

Proposal for JSPR Special Issue on Nonlinear Effects and Dynamics in Close Relationships

We (Drs. Yuthika Girme, Nickola Overall, and Jeff Simpson) are editing a special issue of *The Journal of Social and Personal Relationships* that will focus on nonlinear effects and dynamics in close relationships. Despite widespread acknowledgment that close relationships frequently involve tumultuous and dynamic experiences, most models in relationship psychology focus on linear relationship processes. We hope that this special session will shed light on how modeling nonlinear patterns can reveal unique relationship experiences, unique findings, and broaden our general understanding of complex relationship processes. For this special issue, we are interested in both short-format and long-format empirical papers that use nonlinear techniques to reveal novel patterns or effects, as well as methodological papers that discuss the advantages and effective use of certain nonlinear techniques that can be applied to relationship phenomena. We are also interested in receiving papers that highlight diverse samples and relationship contexts, including but not limited to samples that represent diverse ethnic, gender, and sexual identities, friendship or familial relationships, and cross-cultural contexts.

Topic Ideas

Although not a comprehensive list, here are some possible topic areas:

1. *Curvilinear Effects*: Papers might illustrate how curvilinear associations between variables reveal novel effects, optimal levels of thoughts, feelings, or behavior, or help to reconcile inconsistencies in the current literature.
2. *Fluctuations or Nonlinear Trajectories Across Time*: Papers might model nonlinear models across time (e.g., within-person fluctuations, nonlinear growth or change across time) to demonstrate novel effects and broaden our understanding of existing relationship processes or theories.
3. *Synchrony Between Dyads*: Papers might highlight how different levels of synchrony within dyads capture ideal or problematic relationship environments and impact relationship outcomes.
4. *Methodological Reviews or Techniques*: Papers might review existing nonlinear techniques or provide a summary and example applications of new techniques that might be of interest to relationship scholars interested in modelling nonlinear effects and dynamics.

If you have an article that you think would be appropriate for this special issue, we invite you to submit an extended abstract to Drs. Yuthika Girme, Nickola Overall, and Jeff Simpson (emailed to lead editor Girme at ygirme@sfu.ca) by **January 31st 2021**.

The abstract should outline your research questions, sample, and key findings and should be no longer than 500 words. Please indicate whether you would like to contribute a short-form (up to 3000 words) or long-format article (up to 9000 words), and include a provisional title and author information (i.e., title, names, affiliation, contact details for all authors). This

information will *not* count toward the 500 word abstract limit. We will not consider late submissions.

Authors will be informed by **March 1st 2021** whether or not they are being invited to submit a full manuscript. We will accept invited manuscripts on a rolling basis, but they must be received no later than **July 1st 2021**. As soon as manuscripts are received, they will be sent out for peer review. We anticipate that the special issue will be published in **July 2022** (with relevant accepted publications published as “online first” articles ahead of this publication date).

It is important for us to let you know that the invitation to submit a full manuscript does not guarantee final publication in the special issue. Submissions will undergo editorial screening and then peer-review, and, depending on the peer reviews, authors will have the chance to revise their manuscripts. An accepted paper, however, cannot be guaranteed.

For any questions, please contact us at Yuthika Girme ygirme@sfu.ca; Nickola Overall n.overall@auckland.ac.nz; Jeff Simpson simps108@umn.edu.

Initial Key Dates

January 31st, 2021: Abstracts due

March 1st, 2021: Decisions on abstracts

July 1st, 2021: Deadline for manuscript submission based on approved abstracts