

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**SYLVIA L. MIKUCKI-ENYART**

Division of Communication  
 University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point  
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**EDUCATION**

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- Ph. D.**      **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2012)**  
 Communication  
 Dissertation title: *The Transition to Extended Family: Examining the Links between Turbulence and In-laws' Goals, Communication, and Relational Outcomes.*  
 Advisor: John P. Caughlin  
 Committee: Leanne K. Knobloch, Marshall Scott Poole, Constance H. Shapiro
- M. S.**      **Illinois State University (2007)**  
 Communication Studies  
 Thesis: *'A Daughter's a Daughter the Rest of Her Life; A Son is a Son Until He Takes a Wife': Exploring the Experience and Expression of Jealousy within the Mother-in-Law/Daughter-in-Law Dyad.*  
 Advisor: Sandra Metts
- B. A.**      **Illinois State University (2003)**  
 Speech Communication, Creative Writing

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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- 2012 – present**      **Assistant Professor**  
 Division of Communication, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
- 2015- present**      **Director of Graduate Studies**  
 Division of Communication, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
- 2007- 2012**      **Graduate Teaching Assistant**  
 Department of Communication, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2008**      **Graduate Research Assistant**  
 Department of Communication, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2005-2007**      **Graduate Teaching Assistant**  
 School of Communication, Illinois State University

**2003-2005**

**Executive Director**

Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce, Tinley Park, Illinois

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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**Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, Wilder, S. E., & Barber, H. (2016). "Was it all smoke and mirrors?": Applying the relational turbulence model to adult children's experience of late-life parental divorce. *Journal of Social & Personal Relationships*. Advance online publication.

**Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.** (2016). Communication among in-laws. In C. Berger & M. Roloff (Eds.), *International encyclopedia of interpersonal communication*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

**Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.** & Caughlin, J. P. (2015). Integrating the relational turbulence model and a multiple goals approach to understand topic avoidance during the transition to extended family. *Communication Research*. Advance online publication.

**Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, Caughlin, J. P., & Rittenour, C. E. (2015). The content and relational implications of children-in-law's relational uncertainty during the transition to extended family. *Communication Quarterly*, 63, 286-309.

Caughlin, J. P., Vangelisti, A. L., **Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.** (2013). Conflict in dating and marital relationships. In J. G. Oetzel & S. Ting-Toomey (Eds.), *The Sage handbook of conflict communication: Integrating theory, research, and practice* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., pp. 161-186). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Scott, A. M., Caughlin, J. P., Donovan-Kicken, E., **Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.** (2013). Do message features influence responses to depression disclosure? A message design logics perspective. *Western Journal of Communication*, 77, 139-163.

Stone, A. M., **Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, Middleton, A. V., Caughlin, J. P., & Brown, L. B. (2012). Caring for a parent with lung cancer: Caregiver's perspectives on the role of communication. *Qualitative Health Research*, 22, 957-970.

Caughlin, J. P., **Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, Middleton, A. V., Stone, A. M., & Brown, L. B. (2011). Being open without talking about it: A rhetorical/normative approach to understanding topic avoidance in families after a lung cancer diagnosis. *Communication Monographs*, 78, 409-436. **[Lead Article]**

**Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.** (2011). Parent-in-law privacy management: An examination of the links among relational uncertainty, topic avoidance, in-group status, and in-law satisfaction. *Journal of Family Communication*, 11, 237-263.

**Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, Caughlin, J. P., Middleton, A., Stone, A. M., & Brown, L. (2011). Being open without talking about it. *Communication Currents*, 6 (6).

**Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.** (2010). Book review of *Communicating to manage health and illness* by Dale E. Brashers and Daena J. Goldsmith (Eds.). *Health Communication*, 25, 775-777.

Metts, S., & **Mikucki, S. L.** (2009). Personal idioms. In H. T. Reis & S. Sprecher (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of human relationships* (pp. 1214-1216). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Metts, S., & **Mikucki, S. L.** (2008). The emotional landscape of romantic relationship initiation. In S. Sprecher, A. Wenzel, & J. Harvey (Eds.), *Handbook of relationship initiation* (pp. 353-373). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

### **MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW/WORK IN PROGRESS**

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**Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, Petite, S. R., Wilder, S. E. (2016). *Communicative reactivity and interaction goals under conditions of relational uncertainty*. Manuscript submitted for publication.

**Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.** (2016). *The complexity of in-laws' privacy management: Understanding the Interplay between Contextual and Motivational Criteria on Children-in-Law's Privacy Rules*. Manuscript submitted for publication.

**Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.** (2016). *Examining adult children's uncertainty and communication following late-life stepfamily formation*. Data collection in progress.

### **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

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**Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.** (2016, April). *The complexity of in-laws' privacy management: Understanding the Interplay between Contextual and Motivational Criteria on Children-in-Law's Privacy Rules*. Competitive paper to be presented at the annual convention of the Central States Communication Association, Grand Rapids, MI. **Top Paper in Interpersonal and Small Group Communication.**

**Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, Wilder, S. E., & Barber, H. (2015, November). "Was it all smoke and mirrors?": *Applying the relational turbulence model to adult children's experience of late-life parental divorce*. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, Las Vegas, NV.

**Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.** (2015, May). *The mediating role of family in-group status on children-in-law's uncertainty management strategies during the transition to extended family*. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the Central States Communication Association, Madison, WI. **Top Four Papers in Interpersonal and Small Group Communication.**

- Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.** (2015, May). Managing the convergence points of work and life: Discussions of work-life balance with pre-tenure female faculty. Competitive panel presented at the annual convention of the Central States Communication Association, Madison, WI.
- Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.** (2014, November). *Examining the mediating role of children-in-law's privacy management goals on the association between children-in-law's uncertainty, topic avoidance, and relational outcomes.* Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.
- Mikucki-Enyart, S. L., & Caughlin, J. P.** (2014, May). *Integrating the relational turbulence model and a multiple goals approach to understand children-in-law's uncertainty management during the transition to extended family.* Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the International Communication Association, Seattle, WA.
- Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.** (2014, April). *Adult children's uncertainty and uncertainty management in response to late-life parental divorce.* Competitive panel paper presented at the annual convention of the Central States Communication Association, Minneapolis, MN. **Top panel in the Interpersonal and Small Group Communication.**
- Mikucki-Enyart, S. L., Caughlin, J. P., & Rittenour, C. E.** (2013, June). *The content and relational implications of children-in-law's relational uncertainty during the transition to extended family.* Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the International Communication Association, London, UK.
- Mikucki-Enyart, S. L., Rittenour, C. E., Georgetanakis, K., & Ramsdell, A.** (2012, November). *"Does my future mother-in-law really like me or just tolerate me?": Children-in-law's relational uncertainty during the transition to extended family.* Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, Orlando, FL.
- Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.** (2012, July). *Parents' use of topic avoidance as an uncertainty management strategy in response to adult children's marriage.* Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the International Association on Relationship Research, Chicago, IL.
- Middleton, A. V., Stone, A. M., **Mikucki-Enyart, S. L., Caughlin, J. P., & Brown, L. B.** (2011, November). *Communication and information challenges in the context of adult children's coping with lung cancer: Implications for education, intervention and support for families.* Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Mikucki-Enyart, S. L., & Rittenour, C. M.** (2011, November). *The transition to extended family: Relational uncertainty within the parent- adult child dyad.* Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA.

Stone, A. M., **Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, Middleton, A., Brown, L., & Caughlin, J. P. (2011, May). *The role of communication in caregiving for adult children of lung cancer patients*. Paper presented at the International Communication Association, Boston, MA.

**Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, Middleton, A. V., Stone, A. M., Brown, L. B., & Caughlin, J. P. (2010, November). *"She knew she was dying, we all knew she was dying, but nobody would talk about it": A multiple goals perspective on topic avoidance after a lung cancer diagnosis*. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, San Francisco, CA.

Scott, A. M., Caughlin, J. P., **Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, Donovan-Kicken, E., & Satterlee, K. L. (2010, November). *Managing multiple goals and evaluating communication sophistication: Responses to depression disclosure*. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, San Francisco, CA.

Stone, A. M., **Mikucki, S. L.**, Satterlee, K., Middleton, A., Brown, L., & Caughlin, J. P. (2010, April). *Communication and care among adult children of lung cancer patients*. Paper presented at the Kentucky Conference on Health Communication, Lexington, KY.

