

## Health and Illness in Close Relationships

*Health and Illness in Close Relationships* provides an integrated theoretical framework for understanding the complexities of health trajectories and relationship processes. It is the first volume to review and synthesize current empirical evidence and associated theoretical constructs from the literature on health and illness in close relationships across the social and behavioral sciences. In doing so, it provides a unique cross-disciplinary understanding of how health and illness redefine relationships. The volume also maps out an explanatory framework of how the pathways and processes of close relationships pose considerations for resilience and flourishing or, on the contrary, for relational and health decline. It will appeal to researchers and students across psychology, communication, and relationship studies, as well as to health professionals who are interested in understanding how health conditions can shape or be shaped by patients' close relationships.

ASHLEY P. DUGGAN is an associate professor in the Communication Department and the Medical Humanities Program at Boston College, USA. She is also the co-director of the Communication and Family Medicine Research Division, a collaboration between Tufts University School of Medicine and Boston College, USA.

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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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ASHLEY P. DUGGAN

*Boston College, Massachusetts*



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*For the Martha's Vineyard Communication Association, the MVCA for short.*

*My favorite quasi-professional “association,” a group of eight women who hold space for each other in the complexities of illness, surgery, new grandbabies, the loss of loved ones, accomplishments, and milestones, all over lots of wine, good food, and laughter. We are connected as communication faculty across different universities through our annual “conference” at Martha's Vineyard, through many years as a collective, and through our shared history of friendship and support. The MVCA is made up of Bonnie Jefferson, Sara Weintraub, Rita Rosenthal, Anne Mattina, Sherry Shepler, Roberta Kosberg, Nancy Willets, and me.*

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