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RODNEY CATE



SARAH SCHOPPE-SULLIVAN



BAHIRA SHERIF TRASK



The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) has conferred its organization's prestigious Fellow status to three members.

Fellow status in NCFR is an honor awarded to members who have made outstanding and enduring contributions to the field of the family in the areas of scholarship, teaching, outreach or professional service, including service to NCFR.

Fellows are nominated by their peers and selected by the Fellows Committee. Members of the 2014 selection committee were: Marilyn Coleman, chair; Adriana Umaña-Taylor; Francisco A. Villarruel; Katherine Allen; Joyce Chang, board liaison; Jeanne Strand, staff liaison.

The 2014 Fellows are highlighted on page 3. They will be recognized at the 2015 NCFR Annual Conference.

Jason Hans named *Family Relations* editor

Dr. Jason D. Hans of the University of Kentucky has been named the new editor of *Family Relations: Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Family Studies* (FR), one of NCFR's three family research journals. He will begin his four-year term as editor of the peer-reviewed journal—which, since 1951, has published basic and applied articles focused on diverse family forms and issues—with the publication of its February 2016 issue.

"Jason has already excelled in each of the three areas of academe—teaching, research, and service," wrote Dr. Marilyn Coleman in her nomination letter. "[He] is the hardest working academic that I know. ... He is extremely attentive to every task he takes on."

Dr. Hans will succeed current FR editor Dr. Ronald M. Sabatelli of the University of Connecticut.

Dr. Hans has been an associate professor in the University of Kentucky's Department of Family Sciences since 2010 and became the department's director of graduate studies in 2011. He began his faculty career in 2004 as an assistant professor at the university. He completed his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees at the University of Missouri.



JASON HANS

In addition to publishing and presenting his scholarly work widely, he has served on the FR editorial board since 2008 and has served as a reviewer for FR, NCFR's *Journal of Marriage and Family*, and many other journals. Dr. Hans also is the

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NCFR 2015
77th Annual Conference
Vancouver, Canada

Report

of The National Council on Family Relations

Mission Statement for Report:

REPORT, the quarterly newsletter of the National Council on Family Relations, strives to provide timely, useful information to help members succeed in their roles as researchers, educators, and practitioners. Articles address family field issues, programs and trends, including association news.

President: Paul Amato

Board Members: William D. Allen, Frank D. Fincham, Hilary Rose, Sandra Stith, Karen Seccombe, Rebecca Ward, Rachel Engler Jordan

Executive Director: Diane Cushman

Family Focus Managing Editor:

Jennifer Crosswhite, Ph.D.

News Editor: Charles Cheesebrough

How to contribute to the *NCFR Report*: The magazine is member-written. Articles accepted for publication will be edited using standard editorial practice, and given priority based on (1) relevance to the Family Focus theme, or (2) brevity due to space limitations, and (3) how articles form a complementary collection. For information and guidelines, contact the editor, Jennifer Crosswhite, at jennifercrosswhite@ncfr.org. **The contents of Report articles represent the views of their author(s), which may not represent the position of the entire organization.**

To advertise in *NCFR Report*, please see the specifications and price list at http://www.ncfr.org/adrates_report.html.

NCFR reserves the right to decline any paid advertising at our sole discretion.

Deadlines for each of the quarterly issues are: Spring issue—deadline December 21, Summer issue—March 21, Fall issue—June 21 and the Winter issue—deadline September 21. Send submissions to: Charles Cheesebrough at charlescheesebrough@ncfr.org. For all submissions, please supply an email address to allow readers to contact you.

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Innovation Grant winners named

In December, the Board of Directors awarded the NCFR Innovation Grants for 2014.

Stipends of up to \$10,000 are given to two research projects each year. The following are the 2014-2015 NCFR Innovation Grant recipients, chosen from 26 submitted projects:

“Sexual Scripts in Music Media: How Do Parents and Teens Talk About Violence and Sex in Music Media?”

Principal investigators: Kathleen Boyce Rodgers, Ph.D., and Stacey J.T. Hust, Ph.D.

For this study, which brings together the disciplines of health communication and family science, investigators will observe parent-teen dyads discussing popular music that contains sexual and violent content to identify strategies parents use to communicate their views about such media content. Results will inform the development of a research-based parenting program that uses media to foster parent-teen dialogue about romantic relationships and dating violence in order to prevent teen dating violence and promote healthy relationships.

Dr. Rodgers is an associate professor in the Department of Human Development at Washington State University. Dr. Hust is an associate professor in the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication at Washington State University.

“The TransKids Project: Strengthening Community Connections”

Principal investigator: Katherine A. Kuvallanka, Ph.D. Co-authors: Abbie E. Goldberg, Ph.D.; Jenifer K. McGuire, Ph.D.; Asaf Orr, Esq.

This project will integrate expertise in family science, human development, psychology,

and family law to tackle issues pertaining to challenges facing families with transgender and gender-nonconforming children. Investigators will conduct a study of parents involved in custody disputes pertaining to their transgender and gender-nonconforming children to explore parents' experiences as well as the implications for children with one parent who accepts their gender identity and one parent who does not. The investigators also will create a website to translate findings into easy-to-access information for parents, lawyers, judges, and other family professionals.

Dr. Kuvallanka is an associate professor in the Department of Family Studies and Social Work at Miami University. Dr. Goldberg is an associate professor and director of clinical training in the Department of Psychology at Clark University. Dr. McGuire is an associate professor in the Department of Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota. Mr. Orr is a staff attorney at the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

The recipients will report on their research at the 2015 NCFR Annual Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

About the grant program

The NCFR Board spearheaded this exciting new initiative to highlight the interdisciplinary and translational research and practice for which the organization is known. It builds on NCFR's rich heritage and ongoing commitment to promoting innovative interdisciplinary approaches to theory, research, and practice to support the well-being of families. The grant initiative is an investment in innovative interdisciplinary approaches to facilitating the NCFR Global Ends:

- providing opportunities for professional development and knowledge development in family research, theory, policy, education, and practice;
- supporting the dissemination and application of research- and theory-based information about family well-being; and
- establishing standards for research, education, and practice by advocating for the development and advancement of the profession.

The NCFR Board will be accepting proposals for the 2015-2016 round of NCFR Innovation Grants in the near future; watch for announcements.

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editor of NCFR's Degree Programs Guide. He has been a member of NCFR since 1998 and a CFLE since 2001.

“Dr. Hans is an exceptional candidate who is passionate about the field of family science,” wrote NCFR's journal editor search committee. “He is committed to the current mission of *Family Relations* to be the premier applied family science journal and is excited about several ideas he would like to implement, including applying technology in new ways in pursuit of that mission.” ■

Fellows 2014

**Rodney
Cate**



Rodney Cate, Ph.D., is professor emeritus of family studies and human development at the University of Arizona.

Dr. Cate received his bachelor's degree in pharmacy from the University of Texas, Austin; his master's degree in family studies, with an emphasis on marriage and family therapy, from Texas Tech University; and his Ph.D. in human development and family studies from Pennsylvania State University. Throughout his illustrious career, he has served five major universities—the University of Arizona, Iowa State University, Washington State University, Oregon State University, and Texas Tech University—in the roles of professor, department chair, and associate dean.

Dr. Cate has made significant contributions to the family field, specifically in the areas of mate selection, courtship, and dating violence. He is well known for the quality of his scholarship, particularly in terms of documenting how romance and violence often coexist in developing relationships. His work is highly cited, and he has received numerous accolades for its impact on the field, including the prestigious book award from the International Association for Relationship Research, as well as the James D. Moran Memorial Research Award for Research in Family Studies conferred by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Dr. Cate also is the recipient of NCFR's inaugural Felix Berardo Scholarship Award for Mentoring, which recognizes his tremendous legacy as a teacher, mentor, and administrator.

Dr. Cate has served as editor of the *Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences*, as associate editor of the *Journal of Family Issues and Personal Relationships*, and on the editorial boards of NCFR's *Journal of Marriage and Family* and *Family Relations*. A member of NCFR for 40 years, Dr. Cate previously served as the president of the Oregon Council on Family Relations.

