For all of us, at least some interpersonal encounters are conflictual and distressing. However, why do some people have more interpersonal conflicts and problems than others? What factors are associated with interpersonal problems? Trull explores these issues by focusing on a particular psychological disorder that is characterized by interpersonal problems, emotion dysregulation, and impulsivity: borderline personality disorder (BPD). He presents a model that integrates emotion dysregulation, interpersonal sensitivity, and impulsive behaviors, and suggests that emotion dysregulation processes play a central role in interpersonal problems. Finally, he highlights research extending findings from the laboratory to the “wild,” that is to individual’s daily lives, and suggests future research directions that take advantage of disruptive technologies for psychological research.

Tim Trull is a Curators’ Professor and the Byler Distinguished Professor of Psychological Sciences at the University of Missouri. His research interests are in the areas of diagnosis and classification of mental disorders, personality disorders (particularly borderline personality disorder), substance-use disorders, affective instability, and ambulatory assessment. Trull has published over 150 articles and book chapters, several textbooks, and one structured interview. His work has been funded by the NIMH, NIAAA, and the Borderline Personality Disorder Research Foundation. Trull is a fellow of APS and APA, and he collaborates with colleagues from Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Australia on topics related to behavior genetics and ambulatory assessment.

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