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978-1-107-19261-4 — Power in Close Relationships
Edited by Christopher R. Agnew, Jennifer J. Harman
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POWER IN CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Power is an inherent feature of social interactions, yet it is hard to define and therefore understand. This book is the first to organize current interdisciplinary theorizing and research about power from leading academics in areas such as social psychology, communications, family studies, and public health. It also focuses exclusively on how power operates and affects close relationship processes, while the theoretical insights provided point the way toward new lines of research and understanding. Using specific examples to illustrate complex theoretical explanations and supplying thorough descriptions of the existing literature on power in close relationships, this book is an essential resource for researchers, professionals, students, or laypeople seeking to better understand how power operates in those relationships that are most important to us.

Christopher R. Agnew is Professor of Psychological Sciences at Purdue University, Indiana, USA, where he serves as Associate Vice President for Research. As a social psychologist, his research focuses on interpersonal relationships and using relational theories to understand broader social and health processes.

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Advances in Personal Relationships

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Although scholars from a variety of disciplines have written and conversed about the importance of personal relationships for decades, the emergence of personal relationships as a field of study is relatively recent. *Advances in Personal Relationships* represents the culmination of years of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary work on personal relationships. Sponsored by the International Association for Relationship Research, the series offers readers cutting-edge research and theory in the field. Contributing authors are internationally known scholars from a variety of disciplines, including social psychology, clinical psychology, communication, history, sociology, gerontology, and family studies. Volumes include integrative reviews, conceptual pieces, summaries of research programs, and major theoretical works. *Advances in Personal Relationships* presents first-rate scholarship that is both provocative and theoretically grounded. The theoretical and empirical work described by authors will stimulate readers and advance the field by offering new ideas and retooling old ones. The series will be of interest to upper-division undergraduate students, graduate students, researchers, and practitioners.

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University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India
79 Anson Road, #06-04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education,
learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107192614
DOI: 10.1017/9781108131490

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First published 2019

Printed and bound in Great Britain by Clays, St Ives plc, Elcograf S.p.A.

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-107-19261-4 Hardback

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This volume provides theory and research by social and behavioral scientists on power in close relationships. Although power has been cited as integral to understanding how relationships are initiated, developed, maintained, and dissolved, there have not been any edited books to date that provide an in-depth analysis from multiple perspectives on the topic. Contributors to this book come from the areas of communication, family studies, public health, and social psychology. This interdisciplinary approach represents not only different perspectives on power, but also different methodologies and levels of analysis (e.g., individual, dyadic, family, community). The intent of this volume is to present each perspective as different but integral pieces of a larger puzzle that can aid in bringing the diverse power literature together.

We are indebted to a number of people for helping to make this book possible. First and foremost, we thank the chapter authors for lending their time, expertise, and enthusiasm to this project. We also express our appreciation to John Caughlin, Chip Knee, and Terri Orbuch for their support of the project in their roles as *Advances in Personal Relationships* series co-editors. Thanks also to all those at Cambridge University Press for their assistance along their way, including Janka Romero (Commissioning Editor), Emily Watton (Editorial Assistant), Matt Sweeney (Content Manager), Indra Priyadarshini (Project Manager), and Melissa Read (Copy Editor). Finally, our thanks to our own relationship partners (Ximena Arriaga and Matt Florian) for empowering us, via their love and support, to bring this project to completion.

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