

Theory Construction and Research Methodology (TCRM) Workshop 2017

What does a TCRM Paper Session look like? It features work in progress instead of finished products. Before the session, authors of accepted proposals have submitted their manuscripts, and TCRM has solicited comments from two leaders in the field who have agreed to be discussants. (Papers and Comments are on line for registered attendees, who read them ahead of the TCRM Workshop). The TCRM paper session is not a presentation; it begins with discussant comments, followed by author responses to the comments and then an informal conversation in which the audience participates in discussing the papers, theory issues, and methodological questions. This year's TCRM co-chairs are **Thomas Blume** and **Isaac Washburn**. Contact them at the 2017 TCRM email address: tcrm2017@gmail.com

Registration

You can include registration for this preconference in addition to your full NCFR conference registration, or register for and attend only this preconference.

If you do not include this preconference with your conference registration initially, you can add preconference registration later; log in to My NCFR, go to the screen "continue shopping," add the preconference, and proceed to checkout for payment.

For assistance with registration, email **Susan Baker** (susanbaker@ncfr.org) or call her at 888-781-9331, ext. 2884.

Pricing

Professionals: \$50

Students: \$35

Overview of the Program

Tuesday, November 14

The program starts on Tuesday morning with concurrent workshops and paper sessions. Tuesday's program ends with a Reception/Business Meeting at 6 pm.

Following the business meeting and reception TCRM is sponsoring a 7-8:30 pm Planning Meeting with the editors of the new *Sourcebook*. TCRM sponsors the Sourcebook, and this will be the first public appearance by the newly selected editorial team: **Kari Adamsons**, **April Few-Demo**, **Christine Proulx**, and **Kevin Roy**. We are hoping that everyone will be able to attend the Sourcebook meeting.

Wednesday, November 15

Wednesday's TCRM activities begin with a single paper session from 8-9:45 am, followed by the 10-11:15 am Special Session.

We hope that everyone will be able to come together for the 10:00 am Special Session with **Jonathan Tudge** -- and bring their NCFR friends who are not TCRM members. Following up on his series of articles in the *Journal of Family Theory &*

Review, Dr. Tudge will be speaking on the topic *"It's Either Too Simple or Way Too Complex": Applying Bronfenbrenner's Bioecological Theory in Family Research*. The Special Session will be video streamed.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Workshop 1, Tuesday, November 14, 9:00 am – Noon (Session #004)

Missing Data and How to Deal With It

Presenter: **Isaac Washburn**

What is your sentence that you copy and paste in journal articles for how you handle missing data? It is time to learn this for yourself. This hands-on workshop will introduce researchers to the nature of missing data and how it biases our analyses. Solutions to missing data (with examples in Stata, SPSS, and Mplus) will then be presented. These solutions will include Full-information Maximum Likelihood and Multiple Imputation. Finally, some benefits of missing data will be discussed (i.e. missing by design studies).

Isaac Washburn, Ph.D., earned his doctorate in Human Development and Family Science from Oregon State University and now works for Oklahoma State University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Science.

Paper Session 1, Tuesday, November 14, 9:30-11:15 am (Session 005)

Understanding Diverse Family Structures

Discussants: **Kari Adamsons and Rob Palkovitz**

Presider: **Fiona Mercer**

(Session #005-01) *A Theoretical Reconceptualization of Gatekeeping Practices Within a Family Unit*, Jordan A. Arellanes, Ross Parke, and Clinton Gudmunson

The current theoretical reconceptualization of gatekeeping advances three key arguments. First, an important shift away from the terminology of "maternal gatekeeping," an outdated term, is reframed to emphasize the bidirectional influence of both parents on gatekeeping practices. Second, a model of contextual, extra-dyadic mechanisms that impact parent's ability to enable or limit partner interactions with the child is presented. Third, an exploration into diverse family structures and societal influences of gatekeeping are needed to direct future policy change. These arguments are integrated into a theoretical model highlighting the complex ways that gatekeeping practices are enacted and controlled in U.S. society.

(Session #005-02) *Symbolic Interactionism: Advancing Adoption Theory, Research, and Practice*, Bethany Willis Hepp, Katie Hrapczynski, and Cheryl Fortner-Wood

This paper focuses on Symbolic Interactionism (SI) and its application to adoption-related family issues. First, we argue that a dearth of explicit application of SI in research has resulted in gaps in the interpretation of adoptive family dynamics sufficient to abate the impact of its use in practice. Theoretical concepts of I, me, and generalized other are underutilized and can be particularly relevant to adoption work. Second, we advocate for extension of salience, a term often used in conjunction with role development, to generalized other in an effort to better understand and support adoptive parent perspectives of and experiences with adoption.

