INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS SIG

FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

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IN THIS ISSUE

Letter from SIG Co-Leaders.....pg. 2

Letter from SIG Student Co-Leaders.....pg. 4

ABCT SIG Programming.....pg. 5

Letter from SIG Treasurer.....pg. 9

Letter from SIG DEI Committee.....pg. 11

Kudos.....pg. 12

Lab Updates.....pg. 13

Opportunities to Highlight.....pg. 19

Hot off the Press.....pg. 20

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https://abctrelationships.org/

Letter from SIG Co-Leaders

We're so excited to see all of you in New Orleans soon! As you may know, ABCT is making changes to how SIGs operate. Please make sure you read our treasurer update for more details on upcoming changes to dues!

Conference Events

The **Intimate Relationships Research and Practice SIG Preconference** is on **Thursday, 11/20 from 6:00 pm-8:00pm i**n the **Celestin Ballroom C** in the Hyatt Regency. The preconference will be **Partner Up: A Professional Matchmaking Event for Relationship Researchers.** Whether you have datasets but no time to write, are looking to strengthen your next grant submission, or just enjoy nerding out about research ideas, this event is for you. Structured like speed dating for scientists, each round pairs you with a new colleague for a few minutes of conversation. You can learn about what they are working on, share what you are excited about, and discover overlaps and potential collaborations.

This is something new for our SIG and we hope to see many of you there!

We are excited to see the great representation of intimate relationships research in the ABCT program this year. See page 5 for a list of these events. We would like to draw particular attention to the SIG-sponsored symposium and individual oral papers - come out and support your SIG colleagues!

- **Student symposium: "**Intimate Relationship Well-Being in Context: Measurement, Meaning, and Multicultural Considerations to Enhance Inclusive Practices" on Saturday, 11/22 at 10:00 am, Celestin F, Level 3
- **DEI sponsored individual oral presentations:**
  - "We can do this, that I learned." An open pilot of Resilient Together for Dementia, a novel dyadic resiliency intervention delivered early after diagnosis. on Friday, 11/22 at 10am, Celestin B, Level 3
  - Depression, Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors, and Non-Suicidal Self-Injury by Dimensions of Romantic Relationships Among Bisexual+ Adults on Saturday 11/22 at 3:00pm, Empire C, Level 2
  - Discrimination and depressive symptoms among sexual minority young adults: The role of relationship status, quality, and support on Sunday 11/23 @ 10:00 am, Celestin C, Level 3
  - Examining the heterogeneity of psychopathology symptoms and relationship satisfaction among post-9/11 veterans: A latent profile analysis on Saturday, 11/22 @ 3:00 pm, Celestin G, Level 3.

Our SIG business meeting has been scheduled from **1:15-2:45 pm on Friday, November 21 in Strand 10 A&B on Level 2** in the Hyatt Regency. We hope you will join us! There are a number of exciting and important things happening at the meeting, including nominations for new SIG officers, presentation of the Weiss Student Poster Awards and Early Career Awards, and a visit from the ABCT Presidential candidates. If you can't attend in person, you can join us via Zoom (or watch the Zoom recording after the conference).

Letter from SIG Co-Leaders (cont.)

We will also offer a **SIG Cocktail hour on Saturday from 6:00-8:00 pm at Avenue Pub.** Our numbers have dwindled post-COVID, but we're hoping this will be a return to form for the happy hour. We have a section reserved for the group and we promise appetizers galore! The venue is a short ride away via ride-share (under $10 each way) or about a 30-minute walk. Students, if you are concerned about the cost of travel to the happy hour, please let us (or your student co-leaders!) know and we can work with you to offset the cost.

SIG Officer Elections

We are so grateful for the service of the SIG officers who are wrapping up their terms this November! ***Melissa Gates***, our illustrious Student Co-Leader, has been phenomenal in her role. ***Triston Li,*** Media Coordinator extraordinaire, ensured that our name change was reflected in our digital presence. Last, but not least, ***Quinn Hendershot***, our superb Newsletter Co-Editor, has expertly wrangled everyone's updates each newsletter season. **As a reminder to students, these are great opportunities to establish yourself as an emerging leader in our SIG and network with other professionals.**

This year, nominations for the SIG Officer positions can be made via an online form (see QR code) before the conference, or in person during the SIG business meeting. Voting will take place after the conference via a Google form. Please nominate yourself or a colleague! We will be filling the following positions:

- Student Co-Leader (1 positions)
- Media Coordinators (1 position, open to students)
- Newsletter Co-Editor (1 position, open to students)

Service to the SIG

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to these additional members for their generous service to the SIG.