**Sarah
Schoppe-
Sullivan**



Sarah Schoppe-Sullivan, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Human Sciences at Ohio State University.

Dr. Schoppe-Sullivan earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Northwestern University and her Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is well known for her scholarly contributions in the areas of parenting and children's socio-emotional development and is a prolific scholar whose work has been disseminated in high-impact journals and consistently funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. In 2008, Dr. Schoppe-Sullivan was the recipient of the prestigious National Science Foundation's CAREER award to advance her research on maternal gatekeeping and fathering behavior across the transition to parenthood. The significance of her work also has been recognized and covered extensively by popular media.

Dr. Schoppe-Sullivan has served the family field in important leadership positions, including as chair of NCFR's Theory Construction and Research Methodology workshop in 2011. She served on the board of the Ohio Council on Family Relations from 2007 to 2010 and is co-chair of NCFR's Men in Families focus group. Her contributions to the field have been recognized widely by her peers, as evidenced by her membership on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Marriage and Family*; *Journal of Family Theory & Review*; *Family Relations*; *Parenting: Science and Practice*; and *Fathering*.

Dr. Schoppe-Sullivan also has received numerous awards for excellent teaching and for her mentorship of both undergraduate and graduate students. She was the recipient of the Distinguished Undergraduate Research Mentor Award (2008), the College of Education and Human Ecology Award for Distinguished Teaching (2011), and the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching (2012) at Ohio State University.

In sum, Dr. Schoppe-Sullivan's record demonstrates outstanding scholarly contributions and significant service to the field of family science.

**Bahira
Sherif
Trask**



Bahira S. Trask, Ph.D., is professor and associate chair/graduate coordinator in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Delaware. Dr. Trask also is affiliated with the university's Center for Community Research and Services.

Dr. Trask earned her bachelor's degree in political science with a concentration in International Relations from Yale University and her Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. She began her career at the University of Delaware in 1997 as a visiting assistant professor.

Dr. Trask is globally recognized for her research on the relationship between globalization and family change in Western and non-Western contexts, with a particular focus on economic changes, work and gender roles, and policies that can assist and strengthen low-income families. She has represented NCFR at the United Nations, and she participated in the 2014 White House Summit on Working Families.

Dr. Trask is an active scholar whose work has consistently been published in highly respected journals and is frequently cited by researchers, practitioners, and policy professionals. She has presented her work in many countries. She has earned numerous grants from federal and private funders, including the Jesse Ball DuPont Foundation, the Blueprints Communities of Delaware, the Korea Institute for Youth Development, the Margurite Casey Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, CHEP Instructional Fund, and the state of Delaware.

At the University of Delaware, Dr. Trask is recognized as an engaged mentor who supports students' scholarly work. She also has received numerous awards for her teaching. She was recently nominated for the U.S. Professor of the Year by the University of Delaware and twice has been awarded the university's Outstanding Faculty-Undergraduate Teaching Award for her extraordinary dedication to teaching, scholarly approach to teaching and learning, and support from students and colleagues.



Studying divorce and couple relationships: Difficult times for family scholars

Paul R. Amato, Ph.D., NCFR President, paulamato00@gmail.com

As many family scholars know, the official divorce rate in the United States reached a peak in the early 1980s and gradually declined in subsequent decades. But how well does the official divorce rate reflect the actual frequency of marital dissolution? Not as well as you might think, according to recent research.

For more than a century, the federal government has calculated the annual rate of divorce from records of divorces compiled by states. In some decades, the quality of data was relatively good. Between 1960 and 1990, for example, the federal government monitored the completeness and accuracy of divorce records and compensated states for their efforts. But the quality of data declined in the 1990s, and the federal government stopped funding the collection of detailed marriage and divorce data in 1996. Since then, most (but not all) states have continued to send raw counts of divorce to the federal government, although these data are limited and of inconsistent quality.

In a recent article, Kennedy and Ruggles (2014) argued that much of the apparent decline in marital dissolution since 1980 reflects an under-counting of divorce rather than a change in the underlying rate. They base this conclusion on an analysis of data from the American Community Survey (ACS), which is conducted annually by the U.S. Census Bureau. In 2008, questions on marital transitions (marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage) were added to the ACS—questions designed to fill the gaps in the vital statistics system. As it turns out, estimates of divorce based on the ACS are higher than the corresponding figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Vital Statistics system. And although the divorce rate based on vital statistics declined by 21% between 1980 and 2010, the comparable figure from the ACS is only 2%.

Kennedy and Ruggles also calculated age-standardized divorce rates, which take into account the changing age composition of the population. Their calculations indicate that the age-standardized rate of divorce has *increased* (not declined) by 40% since 1980. If this seems confusing, keep in mind that the U.S. population has aged in the last few decades, and older couples are at less risk of divorce than younger couples. The fact that divorce has remained more or less constant while the population has grown older suggests that the underlying propensity to divorce has increased. Much of this increased propensity appears to be concentrated among older married couples.

So has the divorce rate declined, stayed about the same, or increased in recent decades? The answer to this question depends on which source of data you choose (Vital Statistics or the ACS) and whether you adjust for population aging. If you feel that this answer is frustrating, you are not alone.

The fact that a statistic as basic as the divorce rate is in question should be a source of concern to family scholars, educators, and practitioners. Given the importance of this topic, you might think that the federal government is committed to maintaining—and even enhancing—the quality of marriage and divorce data. But in a startling development last year, the U.S. Census Bureau (under pressure from Congress to cut costs) announced its intention to drop the marital transition questions from the ACS. The ACS is currently the best source of national and state data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. And the ACS is the only data source that can measure marital trends in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans, Hispanic subgroups (e.g., Cubans and Puerto Ricans), and people in same-sex marriages. Losing this resource will have serious consequences for the quality of family research.

After discussions with the NCFR Board of Directors, Executive Director Diane Cushman and I sent letters to the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Commerce (which houses the Census Bureau) in December of 2014, expressing our concern and arguing for the reinstatement of the ACS questions. We also alerted the NCFR membership to this issue, and many of you sent similar messages. Other social science organizations, such as the Population Association of America and the Council on Contemporary Families, also expressed their concerns to the federal authorities. The strong, critical response from the social science community received a good deal of media attention, and several news stories mentioned NCFR in particular. Taking a stand and expressing our voice on this issue was good for NCFR; it demonstrated that we are aware, engaged, and relevant.

At the time of this writing, it is not clear whether the federal government will go forward with its plan to delete the marriage questions from the ACS. Irrespective of the outcome, this decision can be viewed as evidence of a retreat on the part of the federal government from supporting research on couple relationships. About 15 years ago, for example, the National Institute of Mental Health discontinued funding for research on interventions for improving couple outcomes. More recently, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development discontinued funding for research on couple education and interventions related to relationship quality, marriage, and divorce. As a result of these and other decisions, scholars are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain federal funding for research on couples. The situation may get worse in the aftermath of the 2014 election, with some leaders of the new Congressional majority vowing to

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Update from the executive director

Diane Cushman, Executive Director, dianecushman@ncfr.org

Fellow status is the highest honor bestowed by NCFR. Congratulations to our three new Fellows: Rodney Cate, Professor Emeritus of Family Studies and Human Development and Communication, Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences, The University of Arizona; Bahira Sherif Trask, Professor and Associate Chair/Graduate Coordinator, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, University of Delaware; and Sarah Schoppe-Sullivan, Professor in the Department of Human Sciences, The Ohio State University College of Education and Human Ecology. The Fellows induction ceremony will be held during the President's Reception in Vancouver at NCFR's 2015 annual conference, November 11-14, at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver. I thank the Fellows Committee, chaired by Marilyn Coleman, and Jeanne Strand, NCFR staff, for their excellent work.

Journal editor news

NCFR has been fortunate to have among our members talented and highly published

researchers with an interest in editing. Last year the Board, through the work of a member search committee, recommended Dr. Jason D. Hans, Associate Professor in the University of Kentucky's Department of Family Sciences, to succeed Dr. Ronald M. Sabatelli, of the University of Connecticut, as the editor of *Family Relations: Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Family Studies* (FR), one of NCFR's three family research journals. Over the past few years NCFR has moved to an editor transition process that allows a full year of overlap for the incoming and outgoing editors. Dr. Sabatelli will remain the editor of record through the final issue of 2015 while all new manuscript submissions effective January 2015 will flow through the University of Kentucky FR editorial office for the 2016 volume year. Congratulations, Dr. Hans, and thank you, Dr. Heidi Stolz and the FR search committee.