**Mikucki, S. L.** (2009, November). *Relational uncertainty and topic avoidance within the in-law triad*. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL. **Top three student paper in the Family Communication Division.**

Scott, A. M., Caughlin, J. P., **Mikucki, S. L.**, & Donovan-Kicken, E. (2009, November). *The Message Design Logics of Responses to Depression Disclosure*. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.

**Mikucki, S. L.** (2009, April). *A mother-in-law's experience and expression of jealousy and relational uncertainty*. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the Central States Communication Association, Saint Louis, MO.

**Mikucki, S. L.** (2008, November). *A theoretical typology of mothers-in-law*. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, San Diego, CA.

**Mikucki, S. L.** (2008, November). *Relational uncertainty in in-law relationships*. Competitive panel paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, San Diego, CA.

**Mikucki, S. L.** (2008, April). *Mother-in-law jealousy: Experience and expression*. Competitive panel paper presented at the annual convention of the Central States Communication Association, Madison, WI. **Top panel in the Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Division.**

- Mikucki, S. L.** (2007, November). *“Tug of War”*: Relational dialectics in the mother-in-law/daughter-in-law relationship—A qualitative analysis. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.
- Mikucki, S. L.** (2007, March). *Attack of the green-eyed mother-in-law: An exploratory investigation of jealousy experience and expression in the mother-in-law/daughter-in-law dyad*. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the Central States Communication Association, Minneapolis, MN.
- Metts, S., **Mikucki, S. L.**, & Smith, A. C. (2007, March). *The challenges and consequences of emotion expression in close relationships*. Competitive panel paper presented at the annual convention of the Central States Communication Association, Minneapolis, MN.
- Hunt, S. K., Angelos, J. F., **Mikucki, S. L.**, & Wood, B. H. (2006, November). *Critical thinking and communication pedagogy: Assessing students’ critical thinking development in the basic communication course*. Competitive paper presented at the annual National Communication Association convention, San Antonio, TX.
- Metts, S. & **Mikucki, S. L.** (2006, April). *Instructional Diamonds: Illustrating Course Concepts with Video*. Presentation at the annual convention of the Central States Communication Association, Indianapolis, IN.

## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

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- Guest Speaker (2013, May). *Going the Distance: Surviving Long-Distance Relationships*. Presented to Pray-Sims residence hall, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.
- Guest Speaker. (2009, November). *In-Law Relationships*. Presented in Dr. Susan Sprecher’s “Personal Relationships” graduate seminar, Sociology Department, Illinois State University.
- Guest Lecturer. (2007, June). *Jealousy*. Presented in Dr. Susan Sprecher’s “Personal Relationships” undergraduate course, Sociology Department, Illinois State University.
- Panelist. (2006, March). *Graduate School: Is it for Me?* COM WEEK at Illinois State University.
- Presenter. (2006, August). *Communication and critical inquiry: An overview of the portfolio assignment*. Requested by Dr. Stephen K. Hunt & Dr. Cheri J. Simonds, School of Communication, Illinois State University. Guest speaker for the graduate teaching assistant summer training program, Illinois State University.

## PRESS

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I have been interviewed by and my research has been featured in a number of national and international media outlets, including:

Kita, J. (2015, November). When your wife dislikes your mother. *Men's Health*. Quoted in article about mothers- and daughters-in-law.

No author. (2015, February 13). Valentine's Day: Small gestures have big impacts. *Stevens Point Journal*. Quoted in article about relational maintenance.

O'Brien, E. (2014, November 25). 10 things your mother-in-law won't tell you. *Market Watch, Wall Street Journal*. Quoted in 10 things article about mothers-in-law.

Yoffe, E. (2014, May). Mother-in-Brawl. *Slate*. Quoted in Dear Prudence column on mothers-in-law.

Lindley, J. (2014, May). The trouble with in-laws. *Real Simple* magazine. Quoted in article on the mother- and daughter-in-law relationship.

Neyfakh, L. (2013, November 17). The weird science of in-laws. *Boston Globe*. Quoted in article on in-law relationships.