Alexandra Wojda-Burlij *and* ***Melanie Fischer*** are this year's Jr. Awards Committee, coordinating both the Weiss Student Poster Awards and the SIG Graduation Ceremony.

Sarah Whitton and ***Beth Allen*** are this year's Sr. Awards Committee, administering the SIG Early Career Award.

Annie Le is serving the SIG as treasurer, managing dues, membership, and many other essential tasks.

Michelle Ramos, ***Jessica Hill***, ***Lauren Simpson,*** and ***Alika Kuzya*** are the SIG DEI Committee, heading up initiatives to help the SIG continue to improve diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice. Thank you!

See you in New Orleans! Laissez les bons temps rouler!

Your SIG Co-Leaders,

Sarah Carter, Ph.D., and Jasara Hogan, Ph.D.

Letter from SIG Student Co-Leaders

Melissa Gates and Emily Bibby

mgates5@binghamton.edu & emily.bibby@stonybrook.edu

We hope everyone is enjoying the start of sweater weather! We have outlined some important ABCT events and general SIG updates.

Everyone is invited to the… **SIG Happy Hour!** Join us for happy hour snacks and drinks. It is a great opportunity to informally connect with old friends and new!

Date: Saturday, November 22nd

Time: 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Location: Avenue Pub. 1732 Saint Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70310 (https://theavenuepub.com/#menu).

A big thank you to everyone who is participating in the **SIG Mentorship Program**. We're so grateful to all our mentors and mentees for making this year's program possible. Your commitment and engagement make all the difference!

We're thrilled to see our representation at ABCT expanding each year. Check out the schedule below for all intimate relationship presentations and SIG-sponsored events. We can't wait to celebrate everyone's hard work and accomplishments!

Safe travels and we look forward to seeing everyone in NOLA.

ABCT SIG EVENTS SCHEDULE

Panel Discussions	Symposia	Individual Oral Paper	Clinical Intervention Training

SIG Event			
Date/Time	**Location**	**Presentation Title**	**Presenters**
Thursday, November 20th			
8:30am - 5:00pm	Strand 11A, Level 2	Clinical Intervention Training: Including Partners in the Treatment of Depression and Anxiety/fear-based Disorders: A Couple-based Approach	Presenter: Donald H. Baucom, Ph.D. Presenter: Louisa Kane, M.A.
6:00pm - 8:00pm	**Hyatt Regency**	**Pre-Confernece Networking: Partner Up: A Professional Matchmaking Event for Relationship Researchers**	
Friday, November 21st			
10:00am - 12:00pm	Celestin B, Level 3	Oral Paper: Charting the Pathways of Relationship Change: Exploring How Shifts in Relationship Processes Might Interconnect to Shape Change over Time with Network Analysis	Co-Author: Ronald D. Rogge, Ph.D. Co-Author: Benhamin D. Rasmuseen, B.S.
10:00am - 12:00pm	Celestin B, Level 3	Oral Paper: A Qualitative Study of Opinions on Factors to Consider in Determining Couple Suitability for Dyadic Treatment When Mutual Physical Aggression Is Present	Author: TJ Sullivan, Ph.D. Co-Author: Daniel O'Leary, Ph.D. Co-Author: Sarah Bannon, Ph.D.
10:00am - 12:00pm	Celestin B, Level 3	Oral Paper: Social Anxiety and Romantic Relationship Dynamics: Continuous Time Analysis of Dominance and Warmth During Conflict and Social Support Tasks	Presenter: Julia M. Levitan, M.A.