Dr. R. Kelly Raley's term as editor of the *Journal of Marriage and Family* ends with the final issue of the 2016 volume year. The

search for Dr. Raley's replacement is underway. If you have an interest in this prestigious position, please contact Jeanne Strand at jeannestrand@ncfr.org.

Continuous improvement for NCFR annual conferences

Soon after the conclusion of every NCFR annual conference, the staff meet to discuss all aspects of the conference, from the academic program to the registration process and everything in between. No stone goes unturned in our "after-action review," and as a result we identify numerous opportunities for improvement as well as celebrate the successes of the conference. In addition to staff feedback, we review all conference attendee feedback, including the formal postconference survey and less formal sources of information, such as the notes left on the Inclusion and Diversity Committee feedback board in The Gathering Place. To this we add the recommendations of the Conference Improvement Committee, a small committee lead by Conference Program Consultant Cindy Winter and made up of the current, future, and many past conference program chairs plus several NCFR staff. All opportunities for improvement are assigned to one or more staff members with the goal of implementing viable suggestions by the next conference.

Through this process significant improvements have been made in the conference submission and review process, speaker arrangement procedures and guidelines, host hotel site specifications, reception programming, and many other elements of the conference. One change on which the staff had been working prior to the 2014 conference was the inclusion of gender-neutral restrooms in the conference meeting area. Because of limitations at the host hotel in Baltimore, we had not planned to implement any changes in 2014. However, at the preconference meeting with the hotel staff we were informed by the hotel staff that they could identify a set of restrooms as gender

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eliminate *all* federal funding for social science research.

Divorce continues to be a common feature of our marital system—perhaps more common than we thought. In addition, over 40% of children are born outside of marriage these days, often to partners who choose to cohabit rather than marry. These relationships tend to be fragile, however, and most break up within a few years. Neither the ACS nor the Vital Statistics system count the ending of cohabiting relationships, even those with children. Consequently, both data sources substantially underestimate the overall level of union and family instability in our country. We should be concerned about this picture. Relationship distress and instability increase the risk of emotional, behavioral, and health problems for adults and children

and contribute to many of our most serious social problems.

Many NCFR members publish research on or conduct interventions with couples. In an era of decreasing funding for research, how will this work continue? Making do with less is one way to deal with conditions of scarcity. But we also need to do a better job of demonstrating the usefulness of studying couples and designing interventions that reduce domestic violence and strengthen relationship quality and stability. One of NCFR's global goals is to "raise the visibility of family research, theory, and practice to policymakers and the general public (global end policy #2 C)." Being more vocal about what we do, and working to create a more supportive environment for family research and practice, should be high priorities for the foreseeable future. ■

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“I can’t breathe,” a call for dialogue and action

The recent incidents in Ferguson, Missouri (USA), Staten Island, New York (USA), and Cleveland, Ohio (USA), among others, have brought national and global attention to a reality that exists in the United States: The unequal and unjust treatment of individuals and families of color in America. Although some want to avoid addressing this reality, the police killings of unarmed black men and boys, such as Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and Tamir Rice, along with the absence of grand jury indictments in at least two of these cases, shine a spotlight on its existence. It is in this context that we are prompted to reach out to the NCFR membership to engage in this international dialogue.

We assert that it is our responsibility as family researchers, educators, and practitioners to not shy away from these truly difficult topics of discussion (e.g., racism, discrimination, police brutality, bullying, immigration, etc.) with our students, our clients, our colleagues, and our own families and friends. We have a responsibility to the families we research and serve to continually engage in these difficult, yet important, dialogues to shine light on the injustices that exist—even after the attention of the media fades, even when the discussions are hard and the feelings of hopelessness make us question whether racial justice and equality will ever be truly achieved. Indeed, this is when it becomes most important. Finally, as the preeminent organization for research and practice concerning families, NCFR is poised to engage in and promote dialogue and processes that can help spur changes in policy at the local, state, and national levels that can result in all families being protected and valued.

We would like to call for an **inclusive, reflective, and productive dialogue** that “provides an educational forum for family researchers, educators, and practitioners to . . . work to promote family well-being,” as stated in NCFR’s mission statement. As committees of NCFR, sections of NCFR, elected officers of NCFR, and individual members of NCFR, please share your professional and personal insights on these matters. What conversations are you having about these topics? How do these incidents impact you and your families? How have

these events influenced your work—in your classrooms, in your research, in your various professional settings? **We also call for action.** We urge all of us to strategize our scholarship, classroom activities, and/or professional practices in order to take advantage of the “teachable moment” afforded by these frustratingly tragic events. What role can we play in changing this lived reality for families, for our students, and for ourselves? What can and should we do, both personally and professionally, to make our society more just and safe for all Americans? **We want to hear from the NCFR membership. Please consider sharing your thoughts and action strategies via feedback@ncfr.org or on the NCFR Facebook page under our posting.**

Incidentally, our 2015 conference theme is *Conflict, Violence and War: Family Risks and Resilience*. Vancouver will be a great place to continue our global conversations pertaining to supporting families against social injustice and our roles as family researchers, educators, and practitioners. For more information about how members of other organizations, such as SRA and APA, have addressed these issues, see:

- <http://www.s-r-a.org/announcements/blog/2014-12-09-i-cant-breathe-how-can-we-help-our-rights-and-responsibilities-citizen>
- <http://www.s-r-a.org/announcements/online-newsletter/2014-12-11-wake-michael-brown-and-eric-garner-applying-developmental>
- <http://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2014/11/police-community.aspx>

This article was submitted by the following members:

Bill Allen
Ruben Anguiano
Abraham Hwang
Anthony James
Ambika Krishnakumar
Kate Kovalanka
Soyoung Lee
Christi McGeorge
Karen Seccombe
Sandra Stith

2015 NCFR Annual Conference
The Great Family Get-Together
November 11-14 • Vancouver

“Conflict, Violence and War:
Family Risks and Resilience”

Shelly MacDermid Wadsworth, Ph.D.
Conference Program Chair



Major presenters

E. Mark Cummings, Ph.D.
University of Notre Dame
Lee Ann De Reus, Ph.D.
Penn State University
Ann Masten, Ph.D.
University of Minnesota
David Finkel, Pulitzer Prize Winner
Washington Post

Preconference events (Nov 10)

MAXQDA Workshop
TCRM Workshop
Policy Workshop

www.ncfr.org/ncfr-2015

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A family life education advocacy success story

Dawn Cassidy, M.Ed., CFLE, Director of Education, dawncassidy@ncfr.org

I want to share the story of CFLE **Justin Petkus** and his effort to get the profession of family life education more widely recognized and understood within the Head Start program in Michigan. It's a wonderful example of what can be accomplished with a focused effort.

NCFR often uses the analogy of *working upstream* when describing family life education. We often say that family life education is about keeping people from falling into the river and about teaching them how to swim so they are prepared in the event they do. There is a PowerPoint presentation about this story on the NCFR website (https://www.ncfr.org/sites/default/files/downloads/news/fle_cfle_2014_0.pdf). Justin is like the couple in the analogy given in the Power-

Point presentation, in that he and his agency were looking to try a new approach to working with families.

Last July I received an e-mail from Justin asking if I could help him in his effort to explain why the CFLE credential and the approach of family life education was appropriate for the work of home visitors at the Head Start agency where he worked in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Justin was the Home-Based Administrative Supervisor for Head Start for Kent County. The agency was involved in a paradigm shift in the approach they were taking in their work with families, basically moving from a philosophy of "I am here to save the family" to "What strengths can be built upon to support parenting in this family?"

