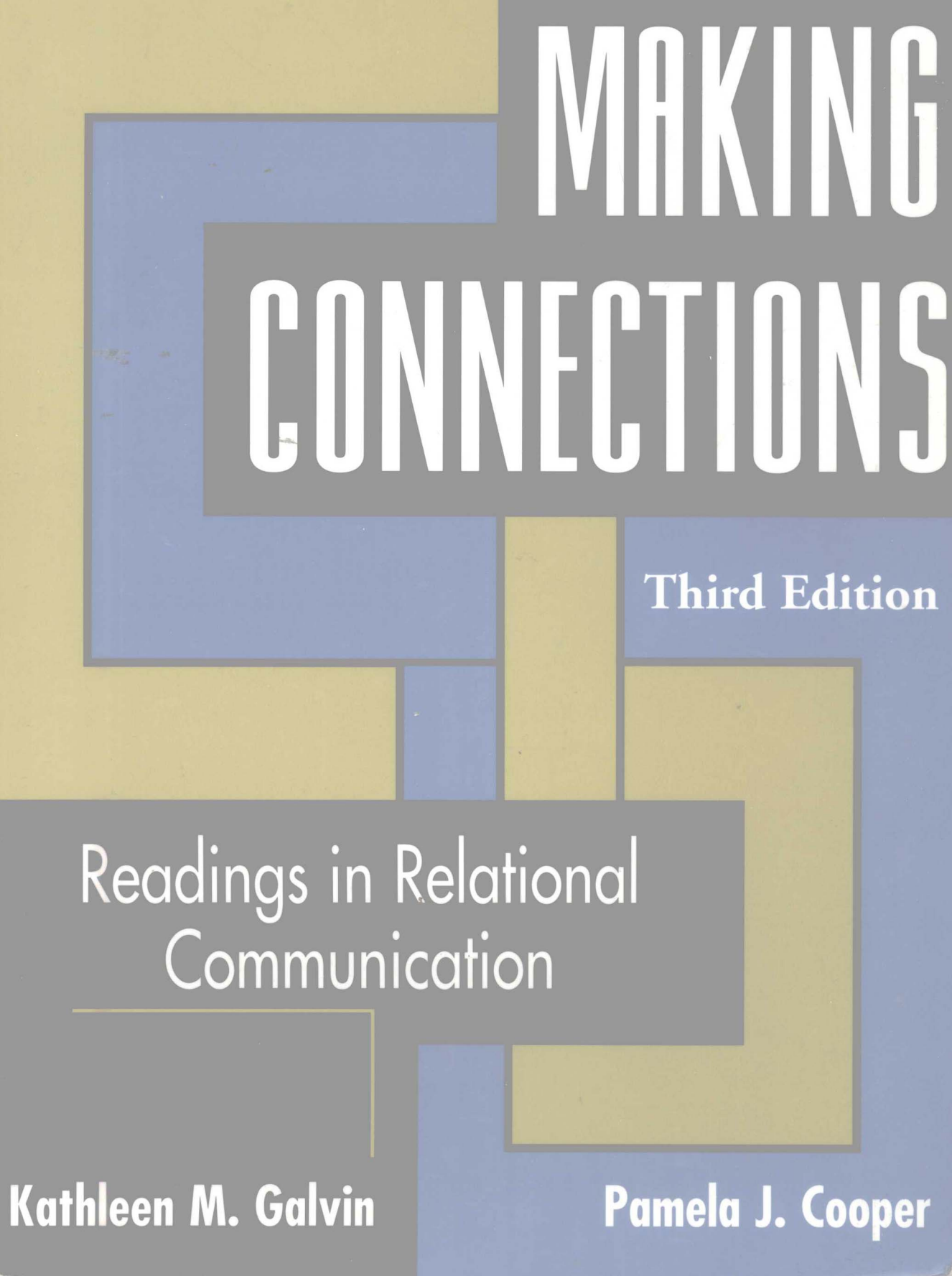




MAKING CONNECTIONS

Third Edition

Readings in Relational
Communication

Kathleen M. Galvin

Pamela J. Cooper

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Communication*

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Dedication

*To our relationship—
twenty-five years of making connections,
personal and professional,
being there for each other
through joyous and tough times,
creating a valued friendship.*

Preface

The Third Edition of *Making Connections* retains our goal to provide a set of “lenses” through which each of us can view, and make sense of our own communication interactions and those we observe in the world around us. Relying on the research and insights of scholars, theorists, and popular writers, we have assembled a timely and challenging set of perspectives on relational communication. The book offers a mix of theory and practice designed to make clear the connection between communication and the development of such significant relationships as parent-child, friends, romantic partners, or colleagues. This text reflects our belief that gender, culture, and family serve as perceptual filters through which we view the world; these filters directly affect the ways each of us interacts with others. As you read the articles we hope you will examine your own personal perceptual filters in addition to understanding how others use them.