ABCT SIG EVENTS SCHEDULE

Friday, November 21st (cont.)			
1:15pm - 2:15pm	**Strand 10 A&B, Level 2**	**SIG Meeting: Intimate Relationships Research & Treatment SIG**	**Co-Leader: Sarah Carter, Ph.D. Co-Leader: Jasara Hogana, Ph.D.**
3:00pm - 4:30pm	Imperial 9, Level 4	Panel Discussion: Activating Change in High Conflict Couples: A Transdiagnostic and Transtheoretical Dialogue to Distill Common Factors	Moderator: L. Jasmine Dobbs-Marsh, Psy.D. Panelist: Kayla J. Jimenez, Psy.D. Panelist: Peter Fraenkel, Ph.D. Panelist: Maria M. Rowley, Ph.D. Panelist: Ethan Hoffmann, Ph.D. Panelist: Cristin D. Runfola, Ph.D. Panelist: Louisa Kane, M.A.
5:00pm - 6:00pm	Empire A, Level 2	Symposium: Romantic Relationship Dynamics and Alcohol Use: Rigorous Science Aimed at Understanding Relationship Factors Related to Use and Efforts to Improve Treatment Outcomes by Involving Romantic Partners	Chair: Julia Buckner, Ph.D. Chair: Katharine Thomas, B.A. Discussant: Sherry Stewart, Ph.D. Presenter: Julianne Flanagan, Ph.D. Presenter: Jaye L. Derrick, B.A., M.A., Ph.D. Presenter: Katharine Thomas, B.A.
5:00pm - 6:00pm	Strand 12 A&B, Level 2	Symposium: Inter- and Intra-personal Emotion Differentiation and Its Relation to Borderline Personality Disorder Symptoms in Romantic Couples	Speaker: Ella S. Sudit, M.A. Co-author: Kelly V. Klein, M.A. Co-author: Ramya Ramadurai, M.A. Co-author: Nathaniel R. Herr, Ph.D.
5:00pm - 6:30pm	Imperial 9, Level 4	Symposium: Impacts of Relationship Education Delivered Through Community Partnerships to Couples from Various Minoritized and Marginalized Backgrounds	Chair: Yunying Le, Ph.D. Discussant: Brian Doss, Ph.D. Presenter: John Miller, J.D. Presenter: Yunying Le, Ph.D. Presenter: Galena Rhoades, Ph.D. Presenter: Hannah Williamson, Ph.D.
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Storyville Hall, Level 3	**ABCT Reception and SIG Expo**	

Saturday, November 22nd			
10:00am - 11:00am	Celeston F, Level 3	Trainee Symposium: Intimate Relationship Well-Being in Context: Measurement, Meaning, and Multicultural Considerations to Enhance Inclusive Practices	Chair: Emily Bibby, M.A. Chair: Melissa Gates, M.S. Discussant: Jasara Hogan, Ph.D. Presenter: Emily Spargo, B.S. Presenter: Alyssa Miville, B.A., M.S Presenter: Allison Tobar-Santamaria, B.S., B.A. Presenter: Quinn Hendershot, M.S.
3:00pm - 5:00pm	Celestin G, Level 3	Oral Paper: Examining the Heterogeneity of Psychopathology Symptoms and Relationship Satisfaction Among post-9/11 Veterans: A Latent Profile Analysis	Presenter: Alexandra K. Wojda-Burlij, Ph.D. Co-Author: Cindy Swinkels, Ph.D. Co-Author: Eric Dedert, Ph.D. Co-Author: Steven L. Sayers, Ph.D.
6:00pm - 8:00pm	**Avenue Pub**	**SIG Happy Hour -- Come for Snacks and Drinks!**	
Sunday, November 23rd			
10:00am - 11:30am	Foster 2, Level 2	Symposium: Innovations in Relationship Care for Veterans and their Loved Ones	Chair: Kayla Knopp, Ph.D. Discussant: Dev Crasta, Ph.D. Presenter: McKenzie Roddy, Ph.D. Presenter: Chandra Khalifian, Ph.D. Presenter: Laura Meis, Ph.D. Presenter: Kayla Knopp, Ph.D. Presenter: Leslie Morland, Psy.D.
10:00am - 12:00pm	Empire B, Level 2	Oral Paper (Group 10): Postpartum Sleep and Relationship Satisfaction Among Black Mothers	Presenter: Danielle Weber, Ph.D. Co-Author: Justin A. Lavner, Ph.D.
10:00am - 12:00pm	Empire A, Level 2	Oral Paper (Group 36): Marital Discord and Incidence of Major Depression in Older Adults: A Propensity Score Matching Analysis	Co-Author: Mark A. Whisman, Ph.D. Co-Author: Pia Elizabeth Sellery, B.A., M.A. Co-Author: Savannah M. Boyd, M.S. Co-Author: David A. Sbarra, Ph.D.
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Empire A, Level 2	Symposium (43): A Qualitative Approach to Developing a Brief Couples Intervention for Co-occurring Alcohol Use Disorder and Intimate Partner Violence	Speaker: Allison Tobar-Santamaria, M.S. Co-author: Meagan J. Brem, Ph.D.

Do you want to collaborate?

