

## **Let's Share Teaching Activities!**

Have you created a teaching activity to engage students in relationship research? If so, the Teaching Committee would love to hear from you!

Instructors who introduce relationship science to students face many exciting challenges, including selecting topics to teach. Relationship science spans multiple disciplines, various relationship stages and types, and immeasurable interactive processes. It also considers individual differences that contribute to relationship functioning and accounts for external factors, such as social support and cultural influence that establish the relational context. In such a rich and broad field, instructor must also decide how best to teach each topic. Having thoughtful approaches and compelling methods for introducing relationship science can bring the field to life, making a lasting impact on students' lives. That's where you come in!

The mission of the IARR Teaching Committee is to support instructors of relationship science by collecting teaching resources and disseminating these materials through conference teaching sessions, RRN, and the IARR teaching website (the password to the teaching resources is available at the end of each monthly email blast). The teaching portion of the IARR website provides media links to relationship-related topics, shares assignments used by relationship teaching scholars, and offers a variety of sample syllabi for relationship courses. We recently added an Activities subsection that contains a few demonstrations that instructors can use to engage students in better understanding relationship topics (e.g., attachment security, nonverbal communication, and Interdependence Theory). The initiative we present here supports growth in this section.

IARR members' responses to teaching questions on a recent survey indicated that access to more in-class activities would help support their teaching. Who better to share teaching ideas on relationships than our IARR community? The Teaching Committee is pleased to offer equal-opportunity grants to IARR members who contribute innovative in-class teaching activities or demonstrations for the Activities section of our teaching website. We encourage instructors at any level to share one or more activities. Graduate student instructors? Longtime professors? Give it a go! We encourage fresh perspectives, new innovations, and "tried and true" demonstrations of any relationship topics. All submissions will be vetted by the Teaching Committee for adherence to the specific guidelines before inclusion. The funding available (\$2,000) will be divided equally amongst all contributors (independent of number of activities shared) who meet the deadline posted below, with a maximum award of \$200 per person. (If less than 10 people submit activities, the remainder will be used to fund future initiatives.)

The Specifics: The IARR Teaching Committee invites instructors of relationships courses to share in-class activities and demos that help students make connections between the experience and the relationship topic illustrated. To submit an entry please:

- 1) identify/describe the relationship topic, concept, theory, model, or process demonstrated
- 2) provide a brief description of the activity
- 3) provide specific instructions that other teaching scholars can use to implement the activity in their own classes (including pdfs of any required materials)
- 4) describe how the relationship topic taught relates to the activity,
- 5) identify the discipline and type of class for which this activity would be successful

We encourage activities demonstrating a variety of relationship topics, theories, models, and disciplines. Please send inquires and entries to the Teaching Committee Chair, Julie Verette-Lindenbaum at [lindej2@sage.edu](mailto:lindej2@sage.edu) by August 31, 2023.