Pietromanco, discusses the view of intimacy as an interpersonal process, aimed at evaluating interpersonal process model of intimacy and its utility for empirical inquiry, at identifying

factors that could influence the intimacy process, and at highlighting future directions for theory and research.

The second section discusses the issue of measurement. Its first chapter, by Berscheid, Snyder and Omoto, revisits the RCI (Relationships Closeness Inventory, developed by Berscheid, Snyder & Omoto in 1989), presenting its conceptual framework, its scales and predictive validity, and explaining the omission of some factors; RCI focuses on the diversity and amount of interactions and the amount of influence between partners. The second chapter, by Agnew, Loving, Le and Goodfriend, revisits and discusses a scale to measure relational closeness as perceived, Inclusion of Other in the Self (IOS scale, created by Aron and colleagues in 1992), reviewing its correlation with other closeness measures, the validation work, and new ideas concerning implementation, including more specific applications of IOS. The third chapter, by Kouneski and Olson, reviews the ENRICH (Enriching Relationships Issues, Communication and Happiness, by Olson & Olson in 1999), a measurement tool that presents typologies of intimate relationships and tries to assess the level of agreement between partners on the properties of their relationship, highlighting the dynamics of intimacy and closeness in a series of domains.

And so the book goes on: All the sections present theoretical overviews focusing on the specific topics on closeness and intimacy, definitions, new ideas and new applications, and most of the chapters provide cross-references to each other. The third section focuses on the general processes of closeness and intimacy: Rusbult, Kumashiro, Coolsen and Kirchner, from interdependence theory perspective (Thibaut & Kelley, 1959), and Collins and Feeney, from attachment theory perspective, discuss applications of these perspectives to the study of close relationships; Vohs and Baumeister discuss physical intimacy (namely, links between intimacy and sexual passion); and Reis, Clark and Holmes discuss perceived-partner-responsiveness-to-the-self as a basic process in closeness and intimacy (and as an

useful aspect to begin to organize theory and research on closeness and intimacy). The fourth section discusses the influence of individual differences on the nature of closeness and intimacy experience; each chapter of this section presents and discusses one of the following issues: the role of different views of the relational self in the development of closeness and intimacy (chapter by Cross & Gore), links between intense pursuit of intimacy goals and satisfaction in intimate relationships (chapter by Sanderson), and the influence of partners innate temperament on closeness and intimacy in their relationship (chapter by E. Aron). The fifth section focuses on the situational factors that influence closeness and intimacy; some ways in which this influence proceeds are discussed in its three chapters: the dialectical relations between (social and physical) environments and the closeness experience in close relationships (chapter by Arriaga, Goodfriend & Lohmann), the influence of the death of a close partner in the closeness experience with other partners and in the pursuit of intimacy experiences (chapter by Wortman, Wolff & Bonanno), and the role of cultural context in the development of patterns of closeness and intimacy in close relationships (chapter by Adams, Anderson & Adonu). And the sixth – and last – section of this book discusses some issues related to “the dark side” of closeness and intimacy processes: factors that may cause the desire for less closeness in an intimate relationship (by Mashek & Sherman), aversion to closeness as a peculiar mode of relating to others (by Ickes, Hutchison & Mashek), strategies for overcoming fear of intimacy (by R. Firestone & L. Firestone) and “avoidant attachment” as an attachment strategy (by Edelstein & Shaver).

There are, of course, many interesting topics that could be included in this handbook (e.g., closeness and intimacy in workplace friendships – this topic could perfectly fit into Section V). But these topics were indirectly discussed, since the definitions, processes and approaches presented and discussed in the Handbook could be applied to virtually all the specific questions that may rise up.

In summation, the handbook offers a strong contribution to both students and researchers, bringing together clinical and research findings from different approaches, and pertinent definitions and theoretical overviews, in an integrated way.

Children of Divorce: Stories of Loss and Growth

By J. Harvey & M. Fine (2004). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum, 176 pp.

Reviewed by Peter K. Smith
Unit for School and Family Studies
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There are quite a number of books on divorce, both academic studies describing quantitative investigations, and more popular books giving advice for parents, children and families. This book is an academic one, and does not really give advice, but would certainly be an interesting read too for any interested and educated layperson. This is because it is largely made up of narratives, written by young people who experienced parental divorce as a child.

The narratives are presented largely verbatim, and were selected from over 900 obtained from undergraduate students who were taking the first author's classes in 'Close Relationships' or 'Loss and Trauma' at the University of Iowa. The accounts are thus by young persons (mean age 21 years) who experienced parental divorce mainly in the 1980s or early 1990s. It is by no means a representative sample of course, but it is an articulate and often insightful one.