This paradigm shift involved a new approach to home visiting that focuses on prevention, education, and collaboration. The agency is still involved in case management and therapy, but those services are disbursed by others in the agency or through referrals to ensure that the home visitor doesn't lose focus or blur the lines of his or her role. Previously, home visitors were trying to be "everything" for the families—counselor, therapist, parenting guide, and so on—which created boundary issues and led to a lot of burnout. In addition, the home visitors weren't always meeting the needs of the child; the 90-minute home visits were often spent counseling the parents. The agency still wants the needs of the parents to be met, of course, but through an alternative resource.

Because the new approach to home visiting at Kent County Head Start was, in essence, family life education, Justin was encouraging the use of CFLEs in the home visiting roles. However, he was running into some resistance because the agency had largely relied on licensed social workers in the past. Even though licensure was not required and did not necessarily represent the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to carry out the new approach to home visiting that the agency was embracing, there was concern about hiring people who did not have licensure. The federal performance standards from the Office of Head Start are as follows:

Home visitors must have knowledge and experience in child development and early childhood education; the principles of child health, safety, and nutrition; adult learning principles; and family dynamics. They must be skilled in communicating with and motivating people. In addition, they must have the knowledge of community resources and the skills to

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Certified Family Life Educators

The following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators designated between October 1, 2014 and December 30, 2014. Provisional unless otherwise noted.

California		Michigan		North Carolina	
Shelly Gray	FULL	Jenell Nicole Kelly	FULL	Gina-Marie Kropiewnicki	FULL
Amber Lynn Caldera		Chelsey Loper			
Marie Scholl		Laurie Renee Truesdell		Ohio	
Connecticut		Lauren Grady		Karen Marie Stewart	
Beth Russell		Alexandra Louise Taylor		Oklahoma	
Kari L. Adamsons		Tina Louise Schrumpp		Bobby L Kern	FULL
Florida		Minnesota		Tennessee	
JoAnn Griffin	FULL	Danielle Alisha Jones		Heather Sedges	FULL
Georgia		Mississippi		Wallace	
Evin Richardson	FULL	Crystal L. Carter	FULL	Rachel Bloomingburg	
Jacquelyn K. Mallette	FULL	Memoree S. Burge		Texas	
Illinois		Missouri		Olivia D. Cruse	
Lindsey Grandt		Billie J. Holshouser	FULL	Katelyn Branson	
Iowa		Emily M. Scott		Sarah Yekta Keramati	
Mackenzie Johnson	FULL	Nevada		Cathryn Ramirez	
Kelsey May Smith		Anna Renee Marshall		Utah	
Kansas		New Mexico		Heatherly A. Gardner	
Bryan M. Cafferky	FULL	Chelsey Okeyo	FULL	Virginia	
Maryland		New York		Helen Katherine Groseclose	
Brittany A. Kaszak		Alicia Maja Briseno		Washington	
Vanessa Mosley		Jamie Noel Malone		Nicole Maupin	
April S. Graham		Alison Mundy			

neutral. We decided to take advantage of the opportunity presented by the hotel and, as those of you who attended the conference know, we had less-than-ideal results. In hindsight it is clear that such a change must be accompanied by advance communication and awareness to conference attendees.

Since the conference in Baltimore, a number of NCFR members, as well as the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Straight Alliance Focus Group, have volunteered to work with staff to develop a plan for the provision of gender-neutral restrooms at the 2015 conference in Vancouver. By planning ahead, we will have the opportunity to communicate with NCFR members and 2015 conference attendees about the change. Sometimes it takes more than one attempt to get it right. NCFR staff, working with members and the hotel staff, will make every effort to provide for safe and comfortable restrooms for all conference attendees from this point forward.

Future of family science work continues

As we move along, more projects are added to the Future of Family Science initiative. One of the primary goals of this work is to open up new employment opportunities for family science graduates. To that end, Dawn Cassidy has teamed up with Deborah Bailey, Ph.D., CFLE, LMFT, and Associate Professor in Education and Human Services in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Central Michigan University, to explore employment opportunities, challenges, and the specific issues involving access to jobs in Michigan's public and private agencies. A task group is forming in Michigan to explore and better understand the state's practices and credentials for child protective service and foster care workers. If you are interested in this project, please contact Dawn Cassidy at dawncassidy@ncfr.org.

On a related note, a quite serendipitous thing happened while I was visiting with a friend who is a consultant with the aviation industry. The Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) is identified as "an industry-driven, applied research program that develops near-term, practical solutions to problems faced by airport operators." ACRP is managed by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academies and sponsored by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Aviation contractors are selected to conduct the research through a

competitive proposal process. One project now accepting bids is for "Establishing a Coordinated Local Family Assistance Program for Airports" for use in the midst of aviation disasters. The opportunity to bring a family science professional to bear on the creation of standards to serve families—well, by the end of the evening my consultant friend was asking for names of folks who could add family systems expertise to her proposal. The connections have been made, and now we wait to see how the proposal evolves and which consulting firm wins the bid. The point of sharing this story is that there are opportunities to share what we know about families in all aspects of our lives and we, the staff and members of NCFR, must lead the way.

An update from headquarters

Nancy Gonzalez has returned to NCFR, as a volunteer, proving that you can take Nancy out of NCFR but you can't take NCFR out of

Nancy. She attended the Baltimore conference and will be contacting members to write for future issues of the *Family Focus* section of *NCFR Report*. We are delighted that Nancy has found room in her life to continue to support NCFR and family science in a way that is near and dear to her heart. Jennifer Crosswhite will finish out this and the next issue of *Family Focus* and will then be able to devote more time and energy to our policy initiatives.

One final note: Please plan ahead for NCFR 2015 in Vancouver. You'll need to present your passport to enter Canada and reenter the United States. Those of you in the United States on a visa may have additional regulations of concern. Start now by checking the status of your passport, expiration date, and visa restrictions. If NCFR can be of any assistance, please contact Tahera Mamdani at taheramamdani@ncfr.org. We want to see you in Vancouver. ■

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link families with appropriate agencies and services. (Performance Standard 1304.52(e))

CFLEs can meet these standards but, in Justin's words, "There seemed to just be clout associated with saying 'Our staff are licensed through the State of Michigan.'" In his view, the standards set in the past for his agency had been internally created to hire LMSWs because previous management was trying to model Kent County Head Start after an infant mental health program, which is not the intent of Head Start home visiting per the performance standards.

Justin's situation was parallel to that faced by another CFLE, **John Machir**, who, as supervisor of the Mountain State Healthy Families agency in West Virginia, was also working to get recognition of the qualifications of CFLEs to provide home visiting services. John wrote an article titled "Certified Family Life Educators as Home Visitors: Making the Case," which appeared in the spring 2014 issue of the *CFLE Network*. I shared with Justin John's article, as well as the white paper "Family Life Education: A Profession With a Proven Return on Investment," which resulted from the FLE Focused Dialogue session facilitated by Ellen Taner at the 2013 NCFR Annual Conference.

Over the course of the past 6 months, I have worked with Justin to help others at his agen-

cy understand the logical role that CFLEs can play in their home visiting program in order to ensure that best practice principles are being used. Justin created an excellent PowerPoint presentation comparing the previous agency model with the new model using concepts and figures from the Domains of Family Practice model (Myers-Walls, Ballard, Darling, & Myers-Bowman, 2011) to show the similarities and differences among the approaches of family life education, family therapy, and family case management. In August 2014, Ellen Taner and I participated in a conference call with Justin and many of his colleagues, during which we presented information on family life education and the CFLE credential. As a result of that meeting we were successful in helping his colleagues understand the appropriateness of hiring CFLEs for the home visiting positions, and the agency has gone on to include CFLE as a recognized credential.

In addition, Justin has established a more formal relationship with Central Michigan University (an NCFR CFLE-approved school), to provide internship opportunities and to hire their graduates. I have been asked to participate in a conference held in Grand Rapids in June 2015, along with Dr. Robin McWilliams, director of the Siskin Center for Child and Family Research and one of the nation's leading experts in best

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Policy advocacy or policy education: how to impact family policy

Jennifer Crosswhite, Ph.D., CFLE, Director of Public Affairs, jennifercrosswhite@ncfr.org

When learning family policy, students commonly ask “How can I impact policy? I’m just one person.” Since my arrival at NCFR, I have heard very similar thoughts from individuals and affiliates wanting to influence policy. As the person responsible for advancing NCFR’s policy initiatives, it is my job to help create tools to help you as an individual or affiliate impact family policy. As such, the purpose of this article is to begin that education by helping you understand the context in which you as an individual or a representative of NCFR can influence family policy.

