Partner aggression is extremely common and more harmful than may be widely recognized. Most people do not end their relationship the moment a partner becomes aggressive. This talk will examine specific beliefs that people adopt when they are motivated to continue their relationship, beliefs that effectively reinterpret or downplay their partner’s aggressive behavior. Longitudinal and experimental data will be presented that suggest: (1) people who have an aggressive partner experience elevated distress but do not perceive their relationship as distressing; (2) people become more accepting of partner aggression when it occurs in their own relationships; and (3) people underestimate how happy they will feel after their aggressive relationship ends. Together the findings reveal harm from partner aggression that may be “invisible”.

The Invisible Harm of Partner Aggression

Tuesday, September 11, 2018
3:30 – 4:30
Center for Visual Arts 145