The book is not just narratives of course. The first chapter is a succinct review of recent literature, posing the different emphases of writings by Wallerstein – emphasizing negative effects of divorce on children and advocating maintaining 'good enough' marriages – and by Hetherington and others, suggesting that despite many negative consequences of divorce, most

children come through it successfully, and some perhaps as 'winners' who have gained coping and empathic skills in the process. The arguments about the relative dangers of conflictual marriages, or divorce, are considered. The authors suggest they are taking a middle line in this debate, although my sense was that they are more critical of the Wallerstein position.

This review is fair and informative, albeit selective to certain major North American writings. It is not a substitute for a major review, nor does it pretend to be. The review, and indeed the book as a whole, only considers and presents material from the USA. Admittedly this is where most of the research comes from, but by no means all. Given what we know of the effects of social and historical context, this limitation might have been expressed more openly.

The authors then present their methodology. Major themes were identified in the accounts, and representative narratives chosen for each of the major themes, which each comprise one of the next four chapters. This methodology section is quite short. This is not a thorough-going qualitative analysis of any kind; it is a straightforward presentation of narratives grouped into four major but overlapping themes. I found the approach quite satisfying and convincing, but there undoubtedly could be opportunities for more intensive analyses using recognized qualitative procedures.

The four themes are: Voices of Despair (narratives emphasizing loss and negative outcomes of divorce); 'Voices of Hope' (narratives emphasizing more positive outcomes such as growth in understanding and coping); 'Becoming 'Fatherless' Because of Divorce' (narratives emphasizing loss of a parental relationship, usually the paternal one); and 'Family Chaos and Resilience' (narratives, some quite extended and complex, that illustrate both some very adverse circumstances associated with divorce, and often successful adjustment to them).

The narratives are immensely readable, and illustrate the range of factors salient for children whose parents divorce: feelings of sadness, incomprehension, loss of trust, abandonment; ways of talking (or not talking) and coping (or not coping); relationships with step-parents (very varied) and half-siblings step-siblings (generally positive, in this sample); experiences of multiple divorce; reflections on how their lives have been affected. As the students are taking relevant psychology courses, they sometimes explicitly agree or disagree with the conclusions of academic discourses they have read!

As someone who has trained on the Adult Attachment Interview (AAI), I was interested in the coherence (or incoherence) of the narratives. The AAI asks for descriptions of relations with both parents in early childhood, as well as of any traumas experienced in the family. Many of the narratives, especially the more extended ones, thus read as variants of AAI interviews; many of the divorces happened while children were quite young, and of course the experience was usually traumatic at the time. The authors never raise any attachment theory perspectives on the narratives, and indeed only once or twice do they explicitly query the coherence of a participant's narrative (for example, has someone really 'erased their father from their lives' when they are also worrying whether to send a Christmas card). For a lecturer taking an attachment theory course, these narratives could be an interesting resource to examine.

The authors round off the book with reflections on the main themes, and how they relate to the earlier literature and ideas cited. This again is interesting, while not really throwing up any startlingly new insights. However the main function of this book is to present young people's own narrative recollections of parental divorce, and in this it succeeds well, providing a most useful book to complement either more quantitative research studies, or manuals for more popular audiences.

TEACHING TIPS COLUMN

Talking about Teaching with Dr. Socrata Tibbs-Chips

by Maureen O'Sullivan

Dear Dr. STC:

My prof talks ALL the time. She is a nice person, but definitely from the quill pen generation. Not a single audio-visual! Can you suggest some subtle hints I could drop or some suggestions about materials she could use to break up the non-stop talking?

Hampton Falls

Dear Hampton,

Maybe your prof isn't a flick chick and doesn't know about some of the great, not-so-great, and even terrible movies that are still terrific for provoking class discussions, providing examples, and reiterating points in a different format. Why don't you turn her on to the list of movies Ann Weber, an ISSPR Teaching Award Winner, has compiled? If you e-mail Ann at (weber@unca.edu) or me (osullivan@usfca.edu), one or the others of us will send you the list. And don't worry, even the most thin-skinned prof can take constructive criticism; and brown-nosing, although decried by observers, is usually greatly appreciated by the recipient.

Your servant,
STC

Dear Dr. Tibbs-Chips,

What do you recommend doing when students miss exams? Provide make-up exams? Give students an F for all missed exams? I have never heard about so many dead grandmothers, death-defying flues, and car accidents as I did last semester. Make-up tests don't seem fair to students who show up to take their test, even though they are honking and coughing. And it is very difficult to make alternative tests that are the same difficulty level as the missed one. Any ideas?