☑ Yes

☐ No



PARTNER UP

A PROFESSIONAL MATCHMAKING EVENT FOR RELATIONSHIP RESEARCHERS

Thursday
November 20, 2025
6:00 - 8:00pm
Hyatt Regency,
New Orleans, LA

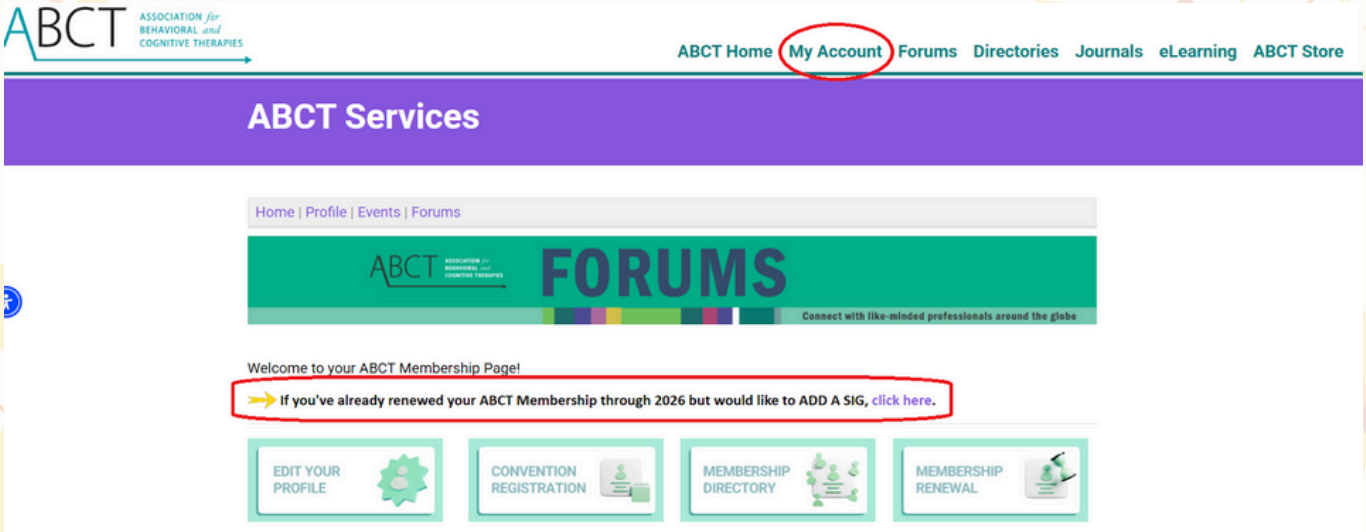
Letter from SIG Treasurer

Hello SIG Members!

As some of you may have noticed when registering for the conference, there is now an option to pay dues for the SIG. This is ABCT's formal channel to collect dues, and our goal is to transition to this system moving forward. We strongly encourage you to pay your dues through this official channel.

As a reminder, dues are $30 for professional members and $5 for students, first-year post-docs, and retired members. For every professional membership, $5 of dues automatically goes toward the Intimate Relationships SIG Underrepresented Scholars Fund.

If you missed this option when registering for the conference, you can still pay through the system by logging in to the ABCT portal (https://services.abct.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=3366). Go to "my account", and you should be able to pay for SIG membership (see screenshot below).



Letter from SIG Treasurer cont.

If you are having trouble paying dues through the system, you can still send your dues electronically via Venmo (send payment to @Yunying-Le). It is important to designate the payment as "Send to friends and family" to avoid processing fees. For all dues, indicate “ABCT Intimate Relationships SIG" in the note. Please complete the membership form https://forms.gle/3xustNBLzbfApjgT8 if this is your first time paying dues. If you experience any difficulties paying dues through the system, we’d appreciate it if you could contact me and describe the issues so that we can report them to ABCT.

An update on our membership status and dues:

We have 197 active members (100 professional, 97 students).

Our current balance is $4,957. Since my last update, I have collected $55 in dues.

The Underrepresented Scholar Fund has a balance of $605. Since my last update, I have collected $5 from dues and directed donations towards this fund. I have also paid $900 for Underrepresented Scholar Funds ($300 per scholar for 3 scholars total).

Please don’t hesitate to contact me (yunying.le@du.edu) with any questions or concerns about dues or membership.

My best,

Annie

Yunying (Annie) Le, PhD



venmo

Letter from SIG DEI Committee

Hello from your Intimate Relationships SIG DEI Committee!

We are excited to continue our work to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in the SIG over the coming year. This year, we were thrilled to fund three new scholars for the Underrepresented Scholars Fund (URSF) Award! Please help us congratulate this year's URSF awardees, Jenny Lee (mentored by Dr. Galena Rhoades), Madison Walker (mentored by Dr. Sarah Bricker-Carter, and Aryana Moazzami (mentored by Dr. Patti Fritz)!

We are also requesting donations for the Underrepresented Scholars Fund for our next cycle of awards. The IR SIG recognizes that our field is stronger when all voices are represented, and we are committed to increasing diversity within our field. We know that the cost of applying to graduate school or internship programs and networking at conferences is a significant barrier to entry within our field, particularly for young scholars from minoritized backgrounds, and we created the Underrepresented Scholars Fund to help close the gap. This fund is open to all students and potential students from underrepresented groups (broadly defined) to cover any costs associated with getting into graduate school, getting through graduate school, and internship. We will be accepting applications again in August 2026 for the next cycle and would love to be able to help as many scholars as possible. Please consider donating to this important cause - any amount helps!

