

Communication, Psychopathology and Treatment

The ability to communicate effectively and appropriately across the social contexts that comprise everyday life is key to social and personal adjustment/adaptation. Conversely, the rate of co-morbidity between psychiatric disorders and social communication incompetency is extremely high. In this lab, we will study a.) Conceptualizations of social communication competence, with emphases on narrative and discourse processes, b.) Attempts to measure and assess social communication competencies qualitatively and quantitatively, and c.) The role of social communication competencies in typical and atypical development across the lifespan (from caretaker-infant through caretaker –geriatric adults in both clinical and everyday settings). Large experimental and clinical data bases will be used to address key questions in this area, as new studies are designed and implemented in the Bay Area. Students are encouraged to discuss with Dr. Russell their potential interest in becoming a contributing member of this lab.