Chiusi

Dear Chiusi,

One solution is to schedule 4 (or 5 tests) throughout the semester, each weighted identically in terms of their contribution to the final grade. These tests include the final exam. Then the lowest grade is dropped. Students can elect to not take a test (since zero, hopefully, will be their lowest grade). Students like this system, since it gives them some slack. This is especially true for students who have done well all semester and then have the "reward" of skipping a final. Also, students who "lose it" for one reason or another on a single test are not irreparably affected by that grade. They can drop it. If a student needs to miss two exams, I would have no compunction about suggesting that they drop the course because their lives are too congested, malfunctioning, or otherwise impacted at this time to allow them to pursue their college career, at least in my class.

(Perhaps some of our readers have other suggestions for you? If so, please contact Dr. STC at osullivan@usfca.edu.)

Your servant,
STC

Dear Socrata,

Although research on classified ads suggests that people want honesty in their relationship partners, this doesn't seem to extend to their classroom behavior in relationship courses.

During a recent exam, two students were using their cell-phones to text message each other about the exam. Another was photographing the exam and sending it to her brother – a grad student in another state! Another, with lots of permanent arm tattoos, had written definitions and formulas in ink in and around the colorful odes to "Mother" "Betty" and "In US I trust." What to do?

Kentfield

Dear Kent,

Short of x-ray vision or a cheating-detection mood-ring, vigilance may be the only course. Some relief may be provided by re-arranging the items of the test, so it seems as though there are different versions of the test. This strategy obviates writing multiple versions of a test. The culture of your college or university is also important. If your institution actually has dire consequences for cheating (such as an F in the course or being suspended) only serious cheaters (as opposed to day-trip ones) may persist.

Yours truly,

Dr. STC

(Gentle and not-so-gentle readers: what are some of your more outrageous cheating examples? In this case, ignorance is not bliss, and forewarned is forearmed. So share some of your more egregious, charming, or ingenious cheating examples. Of course, we only know about those that failed, because we discovered them, not those that succeeded, but we can only try! And, if you have strategies for dealing with cheating, please share them with us.)

Dear Ms. Chips,

Similarity as a basis for attraction is one of the most ubiquitous of social psychology phenomenon. Yet my students have a lot of trouble "getting it." Although I point out to these 20 year old, highly educated, throbbingly healthy young people, that they are unlikely to

be attracted to a 63 year old, uneducated, unhealthy person, they just laugh and tell me all about their friends who are totally unlike them. And then when we discuss the impact of contrast on relationship satisfaction, they almost hoot. They wouldn't be so shallow, they say. Any idea how I can give them a "hands-on" experience of the importance of similarity and contrast in relationships?

Berkeley

Dear Berk,

Brian Lewis and Regan Gurung published a detailed explanation of the following demonstration in *Teaching of Psychology* last year. Although others have provided variants of this demonstration, the Lewis and Gurung description is clear and easy-to-follow. In addition, they provided data showing that the exercise resulted in increases in knowledge about the matching hypothesis, social exchange theory, contrast effect, and the ability to apply these concepts to real life situations.

"The materials for this demonstration included two series of playing cards, two through seven (hearts and clubs), and index cards and pencils for each student volunteer. We told students that the demonstration would illustrate relationship decisions and that it would collapse into a few minutes what generally takes a period of years. We then asked for volunteers. We told volunteers to stand and clear the space around them. We handed each student a playing card, face down with the instructions to take the card and place it on their foreheads face out so that others could see the card. We then told them to walk around and try and pair with another student to maximize their total card value. They could only ask one question. "Will you be my partner?" and answer only with "Yes" or "No." They could change partners as many times as times as they wished. After 5 min, we told them to stand in their pairs. We wrote the pairs of values on the board and told them to privately write down on an index card, using a scale ranging from 1(not at all) to 7 (extremely), satisfaction with their "relationship." Next, we introduced a contrast. This contrast was another

student from the class with a jack on his or her forehead and following the same instruction as the other students. Students repaired and we reassessed their relationship satisfaction. We repeated this process 3 times, with successive students entering with queen, king, and ace. Thus, there were a total of 4 contrast persons who entered the demonstration."(Lewis, B.P. & Gurung, R. A. R. (2003). Mixing, matching and mating demonstration the effect of contrast on relationship satisfaction. *Teaching of Psychology*, 30 (4), 303-306.)

Further information can be gotten from the journal. Hope this helps!

Sincerely,

Dr. S.

Dear Gentle and not-so-gentle readers: You are invited to submit your questions, ideas, rants, raves about teaching to Dr. Socrata at osullivan@usfca.edu.