501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization

It is important first to understand NCFR’s status as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. According to the Internal Revenue Service, any organization deemed a 501(c)(3) organization “may not attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities and it may not participate in any campaign activity for or against political candidates” (<http://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Charitable-Organizations/Exemption-Requirements-Section-501%28c%29%283%29-Organizations, paragraph 1>). As a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, the majority of policy work done on behalf of NCFR cannot be lobbying.

What this rule means is that NCFR members cannot campaign “for or against political candidates” on behalf of NCFR. For example, I could not say, “As NCFR’s Director of Public Affairs, vote for (or against) X.” As an organization, NCFR also cannot put out materials asking members or others to vote for or against a person.¹

Similarly, members cannot lobby (i.e., attempt to influence governmental deci-

sions) for particular legislation on behalf of NCFR. For example, members cannot tell a legislator to vote a particular way (e.g., for or against a bill), for or against a particular policy option, or ask a legislator to do something (e.g., a call to action) on behalf of NCFR. Again, I could not say, “As NCFR’s Director of Public Affairs, please vote for X or vote for a particular policy alternative.”

Advocacy

Another way to identify these types of political actions is as *advocacy*; that is, as active support of a particular cause, idea, or legislation (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/advocacy>). Using the term *advocacy* in place of the word *lobbying* might suggest that we cannot advocate. This statement,

though, brings forth questions, given that we all love and are passionate about families. Many of us already advocate for families through our work and other activities, and we should continue to advocate for families. Using the term advocacy can then be quite confusing, and I would like to provide some clarification.

Karen Bogenschneider has referred to advocacy in two ways; Advocacy with a big A and advocacy little a (personal communication). Advocacy with a big A refers to the lobbying identified earlier; that is, telling a legislator how to vote or what to vote for, asking for a specific policy option, and so on. Members cannot engage in Advocacy with

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practices for home visiting. Although much of the approach that Robin promotes qualifies as family life education, it is not often called that (a familiar problem in our profession). My goal at the conference will be to increase awareness of the role that family life education and CFLEs can play in the home visiting arena.

Justin’s vision is that “The Office of Head Start recognizes family life education as the theoretical field guiding the practice of Early Head Start Home Visiting, leading to more clear guidelines of the staff qualifications needed to carry out this methodology, i.e., CFLEs.” According to Justin, the “how” practicality of this is what Robin McWilliams provides. The “who” and “why” is what NCFR can provide.

I’ve spoken frequently in the past of the need for all of us in the family field to be advocates for the profession. This is how change happens. As Ellen Taner has pointed out in her advocacy work on behalf of family life education over the past few years, we need to “live globally, act locally.” Start

where you are, as Justin has, and do what you can in that setting. The work he has done at Kent County Head Start can be used as an example for other Head Start agencies throughout the country and has the potential to influence national Head Start policy. If each of us works to increase the recognition and value of professionals with training in family science and/or the CFLE credential in our immediate setting, we will go a long way toward advancing this profession. ■

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¹ People wishing to lobby or participate in campaign activities can as an individual; meaning, he or she cannot indicate that he or she is a representative of NCFR.

a big *A* on behalf of NCFR. Advocacy with a little *a* would be considered as working on behalf of families, or for families, and educating legislators or other policymakers about family research and how policies affect families so that families are considered when policies are made. Other policymakers are the individuals in a variety of contexts who may directly or indirectly work with or impact families. This is exactly the type of advocacy that NCFR members and affiliates can and are encouraged to do in connection with NCFR.

Education

To give you more concrete examples of how individuals and affiliates can influence family policy, I would like to provide specific examples of how one might educate legislators and other policymakers about families. Ideally, when educating legislators and other policymakers we would provide them objective, research-based information written in a manner that it is easy-to-read and understandable. The following is a list of possible ways to educate legislators, but it can be expanded to include other policymakers. This list is not exhaustive.

- Provide information to legislators on how a potential policy may positively and negatively affect families.
- Give information to legislators on how various policy options may positively or negatively impact families, including the option of doing nothing and how the policy options impact different families.
- Provide legislators with basic research on families to help inform their decisions on a bill or when sponsoring legislation.
- Supply legislators with research-based materials (e.g., reports, fact sheets, executive summaries, briefs, etc.) describing family research and policy implications based on the research.
- Conduct Family Impact Seminars or other meetings for policymakers to provide research-based information and a means for policymakers to connect with researchers in a bipartisan manner. (See the Policy Institute for Family Impact Seminars at <http://www.familyimpactseminars.org/> for additional information.)
- See *Family Policy Matters: How Policy-making Affects Families and What Professionals Can Do* (3rd ed., 2014, Taylor & Francis) by Karen Bogenschneider for additional ideas regarding educating policymakers.

Advocating for the profession

As we move forward efforts to influence family policy, it is important to know that we also can advocate for the profession (e.g., family life educators [FLEs], marriage, couple, and family therapists, etc.). If you recall, the IRS definition of a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization states that organization “may not attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities.” The phrasing “as a substantial part of its activities” allows NCFR a little room to advocate or lobby on behalf of the family profession. We can help raise the visibility of family professions with legislators and other policymakers. One area that is in need of advocating is that of Family Life Education (FLE).

Why is advocating for Family Life

Education important? Some individuals may find FLE similar to other occupations, such as marriage and family therapists (MFTs), child and family social workers, social and human service assistants, and so on. FLEs are distinct from each of these occupations. While both FLEs and MFTs can arrive from the same academic program, FLEs cannot ethically provide therapy as an MFT. Furthermore, child and family social workers and social and human service assistants often provide *intervention* as the base of their family services, while FLEs’ work comprises *education* and *prevention*. While both education and prevention, along with intervention, are needed to help support families, education and prevention differ from intervention. For example, with education and prevention, families and individuals are taught life skills to help empower and prevent problems before problems occur. Intervention services occur when families and individuals have demonstrated at least some initial signs of risk indicating that services are needed to decrease risky behaviors demonstrated by the family or an individual. (For a more in-depth discussion of the similarities and differences among the work of FLEs, MFTs, and family case managers, see Myers-Walls, Ballard, Darling, and Myers-Bowman, 2011.) Each of these service areas is needed; yet, FLEs often have to fight for a job or to be recognized. We know the importance of FLEs. It is time to ensure they have employment opportunities too.

Where might one advocate for Family Life Education? Several avenues for FLE advocacy exist. You might advocate in your local community, with state agencies or legislators, or even with federal agencies or legislators. For example, FLE can occur in post-secondary education settings; birth through secondary education settings (e.g., Early Head Start and Head Start); community-based services, including community education (e.g., home visitors); faith-based organizations; private practice; government and military settings; healthcare and family wellness settings (e.g., child life specialists); family courts; adult and juvenile justice programs; and other settings. These are excellent places to advocate for the profession in your community. It is also possible to track bills within each of the states and federally to determine where FLE is currently being considered and where FLE should be considered, and then contact your representative to advocate for the profession.

Tips for advocating for the profession.

When talking with policymakers or representatives from any one of the contexts noted above, it will be important for the individual to understand FLE. Providing fact sheets, reports, white papers, executive summaries, and so on to policymakers from the community to state to federal level, can accomplish the following:

- Raise the visibility of FLE to policymakers
- Help policymakers understand how FLE may impact families in their environment (e.g., providing family court judges information on how parent education can help couples navigate the divorce process)
- Help inform policymakers’ decisions on whom to hire

Many of the ideas presented in the “Education” section earlier in this article could similarly be applied here with respect to advocating for the profession. (See Dawn Cassidy’s article in this issue of *Report* for additional information on advocating for the profession.) One notable difference, though, when advocating for the profession is that you can ask a policymaker to (a) include FLE in their new policies, (b) vote for bills that include FLE, and (c) include FLE in bills relating to families. You also can encourage others to contact the policymakers to advocate for FLE.