Workshop 2, Tuesday, November 14, Noon - 3:00 pm (Session #006)

Facts/Fictions: Challenges of Authority and Authenticity in the Study of Family Stories.

Presenters: **Kevin Roy, Sam Allen, and Laura Golojuch**

Presider: **Isaac Washburn**

"The narrative turn" seems to have swept into and transformed many aspects of our science and even our daily lives. In this discussion-based workshop on family stories, we explore the seam that both distinguishes and joins the facts and the fictions of the narratives that we tell about our families. In doing qualitative research with families,

how do we struggle with the malleability of memory? Can stories be taken as “fact” if they have meaning outside of “what really happened”? What is the purpose of an account of an individual storyteller, if not identity? Who is the authority for stories told by groups – like families with complicated membership? And, given these challenges, how can we do “better research” with family stories? In preparation for this session we ask participants to read *The Good Story: Exchanges on Truth, Fiction, and Psychotherapy* (Coetzee & Kurtz, 2015). This will not be a book club discussion, but we will use concepts from the authors’ discussion to inform and enhance our understanding of how to conduct rigorous research and even effective therapy.

Kevin Roy, Ph.D., is Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, University of Maryland, College Park; **Sam Allen and Laura Goljuch**, are both Family Science Doctoral Students at the University of Maryland.

Paper Session 2, Tuesday, November 14, 12:15-2:00 pm (Session #007) **Theories of Family Development and Change**

Discussants: **Todd Martin and Dan Perlman**

(Session #007-01) *Multidimensional Family Development Theory: An Evolution of Family Development*, J. Scott Crapo and Kay Bradford

We propose an evolution of family development theory that allows for complexity and uniqueness while still allowing for universal mechanisms of development. By breaking the aspects of the original theory into their component parts, we highlight how personal development in four different dimensions interact among family members to shape the family and possibly predict outcomes. We also aim to give common language for discussing issues related to family development in areas as diverse as multi-partner fertility and disability. Designed specifically as a research tool, this theory may generate hypotheses, promote research questions, guide methodology, make predictions, and explain observed phenomenon.

(Session #007-02) *Theorizing Family Change: A Review and Reconceptualization*, Stan J. Knapp and Greg Wurm

This paper provides an extensive review of theory and research that has taken up the difficult task of theorizing family change. Moving beyond the deinstitutionalization debate in family studies, the paper develops a typology that places current research and theory into four different frameworks for conceptualizing family change: Institutional, Non-Institutional, Post-Institutional, and Neo-Institutional. Although all frameworks conceptualize the family as an institution historically, they each theorize recent family change in different ways: as either a process of deinstitutionalization, diversification, or differentiation. We propose a reconceptualization of family change through an elaboration of a neo-institutional perspective developed through drawing upon institutional logics theory and Max Weber’s concept of modernity as a field of competing value spheres.

Paper Session 3, Tuesday, November 14, 12:15-2:00 pm (Session #008) **Research Methods and Populations**

Discussants: **Melinda Gonzales-Backen and Lorey Wheeler**

President: **Daniel Puhlman**

(Session #008-01) *A Test of the Adequacy of Three Common Core Youth Measures With Latino Immigrant Youth*, Chao Liu, Clint Broadbent, Ronald Cox, Isaac Washburn, Julie Croff, Julia Atilas

This paper examines the factor structure and reliability of the following two psychosocial measures commonly used in Positive Youth Development studies: Social conscience and caring. The goal is to determine the appropriateness of their use with Latino immigrant youth. Results show that social conscience and caring scales are robust measurements to be used for Latino adolescents. While the scales ultimately show reliability and validity for this populations, it is important to verify measures in a particular population.

(Session #008-02) *Is It Still Possible to Collect Nationally Representative Data in the United States? A Case Study From the CREATE Project*, Spencer James, Jeremy B. Yorgason, Erin Holmes, and Dean Busby

The United States is undergoing impressive and transformational social change related to marriage. Social scientists' ability to study such changes are contingent upon being able to collect such data. Given the expected low response rates in survey research these days, it is natural to ask whether it is even possible to still collect high-quality, nationally representative survey data on marriage and family. This paper discusses our process of collecting nationally representative data, how we obtained our sampling frame, the process for selecting and contacting couples, response rates, matching the sample obtained with national characteristics, and our plans for longitudinal follow-up.

