
Relating across our differences in the new year

1 message

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Wed, Jan 1, 2025 at 9:08 AM

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Wishing you a Happy New Year from sunny Rio de Janeiro where my family and I met up with our daughter Grace and her boyfriend Sam on their backpacking trip across South America and Europe. We are loving the diversity and vibrancy of Brazil as well as the kind people and the incredible beaches, mountains and forests that the city has been built around. New Year's Eve brought millions of people to Copacabana beach where we are staying. We joined everyone in wearing white, throwing flowers into the ocean and jumping seven waves in an African Brazilian tradition for good luck in the new year.

What are your wishes as we head into 2025? My biggest wish for the new year is that we learn how to build relationships of shared goals, shared knowledge and mutual respect across our differences - whether they be political, personal, professional or social identity differences. Here in Rio de Janeiro, I see a multi-racial, multi-cultural society that is vibrant and seeming to thrive. Yet I know that here like in the US and elsewhere there are deep economic divides that are highly correlated with racial and ethnic identities.

As we move into the new year, let's remember the evidence from political scientists that people in the US today are less divided on the issues than they

are on their political loyalties. This means if we can identify our shared goals and focus on problem solving rather than blaming and labeling, we can make more progress. There is very little we can accomplish alone but together we can solve many challenges including affordable quality healthcare, healthy productive workplaces, and healthy communities with healthy food for all.

To move in that direction, we must learn to love our enemies as Dr. Martin Luther King reminded us in his beautiful book in 1963 called *Strength to Love*. We also need to use our intellect to see clearly what is happening around us.

"We ... must bring together toughmindedness and tenderheartedness, if we are to move creatively toward the goal of freedom and justice."

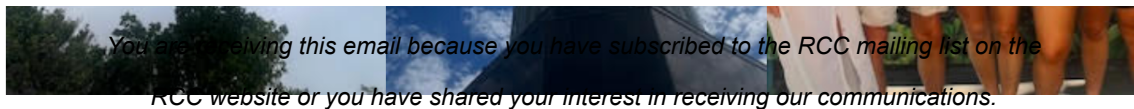
So with clarity in our heads and love in our hearts, let us celebrate and prepare for the New Year!

Jody Hoffer Gittell
Faculty Director
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P.S. Inviting you to join the Relational Coordination Collaborative if you haven't already. We are a community of researchers and practitioners who value relationships. We seek to understand and leverage the power of relational coordination and positive relationships more broadly to achieve desired outcomes. We develop and test innovations that can work in the real world with real people.

Join the RCC here [\[shbv-zgpvh.maillist-manage.net\]](mailto:shbv-zgpvh.maillist-manage.net)





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