Dyadic coping is a concept that has reached increased attention in psychological science within the last 20 years. Dyadic coping conceptualizes the way couples cope with stress together in sharing appraisals of demands, planning together how to deal with the stressors and engage in supportive or joint dyadic coping. Among the different theories of dyadic coping, the Systemic Transactional Model (STM) has been applied to many studies on couples’ coping with stress most often. While a meta-analysis shows that dyadic coping is a robust and consistent predictor of relationship satisfaction and couple’s functioning, recent reviews also reveal the significance of dyadic coping in dealing with psychological disorders, chronic illness (e.g., cancer) and with regard to child well-being.

In this talk I would like to give a short introduction into the concept of dyadic coping, its assessment (by means of questionnaire and systematic observation) and spread out the current state of research findings based on quantitative and qualitative studies. I will try to illustrate key insights on the basis of some particularly concise findings.

After this state-of-the-art in dyadic coping research I will try to highlight new slopes for interesting research questions and the use of the concept in different areas of psychology as well as develop ideas for new methodological approaches.