JOURNALS UPDATE

A Report on *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*

by Paul A. Mongeau,
Editor-Elect

I am pleased to announce that Kory Floyd has agreed to edit a special issue on biological influences on relationships. The submission deadline is likely to be in the late spring and the issue is scheduled for early 2006. I urge you to submit relevant work and/or to pass this

information along to scholars who work in this area. This is a fascinating and understudied area of scholarship and this should be a terrific issue. Look for an official call for papers on the IARR web site. If you have any questions about this special issue, contact Kory at Kory@ASU.edu.

I have been accepting submissions for JSPR for eight months and from my perspective, our editorial team (i.e., my Editorial Assistant Kristin Davis; my terrific group of Associate Editors Duncan Cramer, Kory Floyd, Stan Gaines, Sally Lloyd, Valerie Manusov, and Stephen Marks) is working into at a good rhythm. The workload is heavier as of late because submissions to JSPR are up sharply. Through nearly the entire first half of the year, we received a steady 15 manuscripts each month (for an annual rate of approximately 180 manuscripts). From the middle of June through the first of September (as I write this report), we have experienced an increase in the number of submitted manuscripts. We are now on track (if this increase in submissions keeps up) to receive well over 210 manuscripts this year. I don't expect that the increase in submissions *will* keep up, so I expect that we will end up with about 200 manuscripts this year. Such a result would represent a 20-25 percent increase in submissions over recent years. This is certainly a good sign for the journal's continued health.

I am beginning the process of working my first issue of the journal (February 2005) through the production queue. This is an interesting yet painstaking process and I can't thank Mark Fine (soon to be former editor) and Danielle Ray (of SAGE London) for all their help in guiding me through its intricacies. There's no way in the world that I would have been able to reach even this far without them.

Even though I am enjoying working with my team of Associate Editors, I'm always on the lookout for more. If anyone is interested in serving as an AE, feel free to contact me. There's more than enough (interesting) work to go around!

A Report on *Personal Relationships*

by Susan Sprecher,
Editor

Personal Relationships is one of the two journals associated with the International Association for Relationship Research and is published by Blackwell publishers. The journal website address is:

<http://ilt.ilstu.edu/personalrelationships/>

Below is a list of new developments plus updates on other information:

- We have had a rotating editorial board, with some members rotating off and others joining, throughout our term. Our most recently added editorial board members are in bold in the list that appears at the end of this message. I appreciate the efforts of all editorial board members, the six Associate Editors, new scholar reviewers, and ad-hoc reviewers.
- A few statistics that might be of interest to people: The submissions to *PR* have generally been increasing over the past few years. General submissions (not including manuscripts submitted to special issues) were 79 in 2001, 90 in 2002, and 108 in 2003. Thus far in 2004 (as of Sept. 1), we have 75 submissions. The acceptance rate at the journal is estimated to be around 20-22%. The lag time between final acceptance of a MS and its publication is running around 9-12 months. The impact rating (1.31) in 2003 was an increase from the previous year. Institutional subscriptions are increasing slightly. All signs are that the journal is doing just fine!
- Our team's second special issue, which was on Emotions and co-edited by Julie Fitness and Sally Planalp, will be the June issue of 2005.
- Our March 2005 Distinguished Scholar Article is written by Pat Noller and is titled: "Sibling Relationships in Adolescence:

Learning and Growing". Our March 2006 Distinguished Scholar Article will be written by Rosemary Blieszner, and the tentative title is "A Lifetime of Caring: Close Relationships in Old Age."

- Beginning with the June issue of 2004, Blackwell is doing a press release on one article per issue. Heather Day, from Blackwell, works with the author to create the press release.
- The page allocation of the 4 issues of the journal was 528 pages in 2003. This was increased to 576 pages in 2004. The editors and the IARR Board will pay attention to whether page allocation needs to increase again in the future to accommodate increased submissions. The IARR board is also exploring the option of digitizing the past issues of the journal.
- Our term as the Active Editors is nearing an end. We began receiving manuscripts on June 1, 2001, and will receive manuscripts until June 1, 2005. After that point, we will still handle the manuscripts to which we have granted a revise and resubmit and will fill the issues at least through December 2006. If you are interested in being considered for the position of the next Editor, please contact Julie Fitness, chair of Publication Committee, at jfitness@psy.mq.edu.au.

If you have any questions or requests about the journal, do not hesitate to write to me or to any of the Associate Editors. Our names and e-mail addresses are:

Susan Sprecher, Editor Sprecher@ilstu.edu).