In *Making Connections* you will encounter concepts and research findings that will provide you with new ways to consider communication in relationships and, in some cases, give you a new terminology for some of your intuitive knowledge. Finally, you will consider a range of strategies for dealing with communication situations. We hope you will use this diverse set of readings to make informed personal choices about your interpersonal communication and to increase your analytical skill as an observer and participant in relationships.

New to the Third Edition

The Third Edition has been significantly updated and expanded to include 18 new articles, 7 of which are original, that explore issues such as later-life friendships, sexual communication, same-sex partner interaction, forgiveness, and teenagers connecting online. This edition still con-

tains “Connecting Points” for each section, providing experiential applications of relevant concepts. This feature enhances the links between theory and practice for students. We maintain the same framework as in earlier editions, using gender, family, and culture as “lenses” through which to view and make sense of relational communication.

The articles in *Making Connections* were selected from the recent work of communication scholars, theorists, and popular writers—with a balance between humanistic and social-science perspectives. The Third Edition continues to:

- offer a well-rounded discussion of the links between communication and relationships, including perception, verbal and nonverbal communication, and listening.
- feature a developmental approach in terms of initiating, sustaining, and ending relationships.
- reflect direct applications of relational issues within contexts of friendships, family, and technology.
- explore issues relating to computer-mediated communication and technology.

Based on feedback from current users, we dropped the workplace context included in earlier editions.

Structure

Each part of the text is designed to move you from concepts and theories to applications within specific contexts.

Part I provides an introduction to the communication process as well as to the key concepts of relational culture, dialectical processes, and relational development.

Part II establishes the critical role of perceptual processes in relational communication and presents culture, family, and

gender as “lenses” through which we view our relational experiences.

Part III introduces the basic building blocks of communication, which include language, nonverbal communication, listening, and context.

Part IV discusses the early stage of relational development, emphasizing established relational standards, and various models of relational growth for different types of ties.

Part V addresses the issues involved in sustaining relationships, including showing affection, managing rules and rituals, nagging, and forgiving.

Part VI explores the inevitable struggles that surface in significant long-term relationships and how these can be managed through negotiation skills, listening strategies, and constructive conflict practices.

Part VII confronts the reality of relational decline as friends or partners move toward greater individuality, confront their

differences, and engage in leave-taking communication or consider possibilities of reconnecting.

Part VIII demonstrates the effect of context on relationships and explores the relational communication issues unique to the contexts of families, friendships, and technology.

We introduce each section of the text, previewing the concepts that are in the readings that follow. In addition, a brief introduction to each reading highlights certain issues to which you should pay careful attention. At the end of each reading you will find a set of questions and challenges to help you integrate and apply key points.

We are very excited about the new articles presented in this edition because they represent emerging areas of research and concern. We hope you find the readings thought-provoking and that you will apply the theoretical insights and concepts offered in your own personal relationships. ♦

Acknowledgments

Creating this book continues to be a relational experience. We appreciate the opportunity to talk with authors of academic and trade works about their ideas, to seek out original pieces from established and emerging scholars, and to talk with colleagues and editors as we track down elusive permissions.

We are grateful to the users of the First and Second Editions who provided extremely helpful formal and informal feedback, as well as to our reviewers, who responded to the text and provided concrete suggestions for changes and additions. These individuals include: Colleen Garside (Weber State University), Judy Jones (New England College), Diane Monahan (Keene State College), Karen A. Shafer (Southern Oregon University), and Lynne A. Texter (La Salle University).

In addition, we relied heavily on the assistance of: Jaime Finn for manuscript preparation, computer expertise, and interpersonal support; Jennifer Hollingsworth, who managed much of the permissions process. Developmental Editor Monica Gomez provided meticulous editing skill and reassurance. Our Publisher, Claude Teweles, remains a patient and strong supporter as well as a helpful advisor.

This work is a testimonial to the strength of our own relationship, which has survived and deepened over many years of joint projects, running jokes, and mutual support. As you read the Third Edition of *Making Connections*, we hope you will make the connection between the readings and your life experiences and make choices that will foster and deepen relational communication in your life. ♦

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