Titles and keywords

Robert Milardo, Ph.D., University of Maine, rd360@maine.edu

Titles generally fall into two camps: those that include a literary element designed to attract a reader’s attention, and those that are entirely descriptive and inform a reader of the purpose, variables or findings. As a title, *The forgotten kin* is an example of the former. By itself the title is intriguing and begs the reader to ask the question just who are these forgotten kin, and why are they forgotten? A more descriptive title (for the same work) might be *Aunts and uncles and their relationships with nieces and nephews*. The sense of intrigue is lost, but the content is immediately clear and the article is keyword rich which is important.¹ So: let’s talk about the elements of really great titles mind-

ful that we are not trying to win Booker or Pulitzer prizes; we are trying to write great social science for professional audiences.

Titles can suggest themselves at any time in the process of writing a manuscript and I often keep a running list of possibilities at the front end of the manuscript as I work on early drafts. A great title should be interesting and informative. Great titles give the reader a concise explanation of the subject of an article. Consider these examples. Which do you prefer?

- *The gender-equality paradox: Class and incongruity between work-family attitudes and behaviors.* (Udanskyy, 2011).

- *Financial strain and stressful events predict newlyweds’ negative communication independent of relationship satisfaction.* (Williamson, Karney, & Bradbury, 2013).
- *Mothers’ attitudes about and goals for early adolescents’ cross-ethnic peer relationships: A qualitative analysis.* (Mount, Karre, & Kim, 2013).
- *Early family ties and marital stability over 16 years: The context of race and gender.* (Orbuch, Bauermeister, Brown, & McKinley, 2013).
- *Can Johnson’s typology of adult partner violence apply to teen dating relationships?* (Zweig, Yahner, Dank, & Lachman, 2014).
- *Have authoritarian parenting practices and roles changed in the last 50 years?* (Trifan, Stattin, Tilton-Weaver, 2014).
- *Pulling the strings: Effects of friend and parent opinions on dating choices.* (Wright & Sinclair, 2012).
- *Connecting here and there: A model of long-distance relationship maintenance.* (Merolla, 2012).
- *A little help from our friends: Informal third parties and interpersonal conflict.* (Eaton & Saunders, 2012).
- *Between family and friendship: The right to care for Anna.* (Nelson, 2011).
- *Locating multiethnic families in a globalizing world.* (Trask, 2013).

¹ This is an imaginary but realistic example based on the book *The Forgotten Kin: Aunts and Uncles (2010, Cambridge)*. I wrote the first part of the book title because it sounds great to me, adds a bit of intrigue, and captures the sentiment of the book perfectly. The second part originally read: Aunts and uncles and their relationships with nieces and nephews. An editor thought it too long; perhaps it is, but the intention was to be descriptive.

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Conclusion

As you consider how you will try to influence family policy or advocate for the profession, I encourage you to think about how those plans also fit with NCFR’s global ends regarding policymaking and advocating for the profession.

- “NCFR will provide information about the policymaking process and the impact of public policies on families” (Global End 1d); specifically, the impact that policies have on families.
- “NCFR will raise the visibility of family research, theory, and practice to policymakers and the general public” (Global End 2c); specifically, raising the visibility of family research to policymakers.
- “NCFR will advocate for family practice professionals such as family life educators and marriage and family therapists” (Global end 3c).

policy work done on behalf of NCFR is inclusive and representative of the diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and families of the NCFR membership and is non-partisan.

As policy work and advocacy for the profession moves forward, additional resources will emerge. The information provided in this article is just the beginning. If you are interested in helping me develop resources for impacting family policy or advocating for the profession, please let me know. Remember, my door is always open. ■

Reference

Myers-Walls, J. A., Ballard, S. M., Darling, C. A., & Myers-Bowman, K. S. (2011). Reconceptualizing the domain and boundaries of Family Life Education. *Family Relations, 60*, 357–372.

All of these titles are effective, some more than others, and share a similar purpose. They briefly summarize the essential focus of the article to which they refer. In scanning a title, a reader should have a fairly good idea of the main topic including the major variables, the theoretical approach, and possibly the method and findings. References to a qualitative method, an analysis of census data, or a reference to a meta-analysis further alerts the reader to the author’s purpose and means to achieving that purpose, and can be appended to the main title.

Titles may include a semblance of humor or literary style, but in referencing pop music, common idiom, or metaphor, a search of

crafting scholarship continued on page 18

I also encourage you to keep in mind that NCFR is a diverse organization and that

the literature for that particular phrase might suggest something more original is in order. Phrases like “with a little help from my friends,” a reference to a Beatles tune, or “an embarrassment of riches,” a common idiom used in the titles of articles, a novel, a history of Dutch culture, film, and several dramatic works, are frequently used and consequently tired. My advice: don’t try to be really cool or clever or intriguing, just write a title that is perfectly descriptive and keyword rich. The majority of readers are not scanning the current issue of a journal looking for something interesting to read; readers come from a variety of disciplines, they are people who are searching a database with very specific keywords in mind. Without descriptive keywords they are less apt to find your article and less apt to recognize the relevance.

The titles noted above vary in subtle ways. For instance the first two are quite specific with the key variables included in the title. This is especially true of the second example where the core finding of the study becomes the title. There is little ambiguity about the subject of this work. Another example includes the qualifying phrase “A qualitative analysis,” and another implies a longitudinal design. This is useful information for those readers who are particularly interested in such work.

Two of the titles are in question form and present the essential focus or research question without specifying any of the incumbent findings. Both titles work well in identifying the subject matter of their respective articles with some exception. In questioning change in authoritarian parenting practices and roles over the last 50 years, the title omits noting that the sample on which this work is based includes three cohorts of adults living in Sweden. This is an important fact, could easily be noted in the title, and

would be helpful for those searching for material on Swedish families, for instance. Research questions can represent useful and keyword-rich titles, although I prefer titles that focus on findings.

The next three titles begin with implied metaphors: “Pulling the strings,” “Connecting here and there,” and “A little help from our friends.” They pique interest and in each case once we read the second half of the title, we begin to understand the subject matter of the article. In this way, they are fine titles, but perhaps they are not the most useful.

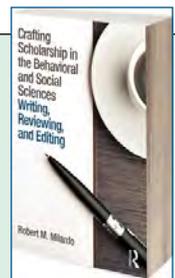
Authors often rely on search engines to locate articles of interest, searches that are based on keywords linked to the article or included in titles or abstracts. When readers rely on keyword searches, literal titles based upon a variable language are most effective in facilitating a literature search, while titles that include metaphors, like “Pulling the strings,” are unhelpful in facilitating a search. Where a metaphor is used in a title, authors need to be especially particular in selecting an appropriate set of keywords to accompany the article. When submitting an article to a journal, authors are asked to suggest keywords either on the title page or when prompted in a digital submission process. Submission portals like *Scholar 1*, which a number of journals use, or similar systems, permit an author to review a list of potential keywords and make selections accordingly. Because potential readers find work of interest through search engines that rely on keywords, it is in an author’s best interest to select applicable keywords carefully and comprehensively and to include such keywords in the title.

The final two titles in our list are among the briefest: “Between family and friendship: The right to care for Anna,” and “Locating

multiethnic families in a globalizing world.” They are suggestive of the subject matter but not terribly so. We cannot know from these titles whether the content represents critical literature review, theory, case study, or empirical work. The number of keywords represented in the first instance is two (family and friendship), and in the second instance one or possibly two (multiethnic families and possibly globalizing world). Incidentally, they are both quite interesting works; they would be better served, and more easily found by database searches with more informative titles that emphasize keywords that are representative of the subject matter.

There are some things you can avoid. Phrases like “a study of” or the equivalent are not useful and copy editors will often strike them. Titles in the range of 12 to 15 or fewer words are just about right. The examples noted above range from 7 to 15 words with the longer titles being more descriptive and therefore more effective (mean = 12 in case you’re wondering).