Email us at underrepresentedscholarsfund@gmail.com with any questions. All donations can be sent to the Treasurer, Yunying (Annie) Le via Venmo (send payment to @Yunying-Le) or via PayPal.com (send to yunyingleannie@gmail.com). It is important to designate the payment as "send to friends and family" to avoid processing fees. Please include URSF in the description.

Thank you,
Jessica Hill, Alika Kuzya, Michelle Ramos, and Lauren Simpson

KUDOS

We would like to celebrate these amazing milestones from the following SIG members. Congratulations on your accomplishments!

Dr. Christina Balderrama-Durbin's Couple Adjustment to Stress and Trauma (CAST) Laboratory; Binghamton University – SUNY

- Melissa Gates began her pre-doctoral internship at the Charleston Consortium! The CAST Lab misses having her "in-house," but we're excited for all the opportunities and experiences her internship is affording!

Dr. Richard Mattson's Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Intimate Relationships (CTROIR) Binghamton University – SUNY

- Alyssa Miville got married on October 4th. Congratulations Alyssa!
- Alyssa Miville successfully proposed her dissertation, entitled Religious or Ideological Homogamy: Assessing the Impact of Belief Systems on Marital Outcomes Across the United States.

Dr. Meagan J. Brem's Research for Alcohol and Couples' Health (REACH) Lab

- Allison Tobar-Santamaria received the APF Trauma Psychology Grant for our collaborative project which will serve as her dissertation, "A Daily Diary Study of Latina Sexual Assault Survivors' Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms, Alcohol Use, and Racial-Ethnic Experiences: Toward Culturally-Responsive Intervention Development."
- Doctoral candidate Allison Tobar-Santamaria received the 2025 Outstanding Master's Student Award from Virginia Tech's College of Science
- PI Brem was named a 2025 Rising Star by the Association for Psychological Science, received the 2025 Early Career Scholarly Impact Award from Virginia Tech, and received a Certificate of Teaching Excellence from Virginia Tech's College of Science.

Dr. Sarah Whitton's The Today's Couples and Families Research Program

- Niki Altenberg joined our lab as a first-year clinical psychology doctoral student.
- Emily Devlin began her internship at the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center in Philadelphia.
- Charlie Giraud and Abby Fischbach received Point Foundation Awards to continue conducting and disseminating their SGM-focused research.

Dr. Matthew D. Johnson's Marriage and Family Lab at Binghamton University (SUNY)

- Quinn Hendershot joined the Carl T. Hayden Veterans' Administration Medical Center in Phoenix for her pre-doctoral internship.

Lab Updates

Lab Name: Couple Adjustment to Stress and Trauma (CAST) Laboratory; Binghamton University – SUNY
Head of Lab: Christina Balderrama-Durbin, Ph.D.

Lab Update: The CAST Lab is dedicated to advancing understanding of risk and protective factors of relationship functioning among intimate partners affected by trauma, with particular attention to individuals from high-risk and marginalized communities. Following the unforeseen suspension of our USAID/IOM grant examining psychological and social determinants of irregular migration, we had to pivot our research focus to pursue new and timely questions. Under the leadership of sixth-year graduate student, Melissa Gates, and in collaboration with Dr. Shelby Scott, the lab launched a qualitative study exploring the sociopolitical concerns of sexual minority women. Data collection was completed over the summer, and thematic coding of interview transcripts is now underway.

Fourth-year graduate student, Jessica Hill, successfully passed her comprehensive exams and continues to engage in impactful military research, including identifying prospective risk factors for intimate partner violence in dual military relationships. Jessica is also designing a series of studies examining how socioeconomic factors shape perceptions of neglect. This innovative line of inquiry will inform her dissertation, which will focus on the effect of childhood maltreatment and revictimization on adult intimate relationship functioning.

Second-year graduate student, Rebecca Smith, is currently developing her thesis, which investigates how sociopolitical concerns relate to aspects of relationship functioning among sexual minority couples. The CAST Lab is pursuing new funding opportunities to help refine and test prevention/early intervention strategies for military couples. We're thrilled to continue expanding access to evidence-based tools that help military couples build and maintain strong, resilient relationships.





Lab Name: Clinical Couple and Family Psychology, Department of Psychology, University of Marburg, Germany

Head of Lab: Melanie Fischer, Ph.D.

