Call for Papers — *Personal Relationships*

**Special Issue on Mechanisms Linking Relationships and Physical Health**

Editors: Allison K. Farrell, Sarah C. E. Stanton, and Jeffry A. Simpson

**Theme and Overall Goals**

Both the quantity and quality of personal relationships have important associations with physical health from the cradle to the grave. Greater social integration is linked with lower susceptibility to ailments ranging from the common cold to cancer (Cohen, 2004; Uchino, 2006), and a meta-analysis of 148 studies demonstrated that individuals who have more supportive relationships have a 50% lower risk of premature death (Holt-Lunstad, Smith, & Layton, 2010). Relationship quality also has unique associations with health and longevity (Robles, Slatcher, Trombello, & McGinn, 2014). Specifically, positive aspects of relationship quality (e.g., responsiveness) are associated with better health outcomes and buffer against poor health outcomes, whereas negative aspects of relationship quality (e.g., hostility) predict worse health outcomes and may exacerbate health problems (Slatcher & Selcuk, 2017).

However, researchers are just beginning to identify the psychological, biological, and behavioral mechanisms underlying links between relationship processes, physical health, and disease outcomes. How do social experiences “get under the skin” to affect biological functioning, both concurrently and/or decades later? To highlight these important mechanisms and their implications for intervention development and implementation, *Personal Relationships* is devoting a special issue to this topic to be published in 2020.

Papers in the special issue must align with *Personal Relationships’* goals of examining relationships of all types, including those between romantic partners, spouses, parents and children, siblings, classmates, coworkers, neighbors, and friends. We are particularly interested in papers that address the role of psychological mediators (e.g., affective processes, anxiety and depressive symptoms, attachment, self-control, self-esteem, stress appraisal), biological mediators (e.g., cardiovascular, endocrine, [epi]genomic, immunological, metabolic, neurological), and/or behavioral mediators (e.g., communication, diet, exercise, hygiene, sexual behaviors, sleep, substance [ab]use) in explaining relationship-health associations either immediately and/or over time.

A major theme of the special issue is the potential of findings to inform interventions. Only by understanding the specific mechanisms that link relationships and health can we effectively intervene to promote better health. Thus, papers submitted to the special issue should also provide useful insights into the specific aspects of relationship functioning that should be targeted and/or when during the lifespan different interventions are likely to be most effective.

**Types of Submissions**

Empirical articles composed of one or more studies will be considered for publication in the special issue.
Submission Process

Manuscripts should be submitted through ScholarOne Manuscripts and should follow the Personal Relationships author guidelines.

Interested authors should submit a brief abstract (4000 characters including spaces) for their article by January 15, 2019 using the form provided here. Authors whose papers make important contributions to the relationships-health literature and most effectively align with the goals of the special issue will be invited to submit a full version of their manuscript by July 15, 2019. Authors who are invited to revise their manuscript must complete their revision by November 15, 2019.

Important Dates Summary

January 15, 2019: Submission of empirical article abstracts (4000 characters including spaces)

February 1, 2019: Abstract editorial decisions made and authors notified of manuscript status (i.e., whether a full version of the empirical article is invited for submission)

July 1, 2019: Initial submission of full empirical articles

September 1, 2019: Initial editorial decisions made and authors notified of manuscript status

November 15, 2019: Resubmission of full empirical articles

December 15, 2019: Final editorial decisions made

Questions

Questions, clarifications, and general inquiries can be sent to any member of the editorial team:

Allison K. Farrell, allison.farrell@wayne.edu
Sarah C. E. Stanton, sarah.stanton@ed.ac.uk
Jeffry A. Simpson, simps108@umn.edu