In short, although subscribers may scan tables of content when an issue of a journal is first released, the primary portal of discovery is a search engine. Titles are best designed with this point of discovery in mind. The most effective titles are rich in keywords and center on the primary content or findings. ■



More “Crafting Scholarship,” our continuing series on academic writing by Bob Milardo

Enjoy this insider’s guide to improving your professional writing by Robert Milardo, Ph.D., NCFR Fellow and the founding editor of the *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, who has over 35 years of experience in teaching, research, and academic writing. “Crafting Scholarship” is a regular *NCFR Report* column where Bob addresses insights useful to anyone engaged in scholarly work and journal article preparation. His new book, *Crafting Scholarship in the Behavioral and Social Sciences*, provides a comprehensive look at writing, editing, and reviewing processes in academic publishing. (Fall 2014, Routledge); www.routledge.com/books/details/9781138787841/

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Research and Theory Section update



Joyce A. Arditti, Chair, arditti@vt.edu

Revisoning Research and Theory Part I: New Outreach Coordinator for Research and Theory Section

Sarah Schoppe-Sullivan has recently joined the Research and Theory (RT) Section Executive Committee as our Outreach Coordinator. The RT Section leadership developed this ad hoc position as a key component of our campaign to “revisoning research and theory” so that the RT Section best reflects NCFR members’ diverse theoretical, methodological, and disciplinary backgrounds as well as our shared concerns about social justice and social inequality. As the Outreach Coordinator, Sarah will develop ways to engage Section members, including writing a blog that will highlight the work of the Section and its membership. Sarah will also be leading our “icon makeover” contest described below.

Revisoning Research and Theory Part 2: ICON makeover contest

The RT Section is getting a makeover!

As part of our “revisoning research and theory” campaign, we in the RT Section are re-examining its identity. We would

like to be the home for all NCFR members who have burning questions about families, use a variety of methods to address those questions, and hail from diverse theoretical and disciplinary perspectives. We want to emphasize *innovation* in theory and methods and the importance of the *process* of research.

As part of this revisoning process, we would like to unveil a new icon that captures the diversity of theories, methods, and approaches RT members apply to the study of families.

We are looking to YOU to help redesign the icon.

Please submit entries via e-mail to schoppe-sullivan.1@osu.edu by Friday, March 20, 2015. You can design entries using computer software or by hand (if the latter, please scan the design and submit via e-mail).

If your icon is chosen as the new one for the section, you will receive a \$100 Amazon gift card! ■



Journal of Marriage and Family—Special Issue Call for papers: 50 years of National Longitudinal Surveys



The *Journal of Marriage and Family* invites submissions for its August 2016 special issue celebrating 50 years of the National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS). The guest editor for this issue is Elizabeth Cooksey. The issue will focus on family research undertaken using any of the NLS data sets: The Young Men’s Survey, the Young Women’s Survey, the Older Men’s Survey, the Mature Women’s Survey; the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79), the NLSY79 Child and/or Young Adult Surveys, and the NLSY97.

We welcome original research using a single NLS data set or multiple NLS data sets, as well as national or international comparative work in which NLS data are used. An introduction to the issue giving background information on each of the NLS data sets used in selected papers will be provided, so there is no need for authors to provide in-depth information on data set history or data collection methods used, although explanations of variable choice and sample restrictions should be given.

Papers are due April 1, 2015, for publication in Volume 78, Number 4, of *Journal of Marriage and Family*, August 2016. Submissions will undergo a peer review process just as regular submissions to the journal. Complete instructions for preparing and submitting manuscripts online are provided at <http://www.ncfr.org/jmf/submit-jmf>. **In your submission letter, please indicate your desire for the manuscript to be considered for the “Special Issue Celebrating 50 Years of the National Longitudinal Surveys.”** A \$25 processing fee will be collected at the time of submission.

If you need further assistance, please contact the editorial office at jmf@prc.utexas.edu.

Family



Therapy Section

Shayne Anderson, Ph.D., Section Chair, shayne.anderson@uconn.edu

Under Christi McGeorge’s leadership, the annual business meetings of the Family Therapy Section have become wonderful mentoring and networking events. The 2014 NCFR conference was no exception. Our three new Family Therapy Legacy Scholars—Jeff Larson, Doug Sprenkle, and Volker Thomas—joined with past Legacy Scholars to mentor members of the Section. We hope to continue this tradition of mentorship at the 2015 conference, where we will award the third Kathleen Briggs Outstanding Mentor Award.

The purpose of this award is to recognize an outstanding mentor of students and new professionals in the area of marriage and family therapy. It is given in honor of Kathleen Briggs, a longtime Family Therapy Section member and leader. She was committed to mentoring marriage and family therapy graduate students and new professionals. Dr. Briggs was well known and respected for her leadership, insight, optimism, enthusiasm, and mentoring.

We are now accepting nominations for this award. Eligible nominees are individuals who

- contribute to the professional and academic development of graduate students and new professionals in the field of family therapy,
- participate in mentoring activities,
- provide a nurturing environment for graduate students and new professionals,
- promote the involvement of graduate students and new professionals in scholarly activities,
- demonstrate leadership in their field through active research and/or service, and
- are current members of NCFR and the Family Therapy Section.

To nominate an individual you believe deserves this recognition, please complete the nomination form, providing specific examples of how the nominee meets these criteria and at least two additional letters supporting the nomination. The nomination form, as well as additional information about the award, is available on the Section’s awards page: <https://www.ncfr.org/sections/ft/section-awards>.

Nomination letters should be sent to Jeanne Strand (jeanne.strand@ncfr.org) by May 1.

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Crafting Scholarship in the Behavioral and Social Sciences

Writing, Reviewing, and Editing

By **Robert M. Milardo**

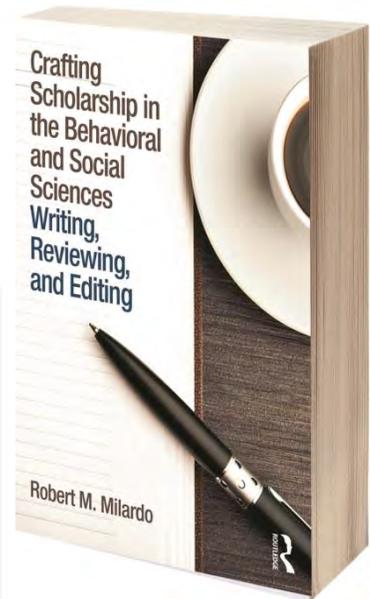
"Graduate students and new professionals will benefit from the author's considerable experience. ... The writing style is clear, easy to follow and understand, and appropriate for the intended audience. ... I would use it for a ... seminar... Professional Development ... designed for ...doctoral students in the health and human sciences. ... It will make a significant contribution to the field." – David H. Demo, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, USA

This textbook helps readers improve their writing and publishing success in academia. Framed within the context of the editorial and peer review process, the book explores writing, editing, and reviewing in academic publishing.

Highlights include:

- Insights on working with journal boards, reviewers, and contributors drawn from the author's 30 years of experience in editing journal articles and writing books.
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- Identifies common problems academics face in writing and publishing along with practical solutions.
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Anne Farrell, FP Section Secretary/Treasurer, anne.farrell@uconn.edu

NCFR's statement on families and family policy (found at <https://www.ncfr.org/about/statement-policy>) asserts that public policy needs to be evaluated in terms of its intended or unintended effects on families, even when (at face value) policy seems unrelated to family life. Whereas this assertion certainly resonates with NCFR members who explicitly identify as family policy scholars, we invite all members of the NCFR community to reflect on it and to engage actively around policy matters.

The Family Policy Section is committed to assisting the organization as it endeavors to give voice to policy matters through the Policy Advisory Committee. This committee is chaired by Director of Public Affairs Jennifer Crosswhite, and is composed of NCFR Executive Director Diane Cushman, a member of the NCFR Board's Inclusion and Diversity Committee, a member of the Affiliate Councils Board, the Chair of the Family Policy Section, and two to three NCFR members with deep engagement in policy.

The Family Policy Section's commitment emerges from an understanding that even relatively modest policy components can profoundly affect program design, professional development, and community practice. Thus, the ultimate aim of our engagement in family policy is to bring state-of-the-field knowledge about how to promote child, family, and community well-being to the forefront of policymaking—to the betterment of families.