Berman, C. (2013, September). The mother-in-law challenge. *NyCityWoman.com*. Quoted in article on in-law relationships.

Miguel Jaque, J. (2013, June 1). Por qué la tensión suegra, hijo-marido y esposa no tiene fin (aparentemente). Chilean article featuring my in-law research in the newspaper *La Tercera*.

Bernstein, E. (2013, May 20). A mother, a son, and a wife. *Wall Street Journal*. Article featuring my research on the mother- and daughter-in-law relationship. This story was picked up by various media outlets, including *The Huffington Post*, *Daily Mail*, *Fox News 26-Houston, Texas*, and multiple websites/blogs.

May 20, 2013. Participated in a live, 5-minute interview on the *Wall Street Journal's* online news program *Lunch Break*.

Participated in on-air interviews for WAOW, Newline Nine (Wausau, WI) regarding parent-child communication after the Sandy Hook school shooting and emerging adulthood as an explanation for a decrease in teens seeking driver's licenses.

## **RESEARCH SUPPORT**

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- 2015 Research and Creative Activities Grant, University Personnel Development Committee, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. "Late-Life Stepfamily Formation." \$4,042. Role: Primary Investigator.
- 2013 New Faculty Research Grant, University Personnel Development Committee, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. "Examining adult children's communication as a coping resource to late-life parental divorce." \$2,000. Role: Primary Investigator.
- 2013 Load Reassignment, Division of Communication, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. "Late-life parental divorce." (Fall semester course release; Role: Primary Investigator).
- 2012 Marion Morse Wood Graduate Fellowship, Graduate College, University of Illinois. \$7,000. Role: Primary Investigator.
- 2011 Summer Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Department of Communication, University of Illinois. \$3,000. Role: Primary Investigator.
- 2011 Graduate College Travel Award, University of Illinois (2011). \$175.
- 2009 Research Board Beckman Grant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2009). "Adult Children's Communication and Coping Following a Parent's Lung Cancer Diagnosis." \$16,140. PI: John Caughlin. Role: Co-investigator
- 2007 Elizabeth Winter Young Doctoral Fellowship, Department of Communication, University of Illinois (2007). \$3,000.
- 2007 Friends of UIUC Communication Travel Grant, Department of Communication, University of Illinois.
- 2007 Professional Development Grant-in-Aid award, Graduate Student Association, Illinois State University. \$250.
- 2006 Thesis Research Grant-in-Aid Award, Graduate Student Association, Illinois State University. \$250. Role: Primary Investigator.

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

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### **RESEARCH**

- 2016 Scholarship Award, Division of Communication, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point.
- 2016 Top Paper, CSCA, Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Interest Group.



- 2016 Nominee, University Research Award, University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point
- 2015 Top Three Papers, CSCA, Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Interest Group.
- 2015 Nominee, University Research Award, University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point.
- 2014 Top Competitive Panel, CSCA Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Interest Group.
- 2012 Karl R. Wallace Award for Distinguished Scholarship, Department of Communication, University of Illinois
- 2011 Ruth Anne Clark Student Scholar Research Award, Department of Communication, University of Illinois. (\$500).
- 2009 Top Three Student Papers, NCA, Family Communication Division.
- 2008 Top Competitive Panel, CSCA Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Interest Group.
- 2007 Outstanding Master's Thesis Award, School of Communication, Illinois State University.

### **TEACHING**

- 2012 List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent, Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Illinois.

### **OTHER ACADEMIC AWARDS**

- 2003 Graduated *magna cum laude*, Illinois State University.
- 1999-2003 Dean's List Honors, Illinois State University.
- 1999-2003 Honors Program Scholar, Illinois State University.

### **RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS**

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- 2009 **Graduate Research Assistant and Project Manager for John Caughlin**  
*Communication and coping among adult children of lung cancer patients.*  
 Project supported by University of Illinois Research Board, Beckman Grant.

