2 EDITION

Engaging Theories in Interpersonal Communication

Multiple Perspectives

Dawn O. Braithwaite & Paul Schrodt Editors

Engaging Theories in Interpersonal Communication

Multiple Perspectives

Second Edition

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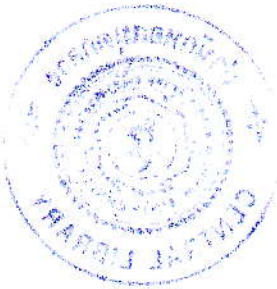

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Introduction

Meta-Theory and Theory in Interpersonal Communication Research

Dawn O. Braithwaite, Paul Schrodt, and Kristen Carr

Our goal for this book was to create a helpful resource for researchers and students who are interested in studying interpersonal communication. Some readers of the book will be researchers designing studies of interpersonal communication and looking for a theory to guide their project. Others will be students or instructors who want to better understand the breadth of interpersonal communication theory or are looking for a concise discussion of a particular theory. Still others will be studying interpersonal communication to better understand their own relationships, for example, looking to address challenges in a friendship, romantic, or close workplace relationship. They may need help tackling a particular problem related to interpersonal communication and need to make choices about what information to reveal or conceal via social media or the best way to communicate support and concern.

Most textbooks or handbooks of interpersonal communication contain summaries of research programs on different topics, for instance, conflict communication, deception, or relational maintenance (e.g., Greene & Burleson, 2003; Knapp & Daly, 2011; Knapp, Vangelisti, & Caughlin, 2014). Our goal for this book is different in that we provide a collection and overview of important theories that are, or have the potential to be, useful for studying interpersonal communication. Our goal is a very practical one as we see theories as useful tools for addressing choices and concerns people encounter. For students and scholars alike, this collection of theories becomes a toolbox to help you approach and understand interpersonal communication from a variety of perspectives.