

Why I attend the NCFR Annual Conference



Leonor Boulín Johnson, Ph.D., 2011 Conference Program Chair

In 1973 a former NCFR president who also served as my dissertation chair handed me a membership application and simply said, "Family professionals join NCFR." The next year I attended my first annual conference in St. Louis,

Missouri, surrounded by 1,700 conference attendees. I was immediately introduced to scholarly giants in my study area and given the opportunity to share my research and teaching interest. Finding a population of scholars focused on family policy and diversity further enriched the experience. Captivated by the intellectual energy and ease of informal networking, I knew then that I would become a lifetime NCFR member.

Each year I not only look forward to sessions and speakers focused on leading-edge thought but also to all the warm-hearted professionals that share my passion for families. As this year's program chair, my theme, "Families in a Shifting Economy," provides forums for participants to creatively catalyze research, theory, and practice for the purpose of addressing critical current family issues. If you value scholarship and meaningful camaraderie, meet us in Orlando this November.

Cassandra Dorius, Ph.D., S/NP Program Representative

One of the best parts of being affiliated with NCFR is the opportunity to get to know students, faculty, and practitioners from around the country who are interested in cutting edge ideas and interventions related to family life. At the conference there are opportunities to have lunch with the leaders in our field, attend networking sessions, and listen to excellent presentations that get you excited about your own work.

In addition, the Student/New Professional sessions have been critical in preparing me for the job market and for the transition from student to faculty. I think that NCFR is the most practical and effective conference I attend. I wouldn't miss it!



Colleagues and friends,

Plan to attend the 2011 NCFR Annual Conference this November in Orlando...you will not be disappointed. You will hear from outstanding speakers, learn about the latest in research and practice, and have a chance to meet new colleagues and renew acquaintances and friendships.

Our conference planning committee, led by Dr. Leonor Boulín Johnson, has put together an excellent program around the theme "Families and Innovation."

Come to Orlando and see how NCFR is the leader in "catalyzing research, theory, and practice."

Gary Bowen, Ph.D., President



Ronald Sabatelli, Ph.D., CFLE, Editor, Family Relations

There are so many reasons why I have attended the NCFR conference over the last 35 years. I find the experience of attending the conference "energizing" as it brings me into contact with people who share my research, teaching and service interests. I gain knowledge from the presentations I attend and, as importantly, I am inspired by the "informal learning opportunities" I am exposed to as a result of socializing and conversing with colleagues from around the world. As my professional roles over the years have changed and expanded, the conference has provided me with opportunities to meet and recruit job candidates for faculty positions and to learn about the cutting edge research being done by scholars for possible inclusion in *Family Relations*.

In sum, opportunities for professional development, formal and informal learning, social networking, and discussion with professionals committed to promoting the field of "family studies" are all "benefits" of my long-term relationship with NCFR.

next page: more members offer insights

Love the book? Don't miss the movie featuring highlights from 2009.

"Why I attend the NCFR Annual Conference"

Wally Goddard	Robert Reyes
Tammy Henderson	Chloe Merrill
Claire Kamp Dush	Jason Hans
Donna Smith	Jennifer Hardesty
Donna Hancock	Jan Hogan
Abraham Hwang	Maxine Hammonds-Smith (in memoriam)

Coming later this summer, the sequel...

"NCFR Annual Conference 2010 - Minneapolis"

**Ramona Faith Oswald, Ph.D.,
2010 Conference Program Chair**



The first NCFR session that I ever attended was the Impassioned Teaching symposium in Baltimore, 1993. The room was packed; I sat on the floor wondering what to expect. By the end of the session I had identified NCFR as my “home,” a place where I could be mentored as a researcher and a teacher.

What impressed me most was the clear commitment to research-based teaching about all families—not just the so called “normative” ones—and the willingness of my NCFR colleagues to creatively and respectfully pursue this value. Though first wowed by the pedagogy of my peers, it quickly became clear that rigorous research with implications for practice is a hallmark of this organization. I like the fact that NCFR members want not only the best research, but they also want to engage how this research can inform policy and practice.

As this year’s Program Chair, my selection of Plenaries and Special Sessions has been guided by what I consider to be a core NCFR value: translational research about diverse family experiences.

**2011 NCFR Annual Conference
November 16-19 • Orlando, Florida
Rosen Centre Hotel and Conference Centre**

- **General conference information**
- **Conference costs and registration details**
- **Major sessions and highlights**
- **Register online**

**Robert M. Milardo, Ph.D., Editor, Journal
of Family Theory & Review**



NCFR has been my professional home for over three decades. The annual conference quickly became central in my professional development and continues to be so. The conferences expose the most current research, allow opportunities to meet colleagues, mentor new professionals, and just as important, allow renewing friendships over long leisurely dinners.



**Kevin Roy, Ph.D., University of
Maryland, past TCRM chair**

NCFR is about catalyzing research, theory, and practice. An integral part of helping scholars develop skills and expertise in their research is the annual Theory Construction and Research Methodology Workshop (TCRM), as Kevin Roy explains.

“TCRM hooked me on family science. I found my way to the workshop as a graduate student without a faculty mentor in the late 1990s, and for a few years, it was all that I knew about NCFR. It was this odd moment before the real conference. These were not your typical conference paper panels, where everyone sat back and watched the show. They were interactive sessions, we all had the papers, and the papers themselves were living, growing documents, concerned with cutting edge debates, interesting new conceptual advances, and critiques of decades of received literature. I met scholars whose research I had read, who thought deeply about families, and who met in small informal groups to talk through these issues. And I was surprised that I was somehow welcomed into these discussions As someone who is just barely past the new professional designation, I’ve tried to take seriously the mission of encouraging the next generation of theorists, researchers, and practitioners to participate in NCFR.”

