

## **FOCUS GROUP WORK PLAN FOR 2018**

**A. Name of Focus Group: Family Economics Focus Group**

**B. Co-Chairs: Clinton Gudmunson & Xiaohui Sophie Li**

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**C. Meeting at Annual Conference: Do you wish to have a time allocated for your focus group during the next NCFR Annual Conference? Yes**

**If yes, list the tentative agenda below:**

- 1. Introductions**
- 2. Networking for teaching**
- 3. Networking for research**
- 4. Awards**
- 5. Goals for 2019**
- 6. Elections and Volunteering**

**D. 2017 Focus Group Goals/Projects/Aspirations**

- 1. Propose a new award/certificate for the Best Family Economics Research by a Student/New Professional**
- 2. Collaborate on 1-2 symposium proposals for the 2018 conference**

**E. Please identify any opportunities, suggestions or concerns regarding the role of this Focus Group in furthering NCFR's inclusion and diversity initiatives.**

- 1. We encourage continuing consideration of the impacts of economic and financial matters (as related to race/ethnicity, gender/sexual identity, religious affiliation, trans-national experience) as part of discussions of inclusion and diversity at NCFR**

**NCFR Assistance: Please list areas where you would like assistance from NCFR staff.**

- 1. We will seek some guidance from NCFR as we prepare an application for a new award. We want to make it as effective and efficient as possible.**

**F. Other issues: What concerns or questions have come from the Focus Group Annual Meeting?**

- 1. This year we had some discussion that can be summarized as follows: One member commented that, although we are proposing symposia related to family finance and/or family economics each year [for the last several years] that most often these are getting accepted only as posters or poster symposia. Another commented that when he shares his research interests with others at NCFR he gets comments like, "that is so important for families and too often neglected here" and at the same time, many of NCFR's invited plenary speakers have backgrounds in economics/public**

policy. So, for many in our group, there is an open question of fit at NCFR. We do not have the numbers to become a section—and I think we are okay with that—but we sometimes wonder if we are submitting to the sections that would most likely be willing to allocate room for presentations on family economics. If we knew from the NCFR leadership whether and where family economics research is a best fit, I think it will better encourage us to continue submitting our best work to this conference.

2. Continuing on the theme above, here are some further ideas: A more general way to ask our question about fit (given the apparent rise in NCFR focus groups) is whether it would be a good idea to somehow affiliate focus groups with NCFR sections. I think our group always struggles with where to direct our submissions. Another innovative idea could be to permit focus groups to offer time during their focus group meetings for 1-2 juried presentations. That could inspire those who do “niche work” that there is still potential to get a paper that might be rejected on fit with a section, but is nevertheless great scholarship, more hope to become a presentation. This could also help boost focus group attendance.

Attach your annual meeting minutes to this form and return them December 1, 2017. Send to: Bethany Cox, Member Relations Manager at [bethanycox@ncfr.org](mailto:bethanycox@ncfr.org)