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1. What first drew you to relationship science?

I have always been quite interested in relationships! Growing up, I watched many shows and movies that highlighted the developments and challenges that people in family and close relationships were navigating. It was easy for me to choose relationship science once I discovered that I could build a career observing, researching, and talking about family and close relationships.

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

Much of my work has focused on social stressors like heterosexism and racial discrimination within romantic relationships. One of the most rewarding parts of studying relationships is sharing my findings with others outside of academia and, as a result, hearing how much people appreciate having their unique relationship experiences highlighted in research, feel seen, and sense a greater understanding of their own relationship dynamics.

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

I'm really excited about my upcoming projects which focus on 2 primary threads. First, advancing more multi-dimensional approaches to examining how racial discrimination shapes individual and relationship outcomes. Second, explicating how individual experiences of social stress come to have relational impacts. There are several other projects in development which also address measurement, lifespan perspectives, and translating findings into policies and practices that have more tangible impacts for families. Lots of things coming down the pipeline!

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

My initial response is that early-career scholars should not overly constrain your themselves to one aspect of relationships/relationship science. Don't be afraid to integrate perspectives from multiple disciplines, knowing that your unique set of interests will make a unique contribution to the field. Also, get connected, build mentoring relationships and collaborations that are both vertical (i.e., with people in more senior roles) and horizontal (i.e., with peers at similar career stages).