Lab Update: Our research foci include psychopathology in couples and families (basic and intervention research) as well as topics related to couple relationships more broadly (understanding, preventing, and treating relationship distress). Current doctoral students are Sophie Blum, M.Sc. (research focus on OCD and parenthood), Negin Boryri, M.Sc. (couple communication and observational methods), Anne Vogel, M.Sc. (couple relationships among sexual minorities), Laura Weber, M.Sc. (family accommodation in OCD and other disorders), and Nina Winkelmann, M.Sc. (depression in couples and network analyses), along with students completing their undergraduate and Master's theses in our lab.

Current projects focus on accommodation and emotion regulation in couples with OCD, the evaluation of an online training for parents considering separation, an RCT comparing individual behavioral activation to couple-enhanced behavioral activation (CE-BA) for depression with a focus on changes in dynamic networks of symptoms and interpersonal factors, observational coding of couple communication, the utilization of large scale panel data to study couple relationships of sexual minorities, several qualitative investigations focusing on parents with OCD and on queer relationships, along with other ongoing research efforts and collaborations. Dr. Fischer continues her dissemination efforts for couple therapy for depression in the National Health Service, England.

We will not be traveling to ABCT in 2025 but hope to see everyone in 2026!

Lab Name: Doss Couples Lab

Head of Lab: Dr. Brian Doss

Lab Update: We were excited and grateful to receive a 5-year grant from the Administration for Children and Families as part of the national Healthy Marriage / Responsible Fatherhood initiative. This grant will allow us to continue providing the OurRelationship program and coaching calls to distressed couples and individuals who are unable or unwilling to seek couple therapy.

We are also excited to welcome Claire Szapary as the newest graduate student in the lab. Claire will be looking to expand our understanding of OurRelationship's impact on a variety of health outcomes for general and specific populations.

Lab Name: Institute for Relationship Science

Lab faculty: Galena Rhoades, Scott Stanley, Nicholas Perry, Annie (Yunying) Le

Lab Update: The Institute for Relationship Science is a group merging three relationship-focused research labs at the University of Denver engaging in community-centered science, evidence-based initiatives, and public scholarship for the betterment of interpersonal relationships, families, communities, and the public good. The Institute's vision is a collaborative relationship between scholars and the community that applies the strongest research methodology to solve real problems for people, families, and communities who are typically marginalized and underrepresented, including LGBTQ+ couples and families.

This year, the team closed several large relationship education evaluation projects (related to the ACF's Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood initiative), and is working on new community-based initiatives. Dr. Rhoades's community-based MotherWise program continues to serve pregnant or postpartum women and teens and is funded through her nonprofit, Thriving Families. Dr. Perry is continuing to lead his team's longitudinal study of newlywed LGBTQ+ couples through a combination of University and foundation funding after NIH terminated the R01 supporting that work.

This year the Institute welcomes two new graduate students, Jenny Lee and Jessica Liao. We also congratulate postdoctoral fellow Daphne Yunjing Liu on joining the University of Missouri – St. Louis as a tenure-track assistant professor, and research assistant Claire Chapman on starting her Clinical Psychology Ph.D. this fall at the University of Colorado – Denver.



Lab Name: Penn State Couple and Family Adaptation to Stress Lab

Head of Lab: Steffany Fredman, Ph.D.



Lab Update: We're excited about our ongoing research projects focused on couples, stress, and trauma. We're continuing to recruit couples for our DoD-funded RCT to compare a weekend retreat version of cognitive-behavioral conjoint therapy for PTSD (AIM-CBCT for PTSD) to the Prevention and Relationship Education Program (PREP) for the treatment of PTSD in active duty military and veteran couples (PI: Fredman). Treatment is being delivered in San Antonio as part of the STRONG STAR consortium. Eligible couples from anywhere in the U.S. can come to San Antonio to receive treatment, and we're thrilled to have received philanthropic funds to cover travel for couples coming from a distance! We're also excited about other work on couples and mental health taking place in the lab. Jeesun Lee is leading work on the link between relationship quality and mental health among adults at midlife, using both longitudinal and daily diary methods, and Ruoxuan Wang is leading work on the couple context of depression on short time scales. We're also delighted to continue our collaborations with CFAS alums Annie Le, August Jenkins, and Emily Taverna on work related on the couple context of PTSD and related conditions.

Lab Name: Research for Alcohol and Couples' Health (REACH) Lab

Head of Lab: Meagan J. Brem, Ph.D.