Associate Editors:

Walid Afifi (w-afifi@psu.edu)

Graham Allan (spa27@keele.ac.uk)

Ximena Arriaga (arriaga@purdue.edu)

Julie Fitness (jfitness@psy.mq.edu.au)

Leanne Lamke (lamkelk@auburn.edu)

Dan Perlman (d.perlman@ubc.ca)

Our Current Editorial Board (newest members in bold):

Rebecca G. Adams, Christopher R. Agnew, Paul

R. Amato, Peter A. Andersen, **Art Aron**, **Jeff Aspelmeier**, Victoria H. Bedford, Susan Boon, Katherine Carnelley, Rodney Cate, **John Caughlin**, W. Andrew Collins, Duncan Cramer, **Gary Creasey**, **John Cunningham**, Michael R. Cunningham, **Val Derlega**, Judith A. Feeney, Beverly Fehr, **Diane Felmlee**, Catrin Finkenauer, Judith Fischer, **Faby Gagne**, Nancy K. Grote, **Laura Guerrero**, W. Kim Halford, **Manfred Hassebrauck**, Susan S. Hendrick, **Jon Hess**, John G. Holmes, **Marinus van Ijzendoorn**, **Esther Kluwer**, **Leanne Knobloch**, Larry Kurdek, **Benjamin Le**, Sally A. Lloyd, **Tim Loving**, **John Lydon**, Sandra Metts, Mario Mikulincer, Rowland Miller, Sandra Murray, Patricia Noller, Joe F. Pittman, Sally Planalp, **Harry Reis**, Linda J. Roberts, **Angela Rowe**, Elaine Scharfe, Chris Segrin, **Todd Shackelford**, **Phillip Shaver**, Donna L. Sollie, Anita L. Vangelisti

Contents of Upcoming Journals

Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, Volume 21, Number 5, October, 2004

JULIA T. WOOD

Monsters and victims: Male felons' accounts of intimate partner violence

KATHRYN DINDIA, LINDSAY
TIMMERMAN, JILL GILBERTSON, EMILY
LANGAN, & ERIN SAHLSTEIN The
function of holiday greetings in maintaining
relationships

SHARRON HINCHLIFF & MERRYN GOTT
Intimacy, commitment, and adaptation: Sexual
relationships within long-term marriages

CHRISTOPHER C. WARD & TERENCE J. G.
TRACEY Relation of shyness with aspects of
online relationship involvement

JOSEPH H. OBEGI, THOMAS L.
MORRISON, & PHILLIP R. SHAVER
Exploring intergenerational transmission of

attachment style in young female adults and their mothers

NANCY L. MCELWAIN & BRENDA L. VOLLING

Attachment security and parental sensitivity during infancy: Associations with friendship quality and false believe understanding at age four

MEGAN A. LEWIS, RITA M. BUTTERFIELD, LYNNAE A. DARBES, & CATHERINE JOHNSTON-BROOKS
The conceptualization and assessment of health-related social control

Book Review

Rawlins

Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, Volume 21, Number 6, December, 2004

ELISABETH L. TERHELL, MARJOLEIN I. BROESE VAN GROENOU, & THEO VAN TILBURG
Network dynamics in the long term period after divorce

AMY HEQUEMBOURG
Unscripted motherhood: Lesbian mothers negotiating incompletely institutionalized family relationships

HARRY WEGER, JR.
Disconfirming communication and self-verification in marriage: Associations among the demand/withdraw interaction pattern, feeling understood, and marital satisfaction

GARY L. BRASE, DAN CAPRAR, & MARTIN VORACEK
Sex differences in responses to relationship threats in England and Romania

ANU REALO, LY KASTIK, & JURI ALLIK
The relationships between collectivist attitudes and elementary forms of human relations: Evidence from Estonia

DENISE HAUNANI SOLOMON & LEANNE K. KNOBLOCH

A model of relational turbulence: The role of intimacy, relational uncertainty, and interference from partners in appraisals of irritations

YOUNGOK YUM

Culture and self-construal as predictors of responses to accommodative dilemmas in dating relationships

JARRED W. YOUNGER, RACHEL L. PIFERI, REBECCA L. JOBE, & KATHLEEN A. LAWLER
Dimensions of forgiveness: The views of laypersons

Personal Relationships, Volume 11, Number 4, December, 2004

BRAM P. BUUNK AND PIETERNEL DIJKSTRA
Gender Differences in Rival Characteristics that Evoke Jealousy in Response to Emotional versus Sexual Infidelity

PAUL E. ETCHEVERRY AND CHRISTOPHER R. AGNEW
Subjective Norms and the Prediction of Romantic Relationship State and Fate

WALID A. AFIFI, MEGAN R. DILLOW, AND CHRISTOPHER MORSE
Examining Predictors and Consequences of Information Seeking in Close Relationships

ROBERT J. RYDELL, ALLEN R. MCCONNELL AND ROBERT G. BRINGLE
Jealousy and Commitment: Perceived Threat and the Effect of Relationship Alternatives

NICOLE A. DOHERTY AND JUDITH A. FEENEY
The Composition of Attachment Networks Throughout the Adult Years