**Paper Session 4, Tuesday, November 14, 2:15-4:00 pm (Session #009)
Family Violence and Cultural Diversity**

Discussants: **Grace Chen and Jane Rose Njue**
Presider: **Barbara Settles**

(Session #009-01) *Supporting Family Safety in Minority Collectivist Communities in North America*, Lynda M. Ashbourne and Mohammed Baobaid

The United States is undergoing impressive and transformational social change related to marriage. Social scientists' ability to study such changes are contingent upon being able to collect such data. Given the expected low response rates in survey research these days, it is natural to ask whether it is even possible to still collect high-quality, nationally representative survey data on marriage and family. This paper discusses our process of collecting nationally representative data, how we obtained our sampling frame, the process for selecting and contacting couples, response rates, matching the sample obtained with national characteristics, and our plans for longitudinal follow-up.

(Session #009-02) *A Black African Feminist Theory to Examine FGM Within African Immigrant Families*, Mame Kani Diop, Pearl Stewart, and Kathryn Herr

We propose the Black African feminist à la Awa Thiam to analyze the transcontinental perpetuation of the phenomenon of female genital mutilation (FGM), a harmful traditional practice, among African immigrant families in the United States. The existing FGM theories are broad and not context-specific; hence falling short in giving accurate explanations of FGM in the context of migration. We argue that in order to gain a fuller understanding of FGM with a feminist lens, one should utilize a culturally relevant feminist theory that examines FGM within contextualized macro level socio-cultural beliefs and practices and within its historical context.

**Paper Session 5, Tuesday, November 14, 2:15-4:00 pm (Session #010)
Contexts of Family Stress**

Discussants: **Chun Creaser and Eunjin Lee**
Presider: **Rob Palkovitz**

(Session #010-01) *The Sewol Ferry Disaster and Candlelight Rallies: Family Stress in Korean Context*, Juyoung Jang and Saeun Choi

The aim of this study is to apply the Contextual Model of Family Stress (CMFS) to explaining family stress caused by the Sewol ferry disaster and candlelight rallies as collective coping with the disaster in the context of South Korea. The contextual features of the tragedy and Korea such as collectivistic culture, socio-political factors, and affective familism help illustrate the stress of victim families and a collective response to the tragedy. The study attempts to advance the CMFS for understanding family stress management when continuous interactions between a family's internal and external contexts exist.

(Session #010-02) *How Does Maternal Childhood Adversity “Get Under the Skin” And Cause Adverse Birth Outcomes?* Karina M. Shreffler

Early life events, such as those captured by the ACE measures, have substantial implications for adverse birth outcomes. Although prior studies have examined both behavioral and physiological mechanisms to explain the relationship, they have largely examined the mechanisms individually. This paper applies a biobehavioral conceptualization to explain how early life adversity shapes attitudes, behaviors, and physiological responses such that adverse birth outcomes are more likely. This should provide a fuller understanding of the causes of differences in pregnancy- and contraception-related attitudes and behaviors as well as highlight the negative impact that early stress can have on birth outcomes.

**Workshop 3, Tuesday, November 14, 3:00 - 6:00 pm (Session #011)
Research and Prevention at the Intersection With the Community.**

Presenter: Ronald Cox Jr.

Presenter: Isaac Washburn

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Ronald Cox, Ph.D., is Associate Research Professor and Extension Specialist; George Kaiser Family Foundation Endowed Chair in Child and Family Resilience, Oklahoma State University

**Paper Session 6, Tuesday, November 14, 4:15-6:00 pm (Session #013)
Theorizing and Variety in Research Strategies**

Discussants: **Justin Hendricks and Constance Shehan**

Presenter: **Nathan Wood**

(Session #013-01) *Ontologies, Epistemologies, and Social Science: Philosophy of Social Science Meets Social Science Research*, David Bell

Many writers on family science methodology have insisted that there are problematic ontological and epistemological choices that family researchers must make explicit in their research. This discussion is too often framed as a holistic choice between exclusive alternatives. Family research work at different levels of the theoretical system within a study, from highly abstract theoretical orientations through hypotheses to data or from concrete ethnographic data through codes and categories to situated theory. I ask whether current research methods for those transitions may be already been designed so as to resolve many of the potential problems of ontology and epistemology.