Lab Update: We completed data collection for our study (R21AA030858) "Integrating Remote Breath Alcohol Monitoring into Ecological Momentary Assessment of Alcohol-Related Intimate Partner Violence among Young Adult Drinkers" and submitted Aim 1 results for publication. For Aim 1, we examined the feasibility and acceptability of pairing portable breathalyzers to assess field alcohol use with mobile EMA to assess intimate partner violence (IPV) perpetration and victimization among 103 undergraduates who heavily drink and recently perpetrated IPV. We assessed EMA/breathalyzer completion rates, drinking captured via breathalyzer versus self-report, number of IPV events captured, procedural acceptability, and reactivity to assessment. Participants completed 80% of surveys and responded to 91% of breathalyzer prompts. BrAC was captured in 89.4% of self-reported drinking events, 91.4% of self-reported non-drinking events, and 95.8% of IPV events, with greater responsiveness to breathalyzer prompts as the evening progressed despite increasing intoxication. EMA captured 358 IPV events. Results were comparable across women and men. There was minimal reactivity to assessment and participants reported high overall satisfaction with study components.

Lab Name: REACH Lab (continued)

Our previously terminated grant (R21AA031548, "Daily Impact of Sexual Minority Stress on Alcohol-Related Intimate Partner Violence among Bisexual Young Adults: A Couples' Daily Diary Study) was reinstated in July 2025, and we have enrolled 84% of our target sample in the study. Doctoral candidate Allison Tobar-Santamaria will be presenting some preliminary data from our pilot study data at an ABCT symposium in November 2025.

MPIs Brem and Leone submitted grant R21AA032618 "Development of the Bystander Responses in Alcohol-Related Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence (BRAVE) Ecological Momentary Assessment Tool." Doctoral candidate Allison Tobar-Santamaria submitted grant F31AA032983 "A Mixed-Methods Study of Alcohol Use among College Sexual Assault Survivors: Examining Community Experiences, Social Support, and Intervention Preferences"

We are delighted to have Marisa Alkalay join us this semester! Marisa joined our lab following two years as a Research Technician at the National Center for PTSD at the VA Boston Healthcare System where she was involved in the civilian implementation of a group intervention program for those who use violence in their relationships. Marisa's research interests include campus sexual assault, rape myth acceptance and intimate partner violence.

Ella Reitmeier is our new Project Coordinator for year 2 of our NIH-funded study on bisexual individuals' and their partners' minority stress, alcohol use, partner support, and IPV. Ella will be applying to PhD programs in clinical psychology this upcoming cycle!



Lab Name: SHARE lab (Stress, Health, and Relationships in Everyday life), UNC Greensboro

Head of Lab: Danielle Weber, PhD

Lab Update: Our lab started in Spring 2025 when Danielle began her faculty position at UNC Greensboro!

We then welcomed our first graduate student in August: Larissa Brito, who is joining us after a post-bacc research coordinator position at Yale. We also brought on three talented research assistants.

As a new lab, we are very much in the start-up phase of different projects. We are about to start data collection on a study examining how people experience and manage different external stressors in their relationships, and how these experiences may differ across the lifespan. We also continue work on collaborative projects, including collaborations with colleagues at the University of Georgia focused on relationship functioning and depression among older adults.

We look forward to sharing more updates as our lab continues to grow!

Lab Name: The Today's Couples and Families Research Program

Head of Lab: Sarah Whitton

Lab Update: Thanks to a generous donor, we have restarted FAB400, our longitudinal cohort study of sexual minority women! Although we are not able to achieve all study aims given the loss of NIH funding, we are collecting self-report data that will allow us to continue exploring the mental health and relationships of this population.

Led by graduate students, we are also conducting research focused on partner support needs of individuals during gender transitions and on developmental trajectories of gender identity in transgender and cisgender sexual minority individuals.

Opportunities

Lab Name: Research for Alcohol and Couples' Health (REACH) Lab

Head of Lab: Meagan J. Brem, Ph.D.

ALCOHOL & STRESS COUPLES STUDY: This study is focused on the day-to-day experiences of people who are attracted to more than one gender or regardless of gender (e.g., bisexual, pansexual, omnisexual, polysexual, queer, or others). We use "bi+" as an umbrella term throughout the study. We are interested in understanding how daily stress associates with alcohol use and relationship functioning among bi+ adults and their partners. Bi+ individuals and their partners may enroll in this virtual study and earn up to $115 each.

Participation involves:

1. Attending a 90-minute Zoom session during which you will complete a 60-minute online survey.
2. Completing 5-minute surveys daily for 60 days.
3. Your partner must also enroll in the study.

This study is in collaboration with researchers at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Our team includes researchers who identify as bi+ and our research is informed by previous research on bi+ individuals.

Click here to enroll in the Alcohol & Stress Couples Study.