MARY E. KAPLAR AND ANNE K. GORDON
The Enigma of Altruistic Lying: Perspective Differences in What Motivates and Justifies Lie Telling Within Romantic Relationships

KATHERINE A. MORSE AND STEVEN L. NEUBERG

How Do Holidays Influence Relationship Processes and Outcomes? Examining the Instigating and Catalytic Effects of Valentine's Day

D. VAUGHN BECKER, BRAD J. SAGARIN, ROSANNA E. GUADAGNO, ALLISON MILLEVOI, AND LIONEL D. NICASTLE

When the Sexes Need not Differ: Emotional Responses to the Sexual and Emotional Aspects of Infidelity

TERRI D. CONLEY AND JOSHUA L. RABINOWITZ

Scripts, Close Relationships and Symbolic Means of Contraceptives

LEIGH A. LESLIE AND BETHANY L. LETIECQ

Marital Quality of African American and White Partners in Interracial Couples

PEPPER SCHWARTZ (U Washington) recently received the Public Dissemination of Information award from the American Sociological Association. This award is one of five major national awards given every year from the ASA and recognizes scholars who are outstanding public intellectuals, in particular, sociologists who give credible and accessible academic information in a way that affects the public interest.

SUNWOLF (Santa Clara U) was granted tenure (Spring 2004) and is now an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication.

VANDA L. ZAMMUNER (Università di Padova, Italy) was promoted to Full Professor in December 2002, received a grant of 35,000 euros to conduct research on emotion regulation across the lifespan, is part of the European-financed LEONARDO project entitled "An Innovative Methodology For Assessing And Training Interpersonal-Transferable Skills Of Career Starters: Development And Testing (coordinated by Kostas Kafetsios), and recently published the book "I focus group", Bologna: Il Mulino, 2003, pp. 292.

BERT UCHINO (U Utah) has a new book out entitled "Social Support and Physical Health: Understanding the Health Consequences of Relationships" published by Yale University Press (2004). It is a review of the literature, with an emphasis on underlying pathways.

MEMBER NEWS & UPDATES

Congratulations to the following members for their outstanding recent accomplishments:

MICHELLE MILLER-DAY (Penn State U) has been tenured and promoted to Associate Professor at Penn State. Her new book, entitled "Communication Among Grandmothers, Mothers, and Adult Daughters: A Qualitative Study of Maternal Relationships," is published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

MARIAN MORRY (U Manitoba) received a promotion to Associate Professor.

CALL FOR PAPERS

FEMINIST THEORY, METHODS AND PRAXIS IN FAMILY STUDIES

Call for Manuscripts for a Special Issue of the Journal of Family Issues

**Guest Editors: Sally Lloyd, April Few &
Katherine Allen**

Over the past three decades, feminist/womanist theories, methodologies and practices have had an unparalleled impact on the field of family studies. In 1995, Thompson and Walker noted that the field of family studies was moving into an era wherein many scholars had replaced positivist assumptions with contextualized and gendered understandings of families defined in diverse and inclusive ways. This special issue will highlight the continuing integration of such feminist/womanist perspectives into the field of family studies.

Many feminist scholars in family studies span multiple fields, integrating their work across family studies, women's studies, Africana studies, Mujerista/Latina Studies, queer theory, transnational feminisms, and multicultural feminisms. We are particularly interested in papers that span such multiplicities, highlighting the rich interplay of ideas, and the challenges and tensions inherent in such transdisciplinary work.

This special issue will publish original theoretical and methodological papers, with particular emphasis on innovative scholarship that fully integrates feminist and/or womanist theory and methods across a wide range of topics in the family field. Such papers could include (but are not limited to) work on:

- * intersectionalities of race, class, gender, sexuality, age, nation, ability, and/or religion
- * integration of feminist theory/methods with key substantive areas within family studies

(e.g., interpersonal relationships, family transitions, violence, intergenerational relationships, policy, family and work)

- * work that brings family studies into dialogue with other academic fields, including but not limited to women's studies, ethnic studies, queer studies, cultural studies, religious studies, and international studies
- * diverse methodologies, including qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methodologies
- * illustrations of feminist practice in education, policy, administration, daily life, and activism toward social change

Because the special issue is intended to foster dialogue and advancement of theory, we may invite noted scholars to serve as discussants/respondents to the collection.

Submission deadline: December 15, 2004 (postmark).

Manuscripts should be submitted in quadruplicate to Sally Lloyd, School of Education and Allied Professions, Miami University, Oxford OH, 45056. Manuscripts may be submitted electronically to loydsa@muohio.edu.

