

***Methods for Studying Processes of Support and Coping  
in Dyadic Relationships***

Abstract of talk  
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We will describe a program of research that uses diaries to study how couples cope with stressful experiences on a daily basis. Important issues that arise in this work is (i) how frequently within a day to assess coping and support in order capture important causal dynamics, (ii) how to incorporate the independent perspectives of dyad members in understanding these dynamics, and (iii) how to model the statistical non-independence of dyad members both as a constant effect (e.g., due to selection on stable partner characteristics), and as a transient effect (e.g., as a result of daily dyadic interaction and common daily experiences). We will illustrate these issues as they relate to daily supportive interactions and their consequences for coping with everyday stressors and with major life events.