## TEACHING

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### **University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Division of Communication**

Capstone in Interpersonal/Organizational Communication (undergraduate seminar)  
 Current Issues and Topics in Interpersonal Communication (graduate seminar)  
 The Evolution of Family Communication (undergraduate/graduate online course)  
 Family Communication (undergraduate/graduate lecture)  
 Introduction to Interpersonal Communication (undergraduate lecture)  
 The Language of Love: Communication in Romantic Relationships  
 (undergraduate/graduate online course)  
 Relational Communication (undergraduate lecture)  
 Graduate Research Methods (graduate seminar)

### **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Communication**

Introduction to Interpersonal Communication  
 Family Communication  
 Small Group Communication  
 Undergraduate Open Seminar, Preparing to Study Abroad  
 Independent Study, Special Topic: Communication Research  
 (Instructor of record for all of the above undergraduate courses)

### **Illinois State University, School of Communication**

Communication and Critical Inquiry  
 Communication, Critical Inquiry, and Political Engagement  
 Introduction to Communication Theory\*  
 Introduction to Interpersonal Communication  
 (Instructor of record for all of the above undergraduate courses except those denoted with  
 an asterisk (\*) in which I served as a teaching assistant)

## ADVISING

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### **University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Division of Communication**

#### Master's Thesis Chair:

Jessica Hoerter (2015-present)  
 Stefanie Williams (2016-present)

#### Master's Thesis Reader:

Holly Voll (2015-present)

#### Director for 1 Undergraduate Independent Study:

Allison Kunde (2013)

#### Director for 5 Research Assistants:

Chris Brundidge (2013)

David Hopp (2013)  
 Rick Van de Hay (2013)  
 Hayden Barber (2014)  
 Sarah Petite (2015-2016)  
 Noel Herman (2016)  
 Hannah Winkel (2016)  
 Susan Switzer (2016)

### **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Communication**

Director for 8 Undergraduate Independent Studies:

Kourtni Brooke (2012)  
 Katerina Georgiarentis, M. A. student (2012)  
 Amanda Ramsdell (2011)  
 Erin Schandelmeier (2011)  
 Brandi Marinko (2010, 2011)  
 Leondra Dennis (2010)  
 Jenna Bedard (2009)  
 Kelsey Brown (2009)

Supervisor for 4 James Scholar Honors Projects:

Jenna Brayton (2010)  
 Jill Klein (2009)  
 Brandi Marinko (2009)  
 Andrea Pierce (2009)

### **SERVICE**

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#### **DEPARTMENT**

- 2015-present Committee Member, Assessment Committee, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.
- 2015-present Committee Member, Curriculum Committee, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.
- 2015-present Committee Chair, Graduate Program Committee, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.
- 2014-2015 Committee Chair, *Ad hoc* Recruitment Committee, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.
- 2012-2015 Committee Member, Graduate Program Committee, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

- 2012-2013 Committee Member, *Ad hoc* Graduate Program Committee, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.
- 2009-2011 Incoming Graduate Student Mentor, University of Illinois.
- 2009 “Graduate Student at a Distance,” for Dr. Susan Sprecher, Illinois State University.
- 2006 Peer Mentor, Illinois State University.
- 2006-2007 Department Representative, Graduate Student Association, Illinois State University.
- 2006 Committee member, Programming Committee, Graduate Student Association, Illinois State University.

### **UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE**

- 2015-present Committee member, Graduate Council, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.
- 2014-2015 Committee member, University Personnel and Development Committee, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.
- 2012-2013 Committee member, Student Research Fund, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.
- 2006 Invited Respondent, Undergraduate Research Symposium, Illinois State University.

### **DISCIPLINE**

#### **Editorial Service**

- 2014-present Reviewer, *Journal of Family Communication*.
- 2012-present Reviewer, *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*.
- 2008-2011 Student reviewer, *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*.

#### **Professional Organization Service**

- 2015 Paper Reader, Central States Communication Association, Undergraduate Honors Research Conference.
- 2015 Committee Member, Central States Communication Association, Inaugural Communication Studies Award.

- 2011 Paper Reader, National Communication Association, Spring 2011, Family Communication Division.
- 2008 Panel Chair, *(Un) Conventional Applications of Theories and Models in Family Communication*. National Communication Association, San Diego, CA.
- 2008 Paper Reader, National Communication Association, Student Division.

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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Central States Communication Association (CSCA)

International Association for Relationship Research (IARR)

International Communication Association (ICA)

National Communication Association (NCA)