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## Couples and Money


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## Editorial: Money & Relationships

Jeffrey P. Dew

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## Editorial

**Jeffrey P. Dew, Ph.D.**

Special Issue Editor

I started examining the association between money and relationship outcomes in committed adult relationships in 2003. At the time, there were only a few studies that had examined this topic. Fortunately, fifteen years later this situation has changed. Many more scholars are examining the role that money plays in family relationships (interested readers may find the review in Dew, 2016 to be helpful).

I am in a unique position as special editor for this issue in the *Journal of Financial Therapy* in that I am not a practitioner. Although I do teach a family finance course, the only people I have truly advised/coached regarding money are my own children. Further, I have never helped anyone with their relationship. Thus, I acknowledge the practical knowledge and expertise that readers of this journal have which I do not have. But I am committed to the important mission of both the *Journal* and the Financial Therapy Association. When Dr. Archuleta asked that I serve as special issue editor, I was happy to accept the position.

The topic of money and relationships has fascinated me ever since I left a decently paying job with good benefits to attend graduate school. I wondered how our new financial stressors was affect my two-year-old marriage. Fortunately, our marriage survived the financial deprivation of graduate school. But my curiosity about and desire to understand more of the interface of money and family life is as strong as ever. This issue of *JFT* explores that particular interface.

This issue covers a diverse range of topics and samples regarding money and relationships. For example, the studies cover topics as diverse as gender and income provision to materialism to the processes though which money impacts relationships. The authors have done a good job considering the different facets and nuances of the association between money and relationships.

I appreciate those authors who submitted their work to the special issue. I also sincerely appreciate the help of the anonymous reviewers, who dedicated their time to help ensure the quality of the special issue. Although I would love to shout their names from the rooftops, given the smaller nature of our research community I have decided to preserve their anonymity. I do this so that no one tries to connect the dots and figure out who reviewed whose paper. Reviewers, please know that your efforts are appreciated. Finally, I would like to express gratitude for the help of Dr. Archuleta, Dr. Lutter, and Christina Glenn for their hard work and advice they generously gave me.

-Jeffrey Dew

## References

Dew, J. P. (2016). Revisiting financial issues and marriage. In J. J. Xiao (Ed.), *Handbook of Consumer Finance Research*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed (pp. 281–290). New York, NY: Springer.

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**Rhees R. Johnson, B.A.**, is a recent graduate from Utah State University. He received a bachelor's degree in Family, Consumer, and Human Development, and will be attending Auburn University (Fall 2018) to pursue a master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. He looks forward to developing both clinical and research proficiencies as he begins his professional education and career. He is still exploring detailed research categories, but is generally interested in strengthening couple relationships, trauma, and collaborative care.

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**Ashley B. LeBaron**, is a graduate student and lead research assistant in the Marriage, Family, and Human Development program at Brigham Young University. Her research focuses on family finance, specifically couple finance and financial socialization. Ashley was valedictorian for the College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences graduating class of 2016 at BYU.

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**Julia Mull**, spent 25 years in banking and financial planning, ran a small family owned roofing company with her husband, teaches at Carroll College in Helena, MT, is a CFP®, and is a current PhD student at Kansas State University. She has earned an MS from Montana State University in Family Financial Planning, an MBA from Indiana University in Fort Wayne, an MA in Mass Communication from the University of Denver, and is pursuing an MS in Family Financial Planning from Montana State University. She has both Series 6 and Series 63 securities licenses and is life licensed.

**Josh R. Novak, PhD, AMFT**, is an Assistant Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy and Director of the Relationships and Health Lab at Utah State University. His research interests focus on the nexus of relationships and health, specifically with how relationship processes could attenuate negative health outcomes. He aims to understand these by studying how couple support processes (coping, communication, responsiveness, etc.) may help to improve engagement in healthy behaviors (such as diet, exercise, mindfulness, etc.) through improving emotional and mental health. Finally, he is passionately curious about the processes of change within therapy that can lead to positive therapy outcomes.

**Barbara O’Neill, Ph.D, CFP®, CRPC®, AFC, CHC, CFEd, CFCS, CPFFE** holds the rank of Distinguished Professor at Rutgers University, and is Rutgers Cooperative Extension’s Specialist in Financial Resource Management. She also provides national leadership for the Cooperative Extension programs *Investing for Your Future* and *Small Steps to Health and Wealth™*. A Certified Financial Planner®, Dr. O’Neill received her Ph.D. in family financial management from Virginia Tech and has written over 1,700 consumer newspaper articles and over 160 articles for professional publications. She has also received over three dozen awards for program excellence and over \$1 million in external funding to support her financial education programs and research.

**Joyce Serido, Ph.D.**, is an Associate Professor in Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, USA. She holds an MBA in finance from Seton Hall University and an MS and PhD in family studies and human development from the University of Arizona. Her research focuses on financial behavior, specifically, the intersection of family processes and personal well-being of youth and young adults. Dr. Serido currently serves on the editorial boards for the *Journal of Consumer Affairs* and *Journal of Financial Counseling and Planning*.

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