

## **2011 International Mini-Conference on Personal Relationships**

*Relationships development, maintenance, and dissolution*

**University of Gdansk, Faculty of Social Sciences**

**Thursday 7, Friday 8, Saturday 9,**

**July 2011**

<http://www.iarrgdansk2011.ug.edu.pl/>

**We have the pleasure of welcoming you to the 2011 International Mini-Conference on Personal Relationships, which will take place at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Gdansk, Gdansk, Poland.**

The theme for the conference is ‘ **Relationships development, maintenance, and dissolution**’.

In the recent years we have seen significant cultural changes influencing social functioning including initiating and maintaining interpersonal relationships. Psychologists pay close attention to developments of individualistic societies, in which human bonds start to play a reduced role and the virtual world gives appearances of real human contact. At the same time we observe stronger tendency to blur gender differences and unify gender roles. Some researchers such as Csikszentmihalyi, Haidt, and Baumeister point out that modern man is facing a “trap” of focusing on the Self, satisfying one’s needs at the cost of relationships. They also warn against consumerism and hedonism as ultimate values, stressing that quality of relationships, mature love and being significant other are the factors that contribute mostly to well being, sense of happiness and fulfilled life.

During the conference we would like to focus on analyzing the above mentioned (and other) factors affecting relationships, development in early life stages, the way one sees her/his gender, marital and parental roles.

We also want to ponder over the character and the direction of changes taking place in relationships. We invite speakers on social psychology, gender differences, family and developmental psychology. Example issues include: bonding in early stages of socialization, forming romantic relationships, factors favoring (helping) or hampering family systems, break-ups of relationships, changing values and needs in social interactions.

### **Keynote Speakers (in alphabetical order):**

**Dr. Gail S. Goodman**, Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Director of the Center for Public Policy Research at the University of California, Davis.

**Dr. Jacki Fitzpatrick**, an Associate Professor in the Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) Department at Texas Tech University (Lubbock, Texas, USA).

**Mario Mikulincer**, Professor of Psychology and Dean of the New School of Psychology at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya, Israel.

**Phillip R. Shaver**, Distinguished Professor of Psychology at the University of California, Davis.

### **Site of the Conference**

**Gdansk** is the largest and one of the most important cities in Northern Poland. It is situated on Gdansk Bay and is one of the main seaports. Together with the nearby spa town of Sopot and the city of Gdynia, Gdansk forms a metropolitan area called the Tricity with a population of more than one million. It is an important industrial and cultural center. It is also famous for its commercial zones, shopping malls, beaches, theatres and museums. The city is the birthplace of the Solidarity movement, which brought an end to the communist era in Central Europe.

**For more information please email your question: [iarrconference@ug.edu.pl](mailto:iarrconference@ug.edu.pl)**

**We look forward to seeing you in Gdansk! We hope you will enjoy the conference.**