Questions about the special issue may be addressed to Sally Lloyd (loydsa@muohio.edu), Katherine Allen (kallen@vt.edu) or April Few (alfew@vt.edu).

Sally A. Lloyd
Professor, Educational Leadership & Women's
Studies
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Oxford OH 45056
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513-529-1890 (fax)
loydsa@muohio.edu



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Publications Committee Seeks Nominations for PR Editor

The IARR Publications Committee is seeking nominations for editor of the journal *Personal Relationships* to succeed Susan Sprecher, whose term ends mid-2005. Following an initial period of preparation from January 2005 until May 2005, the new editor's active term will begin on June 1, 2005 and end on May 31, 2009. Self-nominations for this important and rewarding role are welcomed. A complete nomination package should include the candidate's CV, a letter from the candidate describing his or her goals for the journal and editing philosophy (i.e., how he or she would run the journal, work with associate editors, select an editorial board), and two letters of support from publishing scholars familiar with the candidate's research and experience. Queries may be directed to any member of the Publications Committee: Anita Vangelisti, Mark Fine, Kathy Carnelley, Sally Planalp, or Julie Fitness (Chair).

All nomination materials should be received by October 15, 2004. Nominations should be addressed to:

Julie Fitness
IARR Publications Committee,
Psychology Department,
Macquarie University,
North Ryde,
Sydney, 2109
Australia.

Note: Electronic submissions are very welcome. Please email all attachments to Julie Fitness at: jfitness@psy.mq.edu.au

Mark Fine Ends Impressive Term as JSPR Editor!

submitted by Terri Orbuch
President, IARR

Mark Fine will end his term as JSPR editor at the end of 2004.

I want to officially thank Mark Fine for all his hard work, time, and determination as JSPR editor from 1999-2004 (and Deputy Editor in 1998). Mark was an exceptional editor with remarkable skills, patience, ingenuity, and creativity. If you have read a recent JSPR article or worked with Mark as an associate editor or manuscript author, then you are undoubtedly aware of what Mark accomplished for the journal and our organization! He worked tirelessly at making the journal what it is today. We are all busy at this time of the year, but please take a moment and thank Mark for everything he gave the journal and our organization.

Research Associate Sought

submitted by Michael Cunningham

New or recent Ph.D., or ABD, in Social Psychology, Interpersonal Communication, Sociology, or related discipline sought for NIH-supported multi-disciplinary study of mate selection dynamics. The ideal candidate would be familiar with both evolutionary and interpersonal research on romantic attraction, and have demonstrated skills in experimental and survey research methods and statistical

analysis. Interpersonal skills, conscientiousness, and flexibility are essential; experience in project coordination, computer programming, or grant writing are desirable. Salary and benefits are competitive. Position is for two years, subject to expected grant renewal. Louisville is a very livable city with excellent arts, amenities, and low housing costs. Candidate review begins immediately and will continue until the position is filled. Post-docs preferred but ABD will be seriously considered. Please send statement of interests and qualifications, vita, publications, and 3 references to Michael Cunningham, Ph.D., Social Communication Laboratory, 303 Strickler Hall, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292, ph 502-852-5953, michael.cunningham@louisville.edu.

IARR Membership News

**submitted by Chris Agnew
Finance Chair**

IARR enrolled its 700th member recently, surpassing all past membership figures for our organization. Congratulations! The 2004 membership year closes on September 30, meaning there is still a little time to advise those you believe may be interested (colleagues, graduate students) to become members AND receive all 6 issues of JSPR and all 4 issues of PR for 2004.

Note that those who join after September 30 of a given year will be registered as members for the following year and will begin receiving all member benefits in that year.

Also, you will soon have access to a fully searchable online membership directory. The directory will be linked to the information contained in each member's online profile, providing both up-to-date and comprehensive information about our members. This new membership benefit will be available in the next month or so. Stay tuned!



2005 MINI-CONFERENCES UPDATE

Mark Your Calendars for the 2005 Mini-Conferences

**by Leanne K. Knobloch
Chair of the Future Conferences
Committee**

Are you eager to capitalize on the enthusiasm, energy, and excitement of the 2004 Madison conference? Then make your plans now to attend the mini-conferences scheduled for the year ahead.

IARR will offer two opportunities for relationship scholars to convene during the summer of 2005. Both mini-conferences promise to be beneficial for new professionals and established scholars alike.

“The Interdisciplinary and Intercultural Nature of Relationship Research: The South American Dimension”

July 1 – 3, 2005

Vitória, Espírito Santo, Brazil

This conference will bring together scholars from around the world to discuss the interdisciplinary and intercultural research currently underway in South America. One goal

is to facilitate dialogue about the scholarship being conducted by relationship researchers from South America. A second goal is to spark collaborations among relationship scholars throughout the world.