Hot off the Press

Aguilar-Raab, C., Stoffel, M., Fischer, M. S., Eckstein, M., Bodenmann, G., Heinrichs, M., Ehlert, U., & Ditzen, B. (2025). Minimal couple intervention to improve psychobiological stress resilience. *British Journal of Health Psychology, 30*(2), e12799. https://doi.org/10.1111/bjhp.12799

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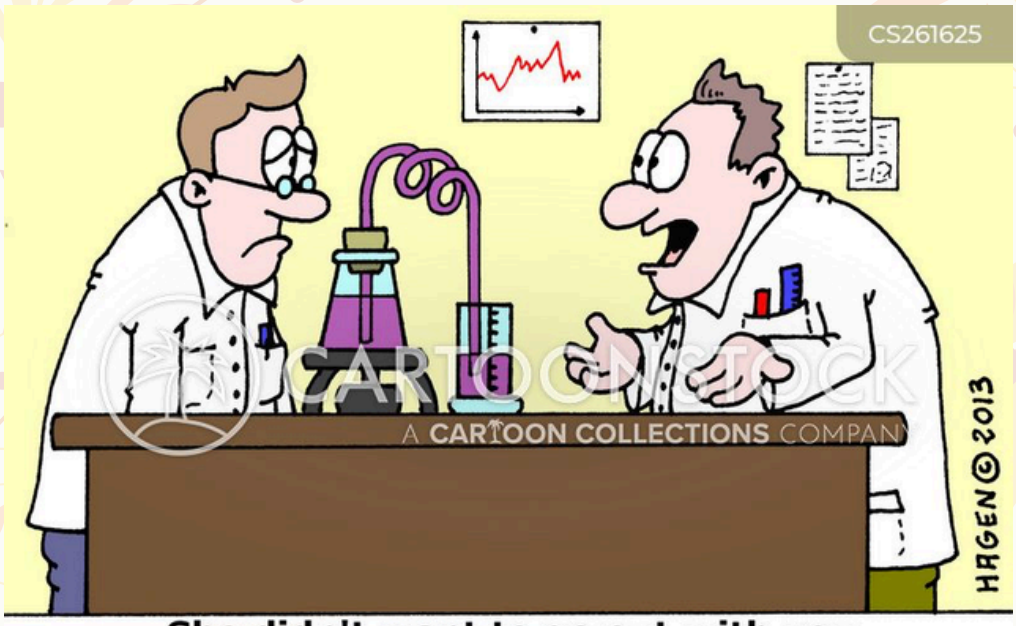
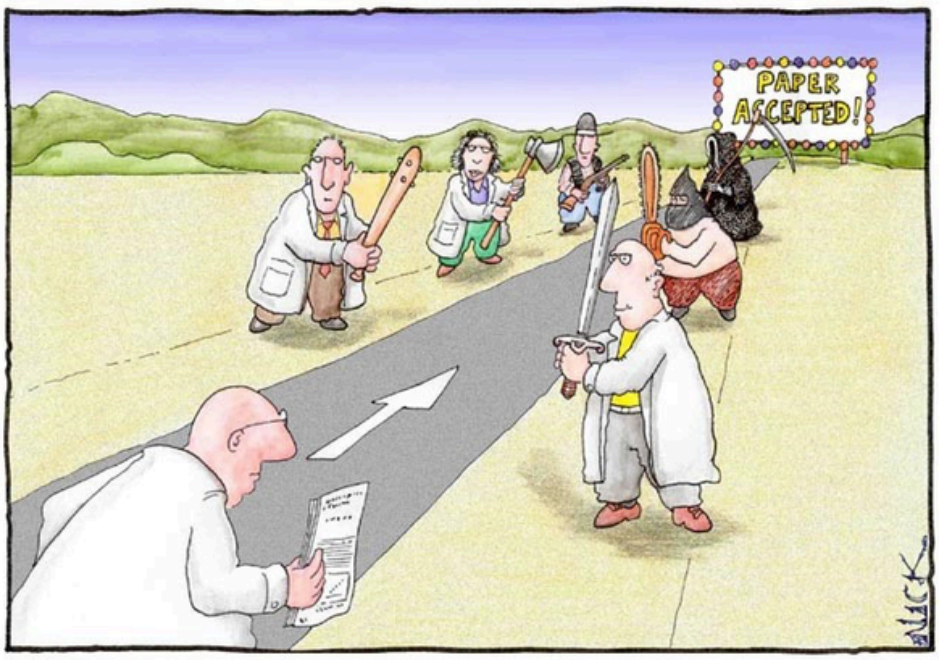


She didn't want to go out with you
even though you told her you had a h-index of 37!
Boy I don't understand women!



Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as "quite an improvement."