So many people experience inequity and stigma throughout their lifetime. Yet, it can be difficult to understand these perspectives when they do not mirror our own. Perspective-taking can be even more difficult when it’s unclear where stigma and inequity originate. During this colloquium, Dr. Kristina M. Scharp discusses how the communicative processes of remaking, resistance, and resilience can help us better understand inequity and stigma. Based on studies about parent-child estrangement, complicated health diagnoses, and migration to the United States, she also illustrates how communication scholarship can advance theory, inform new research methods, and translate to the public.

Kristina M. Scharp, Ph.D.
Department of Communication, University of Washington

Date: Friday, October 22, 2021, 3:00-4:00 pm
Location: Communication Building, Room 206

Kristina M. Scharp is an associate professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Washington. She received her graduate degrees from the University of Iowa where she specialized in interpersonal, family, and health communication. Dr. Scharp primarily researches difficult family transitions and the ways families cope with the major disruptions to their lives. The research she conducts on distressing family transitions manifests in a variety of contexts such as parent-child estrangement, (foster) adoption, undergraduate student parents, and disability diagnoses such as hearing loss. She is also expressly interested in the ways family members resist being marginalized through related processes such as identity (re)construction, social support-seeking, information/uncertainty management, and meaning-making. Her research on communication in family contexts has garnered attention from outlets such as the New York Times, NPR, PBS, U.S. News & World Report, the Washington Post, and the Wall Street Journal. She also writes her own blog about interpersonal and family relationships for Psychology Today (https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/interpersonal-and-family-relationships).