

INTERDEPENDENCE, INTERACTION, AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Interdependence theory is a powerful and applicable theory that has shaped the study of interpersonal relationships for decades, providing foundational constructs and elucidating key assumptions within the burgeoning field of relationship science. Research guided by interdependence theory sheds light on the diverse phenomena within ongoing relationships, including the emergence of co-operation, trust, dependence, power, and relationship maintenance. At its core, interdependence theory pinpoints key elements of daily interactions that predict specific experiences and outcomes that people have in different situations. This handbook goes further to explain how interdependence theory continues to be used fruitfully in research, driving our current understanding of relational processes. We invite you to enter the world of interdependence and discover what top scholars across disciplines are discussing in their efforts to fully understand close, intimate relationships.

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 Frontmatter
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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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In 2017, Syracuse University hosted a mini-conference sponsored by the International Association for Relationship Research. Over 200 scholars came together for a weekend centered on the theme of “Interdependence, Interaction, and Relationships.” For three days, scholars discussed their work in formal presentations, informal interactions between sessions, and lively conversations during happy hours. When the conference ended, it was clear that ideas surrounding interdependence remain relevant and generative and the idea for this book came to be.

Interdependence Theory (IT) – a theory first discussed more than 60 years ago – is a remarkably flexible theory that strongly influences contemporary relationship science. IT constructs underlie numerous current theories and frameworks, often in implicit ways. This volume draws IT’s core to the forefront, emphasizing its contribution and explicitly highlighting its influence. Most of this influence is theoretical, but several contemporary methodological advances can also be attributed to this powerful theory. The intent of this book is to highlight IT, show how IT has shaped the field of relationship science, and foreshadow how it will continue to guide research into the future.

Hosting the conference that inspired this book required a great deal of support. We are indebted to Syracuse University, and especially to the College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School, and the Psychology Department for their financial support. The other members of the local organizing committee – Jennifer Tomlinson, Joy McClure, and Len Newman – provided practical and emotional support throughout the planning process, for which we are immensely grateful. Finally, we thank the International Association for Relationship Research for sponsoring the conference, and especially thank Sue Sprecher, Leah Bryant, Jeff Simpson, and Dan Perlman for their guidance.

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- Rusbult, C. E., & Buunk, B. (1993). Commitment processes in close relationships: An interdependence analysis. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 10, 175–204.

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