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**1. What first drew you to relationship science?**

My interest probably started from watching movies like Mrs. Doubtfire and Liar Liar growing up. These movies showed diverse family structures but also left room for much more representation. I had no idea relationship science was a viable career path as a first-generation college student but I knew I enjoyed learning about diverse families. Thankfully, I feel fortunate to have crossed paths with the amazing scholars and women including, but not limited to, Drs. Kristina Scharp, Jennifer Guthrie, Tara McManus, Natalie Pennington, and Leah Bryant - who were changing the world with their research and affirmed that it was possible for me to do the same.

**2. What's a project you're especially proud of right now, and why?**

I am proud of submitting my first R01 grant with Dr. Erika Oh. I am also proud that we are continuing to revise that project despite our first rejection. I think it's just as important to be proud of your projects that are accepted as those that are rejected because your ideas and contributions matter regardless of the evaluation. So much of academic conversation represents the highlight reels. These highlights are important and fun, but I appreciate rejections because those responses are an invitation to revisit, learn more, and try again!

**3. What do you find most exciting or rewarding about studying relationships?**

I feel most excited knowing that we always have something more to learn about relationships. We all get to be lifelong students because we can always be better communicators, supporters, lovers, and cheerleaders for those in our lives. I feel lucky to get to have the time and space to pour into my relationships more each day & help others do the same.

**4. What's something about relationships that people often misunderstand—or that your work has changed your mind about?**

I have learned that people are incredibly creative in how they create, maintain, and sustain relationships. This creativity is inspiring, and reminds me that there are no "right ways" to be in relationship with others. Instead, you can craft relationships that work for you, and those around you, during each chapter of your lives.

**5. What are you working on next, or what question are you most excited to pursue?**

I am working on how to improve intergenerational interactions in the family specifically between grandparents and grandchildren. This is a part of a longer program of research on how to increase support and wellbeing for older adults.

**6. What advice would you give to students or early-career scholars interested in relationship science?**

I would advise folks to build and maintain a research community with other scholars whose work intersects with your own. My current program of research is a reflection of the many mentors and friends who have walked, brainstormed, and wrote alongside me.