

Jody Koenig Kellas, Ph. D.

Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas is an Associate Professor of Communication Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She conducts research and teaches classes on interpersonal, family, and health communication. Dr. Koenig Kellas' main interest is on the ways in which people communicate to make sense of relationships and difficulty in order to understand the link between communication and health. With this interest, her scholarship focuses on narratives, storytelling, accounts, attributions, and memorable messages. Her model of Communicated Narrative Sense-making orients researchers and practitioners toward the theoretical and applied potential of narratives and storytelling (Koenig Kellas & Kranstuber Horstman, 2015). Her most recent research interests focus on health communication, including narrative interventions for helping families cope within the context of serious illness, perspective-taking interventions for improving communication satisfaction and ameliorating the negative health effects of conflicts in relationships, and storytelling interventions designed to improve the health and well-being of older adults. The mission of Dr. Kellas' research team is to study the ways in which narratives and storytelling can be translated to help families understand, negotiate, and improve individual and relational health within and outside of healthcare contexts.

Dr. Kellas' research has been published in journals such as *Communication Monographs*, *Human Communication Research*, *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, *Health Communication*, and *Journal of Family Communication*. Her article on family storytelling received the National Communication Association Family Communication Division's Outstanding Article Award and another collaborative piece was awarded the *Journal of Family Communication* 2010 Article of the Year Award. Most recently, she and her co-author were awarded the NCA GLBTQ Monograph of the Year Award for their publication on how lesbian families cope with discursive challenges. Her edited volume, *Family storytelling: Negotiating identity, teaching lessons, and making meaning*. (Routledge, 2013) underscores the importance of storytelling processes and their link to health and well-being.

