

# Preface

A rapidly accumulating literature in recent years has focused on delineating how genes and environments work together to influence interpersonal relationships. These relationships include those within the family, like parent-child, marital, and sibling relationships and those outside the family, like peer and work relationships. Until fairly recently interpersonal relationships were considered purely environmental without consideration of the role of the individual in influencing his or her relationships via a variety of mechanisms including genes. Many investigators in the areas of interpersonal relationships and development now recognize the important role of the individual in shaping his or her interpersonal relationships and in helping to explain how those relationships impact development. This shift coincides with a rapidly growing body of work that has documented that interpersonal relationships are influenced at least in part by genetically-influenced characteristics of the individual.

In addition, these questions have been embedded within a lifespan developmental framework. Thus, great strides have been made in understanding pathways linking interpersonal relationships to individual adjustment across the lifespan. This volume will provide an overview of studies examining genetic and environmental influences on interpersonal relationships across the lifespan. We have identified experts within a variety of fields to describe behavioral genetic research focused on key developmental transitions and interpersonal relationships with a focus on gaps in the literature in order to identify important future directions of work in this area.

We thank the senior editor, Dr. Yong-Kyu Kim and each contributing author of this volume. Funding for this volume was provided by the National Institute on Aging (F32 AG039165).

Gene-Environment Interplay in Interpersonal  
Relationships across the Lifespan

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2015, XI, 281 p. 6 illus., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-4939-2922-1