The conference will be held in the charming city of Vitória, known for its sloping hillsides and picturesque bays. Founded in 1551, Vitória is one of the oldest cities in Brazil and the capital of Espírito Santo. The heart of the city is an island that is connected to the mainland by a series of bridges. Vitória is also home to Federal University of Espírito Santo. Conference attendees will meet in conference rooms on campus and enjoy restaurants in the surrounding area.

The conference planner is Agnaldo Garcia, Department of Social and Developmental Psychology, Federal University of Espírito Santo, Brazil (agnaldo.garcia@uol.com.br).

“Privacy, Confidentiality, and the Ethics of Health Relationships”

July 21 – 24, 2005

Indianapolis, Indiana, United States

How do people decide whether to disclose their HIV status? Should an adult son or daughter be told about a parent’s fatal illness? How do parents communicate information about genetic disorders to young children?

This conference will focus on how people regulate information about health issues. The conference theme seeks to promote dialogue about the privacy, confidentiality, and ethical issues facing patients, health care providers, friends, family members, and romantic partners.

Conference sessions will be held at the beautiful University Place Hotel and Conference Center on the campus of Indiana University – Purdue University, Indianapolis (IUPUI). On the opening night of the conference, attendees will enjoy a reception and dinner held at Cedar Crest in the Meridian-Kessler historic district of Indianapolis. Cedar Crest was owned by J. K. Lilly (son of Eli Lilly, founder of the

pharmaceutical company) and now serves as the residence of the chancellor of IUPUI.

Downtown Indianapolis offers many tourist attractions. Conference attendees can shop at Circle Centre Mall, rent a paddle boat and tour the White River Canal, and explore the Eiteljorg Native American Museum, the NCAA Hall of Champions, and the Indianapolis Zoo. A short drive leads to the Indianapolis Museum of Art and the world-renowned Indianapolis Children’s Museum.

The conference planner is Sandra Petronio from Indiana University – Purdue University, Indianapolis, United States (petronio@iupui.edu).

**2006 IARRC
WE’RE GOING TO
GREECE!**

**3rd International
Association for
Relationships Research
Conference**

**Rethymnon, Crete, Greece
6-9 July 2006**



KTB.1 Eros, Hebe, Herakles, Hymenaios

Submitted by Kostas Kafetsios
University of Crete
Chair of the Local Arrangements
Committee

Site of the conference. The conference will take place at Rethymnon, Crete, Greece. Crete is one of the 13 regions of Greece and the biggest island in Greece. The Island has a long history that goes back to the Neolithic times. It is however known for the Minoan civilization that flourished from 2600 to 1100 B.C. The island is full of relics of the Minoan ages, the most famous being the palaces at Knossos and Faistos. Crete also has many beautiful beaches and must-see natural sites.

Rethymnon is situated on the north coast of Crete. The main attractions are the mild weather conditions prevailing during most of the year, the long sandy beaches, and the old town with its typical Cretovenetian and Ottoman buildings (see www.rethymnon.gr/).

The University and the Psychology Dept. One of the main sponsors of the conference is the University of Crete. The University has approximately 7000 students more than 400 Faculty members in Schools and Departments in the cities of Rethymnon and Heraklion www.uoc.gr/.

The Psychology Dept. in Rethymnon was the first Department of Psychology in Greece established in 1984 (until then Psychology was taught within Philosophy or Education Faculties). The faculty includes 18 full time members of staff and 14 part-time lecturers. The department is currently expanding in the areas of Clinical, Educational, Neuroscience, Social and Cognitive Psychology.

The Rethymnon Campus was built in 1998 and Schools and Departments moved there in the academic year of 1999/2000. It is a self-sufficient modern complex of buildings at an altitude of approximately 500 m from the sea coast overlooking the Aegean sea.

Conference fees and the planned dates of the conference. The conference fees (reasonably priced) will include: lunches and award dinner, trips (to Samaria Gorge and Knossos), wine reception at the Venetian castle of Rethymnon, all transportations between airport and the conference venue.

The dates have been selected to take into account two other conferences in close proximity, which might interest some of the participants:

- 11-15 July 2006. 18th International Conference of Cross-cultural Psychology (IACCP), Spetses island, Greece.
- 16-21 July 2006, 26th International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP), University of Athens, Greece.

Eating facilities. For dinner, there is a wide choice of good and inexpensive local food (fish, game, cooked vegetarian) in the city of Rethymnon. The Town of Rethymnon is an ideal location to socialize during evening and most hotels/hostels are walking distance from the town centre/beach/parade where most of the bars, restaurants and tavernas are situated.

Weather. The average temperature in early July is 26 degrees Celsius and is virtually rain-free.

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