(Session #013-02) *Reopening a Can of Words: Conducting Secondary Analysis with Qualitative Data*, Elizabeth A. Sharp and Kelly Munly

Qualitative Secondary Data Analysis remains severely underutilized in the field of HDFS and the wider social sciences within the US. In this paper, we will revisit the topic of using qualitative data for secondary analysis, exploring complications and possibilities. With few exceptions (e.g., Radina & Downs, 2005), little discussion exists about the use of qualitative data as secondary analysis within HDFS. In response to this deficit, while engaging with the wider debates of qualitative secondary data analysis, we will bring into focus the importance and complications of secondary qualitative data analysis, and share examples of how to do it.

Paper Session 7, Tuesday, November 14, 4:15-6:00 pm (Session #014)

Competing Relational Expectations

Discussants: **Mark Fine and Anthony James**

Presider: **Julie Zaloudek**

(Session #014-01) *The Perception of Unfairness: A Theoretical Reconceptualization of Role Corruption*, Keisha Bailey, Shelley MacDermid Wadsworth, and Dave Topp

Roles and responsibilities in families with children are constantly changing. While it is normative for adolescents to gain both responsibility and independence within their families, the appropriate timing of such changes is not predetermined. Mismatches between adolescents' physical, intellectual, and socio-emotional development and their roles and responsibilities within families is thought to have negative implications and labeled 'role corruption'. We propose a more inclusive framework for understanding adolescent roles within various family structures. We highlight that adolescents' perceptions of "typical adolescence", situational perspective taking, and unfairness influence their appraisal (positive or negative) of their roles and responsibilities within their family.

(Session #014-02) *Generative Devotion Amid Religious and Relational Dualities at the Faith-Family Nexus*, David C. Dollahite and Loren D. Marks

Generative Devotion is a pragmatic theory about how to address a system of dualities and tensions at the nexus of religion and relationships. The theory proposes that certain kinds of principles and process are more likely than others to lead to personal and relational wellbeing. At the nexus of religious faith and family life there are a number of complementary ideas, forces, tendencies, and relationships that must be reconciled to achieve optimal personal and relational wellbeing. This involves creating and sustaining a dynamic balance between different kinds of principles, processes, and forces found at the nexus of faith and family.

Paper Session 8, Wednesday, November 15, 8:00-9:45 am (Session #106)

Deconstructing Family Norms

Discussants: **Suzanne Bartle-Haring and Ramona Faith Oswald**

Presider: **Katherine R. Allen**

(Session #106-01) *Queer Theory in Family Science: Theorizing the Undoing of Heteronormativity*, Autumn M. Bermea, Brad van Eeden-Moorefield, and Lyndal Khaw

Queer families have garnered more civil rights (e.g., marriage, parenting) in recent years and often scholarship mirrors this focus. Although this research has been valuable, even critical for access to rights, it inadvertently perpetuates the idea that there is one family in that studies have generally focused on structures such as marriage and parenthood. Our proposal extends from current queer lenses to propose, specifically, a queer family theory that considers queer families who do not fit this model and instead engage in the continuous, active construction of their families.

(Session #106-02) *Bowen's Family Systems Theory from a Cultural Perspective: An Integrative Framework*, Gizem Erdem and Ommay Aiman Safi

The hallmark of Bowen's Family Systems Theory lies in the area of differentiation of self (DoS)— the individual's ability to balance separateness and connectedness in intimate relationships. However, culture is rarely defined as a context of development in processes associated with DoS. We propose Kağıtçıbaşı's Family Change Theory, particularly her construct of autonomy-relatedness in the context of family and culture, as a potential contribution to systemic thinking in family science and therapy. We will discuss the basic concepts of both theories and outline ways in which an integrative systemic-cultural framework may be achieved in family science research and clinical practice.

Special Session, Wednesday, November 15, 10:00 - 11:15 am (Session #119)
"It's Either Too Simple or Way Too Complex": Applying Bronfenbrenner's Bioecological Theory in Family Research, Jonathan Tudge

Presider: **Thomas Blume**

Urie Bronfenbrenner's theory, in one form or other, is well known in the field of family studies. The overall goal of this session is first to bring that knowledge up to date and second to enable participants to understand better how to apply the theory in research.

Jonathan Tudge, Ph.D., is Professor, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and Collaborating Professor, Postgraduate Program in Psychology, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.