

Keli Ryan Steuber
Interpersonal and Family Communication

General Program of Research

Keli's major area of study is interpersonal communication with a focus on marital communication and change across the lifespan of relationships. Her program of research is centered on two main research questions: (a) how do couples maintain marital well-being when confronted with challenging life circumstances, and (b) how does the social network impact the experience of those circumstances? This perspective places the marital dyad at the center of these transitions, but it also recognizes that family and friends can offer support, influence perceptions, and experience change associated with the stressors that exist within a marriage. She has contributed to projects exploring relational uncertainty and partner interference in transitions, the management of secrets within families, and perceptions of marital support. Some of her recent research is in press at the *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships* and *Communication Monographs*.

Dissertation

Keli's dissertation focuses on marital well-being, the influence of social networks, and the revelation of private information. The research goal is to document how married couples are influenced by their social network as they cope with infertility, as well as how spouses regulate private information about infertility with their loved ones. Specifically, she turns to Petronio's (2002) communication privacy management theory, Solomon and Knobloch's (2004) relational turbulence model, and Afifi and Steuber's (in press) revelation risk model to examine the factors that influence how spouses jointly regulate infertility-related information. Keli hopes to gain insight into how spouses negotiate their collective privacy boundaries and cope with boundary turbulence in ways that influence the quality of their partnership.

Teaching

In addition to research, teaching has always been a priority throughout her graduate career. Keli has taught a variety of classes at Penn State, including teaching Communication Research Methods (CAS204), Interpersonal Communication (CAS203), and two different conflict courses (CAS494 and CAS404). Her instruction in these courses was awarded a *Distinguished Teaching Award* from the Communication Arts and Sciences Department at Penn State, and she was recognized twice for excellence in graduate teaching by the *International Communication Association*; one nomination from the faculty at Penn State (2008) and one from the faculty at The University of Delaware (2005).

Adviser: Dr. Denise Solomon

Committee Members: Dr. Jon Nussbaum, Dr. Rachel Smith, Dr. Alan Booth