With this commitment in mind, the Section plans a number of activities and objectives intended to inform and promote membership engagement in policy matters and to foster cross-Section collaboration. At November's conference, the Family Policy and Research and Theory Sections cohosted a Section meeting that included an invited talk by Jennifer Crosswhite followed by a lively discussion of the role of scholars and professional organizations in policy debate. Members suggested a range of mechanisms and strategies to ensure that policy-relevant scholarship—and NCFR's articulation thereof—can be sufficiently responsive to policymaking timetables. Members discussed the means by which NCFR's policy and dissemination endeavors can be authoritative and timely and provide a nimble response to policy questions du jour. In

addition to providing leadership at the organizational level, the Family Policy Section is contemplating a range of activities that will promote, inform, and showcase policy-relevant scholarship. We are considering a blog that highlights policy-relevant scholarship; dissemination of policy briefs developed by students on timely topics; and promoting, mentoring, and highlighting student accomplishments in the policy arena. We welcome your ideas and energies as we consider the most efficient, concise, and relevant ways to communicate about policy.

As we write this, the deadline for proposal submissions to the 2015 conference nears,

and the Family Policy Section enthusiastically invites all NCFR members to consider the implications of their scholarship for family policy. On the face of it, does your work seem unrelated, or loosely related, to policy? We challenge you to consider and articulate the value your research can bring to policy debate. Indeed, we challenge you to identify NCFR scholarship that is *not* capable of informing the means by which family life can be enriched! We think you'll be hard pressed to do so.

Finally, we'd like to once again celebrate the 2014 accomplishments of Section members.

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Advancing Family Science Section update



Robin Yaure, Section Chair, r2y@psu.edu

It is with great pleasure, and trepidation, that I take over the chair position for the Advancing Family Science (AFS) Section. I feel I have big shoes to fill by following Bahira Sherif Trask! She accomplished many tasks for the Section without apparent effort, although I am sure this was really just an illusion that she managed by understanding the needs of the Section and her role as chair. Having attended the meetings at NCFR for Section chairs, I realize there is a lot to be done to keep the Section and the conference running smoothly. Fortunately, there is a lot of support from the NCFR staff, the AFS Section officers, and the other Section chairs.

Why do I tell you this? To let you know that I will be reaching out to get input and assistance with the myriad tasks that we as a Section need to accomplish.

The following are some of the tasks for this coming year:

- Develop a blog to help disseminate information about the Section, including member spotlights, resource sharing, professional opportunities, and so on. At our Section meeting in November, it was suggested that a blog would be more dynamic than a newsletter.
- Identify ways that we can share resources for teaching, both at the conference and beyond.

- Come up with innovative ideas for our Section meeting at the conference. Now that the business part of the Section is being done online outside of conference time, we need to figure out ways to use our Section meeting to draw in current and new members. Ideas include having roundtable discussions with seasoned members of the Section so they can share their wisdom.
- Identify symposia topics, conference sponsorship, and themes related to next year's conference theme: "Conflict, Violence and War: Family Risks and Resilience."
- Examine how technology is relevant to pedagogy, research, and social issues (e.g., interpersonal violence).

Please note that these ideas are not mine alone; neither are they the only ones out there, but they are ones that came out during our discussion about the Section's goals at the 2014 conference. I will be sending out e-mails asking for input and volunteers to take the lead with these issues. This partial list of what was discussed at the meeting shows the innovative thinking that is a hallmark of our Section and our members. Let's not let these ideas lie fallow; instead, let's continue with the momentum we got going last November.

I thank everyone in advance for helping to make the AFS Section a thriving and innovative group! ■

National Council on Family Relations

Journal Editor Position

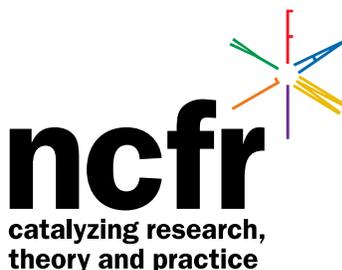
Call for nominations and applications for the position of
Editor of *Journal of Marriage and Family*

The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) is seeking nominations and applications for the position of Editor of *Journal of Marriage and Family* (JMF). The term of the current editor, R. Kelly Raley (University of Texas-Austin), will be completed with the publication of the December 2016 issue.

The four-year term of the new editor will begin with the publication of the February 2017 issue. However, editorial responsibilities will begin to transfer to the new editor beginning January 2016. The JMF Search Committee anticipates making the selection of the new editor at the annual NCFR conference in November 2015 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

A detailed description of the editor's responsibilities may be obtained from: Search Committee for Editor of *Journal of Marriage and Family*, National Council on Family Relations, 1201 West River Parkway, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN, USA 55454. Phone 888-781-9331; FAX 763-781-9348; email jeannestrand@ncfr.org.

Nominations and applications including a letter of application and a curriculum vitae should be sent to National Council on Family Relations, 1201 West River Parkway, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN, USA 55454 or electronically to jeannestrand@ncfr.org. The JMF Search Committee will review application materials beginning September 1, 2015. Nominees and applicants must be members of the National Council on Family Relations.



Audrey Kraynak, President, arkraynak@aol.com

Greetings! Here's an update on activities at the Ohio Council on Family Relations (OHCFR).

Elections

Nominations and election processes are underway for the positions of secretary/treasurer and student representative (grad or undergrad) on the OHCFR board of directors. Kudos to Rachel Brown for managing the elections cycle this year.

National Family Week activities

Carmen Irving, Ohio State University Extension Educator, and graduate student Raichel Herte posted a series of blogs which were contributed by several advisory board members during the week of November 23-29, 2014. These postings were part of an annual promotion of the Alliance for Children and Families to help strengthen and support family connections. The blogs were published on the OHCFR Facebook page throughout the week of Thanksgiving. Topics included: Introduction to National Family Week; The Sandwich Generation; Technology and Families; Family Fun on a Budget. The blogs helped OHCFR fulfill a goal of promoting increased awareness of our organization as well as providing educational materials to consumers. In the past, the OHCFR Facebook page had posted informational news about the organization but had not attracted the degree of interest that the daily blogs

provided. Thanks to our contributors!

OHCFR Impact Award

Following the close of the December Advisory Board Meeting, Dr. Donna Crossman was honored as the first recipient of the Ohio Council on Family Relations Impact Award and presented with a crystal plaque engraved with definitions of success. This newly instituted OHCFR award is presented to a professional/practitioner who has made a significant contribution to the field of child and family studies.

Dr. Crossman has 32 years of combined teaching experience at Furman College, Clemson University, and Ohio State University. She retired OSU where she was a senior lecturer in the sociology department. Dr. Crossman joined NCFR in 1982 and has served on the OHCFR advisory board in various roles including President-elect (2004-2005), President (2006-2007) and Past-President (2008). She was instrumental in guiding as well as keeping OHCFR viable. We congratulate Dr. Crossman and appreciate her leadership!

Membership

According to data provided by NCFR in December, there are 114 members of NCFR/OHCFR. Two are benefactors, five hold emeriti status while 32 are student members, 11 new professionals and the re-



Impact Award winner Donna Crossman (seated) with OHCFR president Audrey Kraynak.

mainder are professionals. There are approximately 82 CFLEs in Ohio, 40 of whom are also members of NCFR.

Family Programs/Student Activities

Please share information about your programs with the subject heading, "Programs that Support Families or Student Group Activities," with Audrey Kraynak in either visual or written format. Periodically, NCFR sends out a request to the affiliate presidents for this information. This information can be sent to arkraynak@aol.com.

Spring conference – save the date

The advisory board agreed to sponsor a conference with the Ohio Association of Child & Youth Care Professionals (OACYCP) on March 25-26, 2015, at Sawmill Lodge in Huron, Ohio. See details at

www.ncfr.org/events/upcoming-affiliate-conferences-and-events

Utah Council on Family Relations conference, April 2015



The annual conference of the Utah Council of Family Relations will be held April 3, 2015, at Utah State University, in Logan, Utah, with the theme "Relationship Education: Research, Application, and Policy." The conference typically draws attendees from all of the major universities in Utah, and Brigham Young University-Idaho. Dr. Kay Bradford, from Utah State University, is program chair.

Dr. Galena Rhoades, Dr. Alan Hawkins, and Kendy Cox will give plenary addresses. Dr. Rhoades is Research Associate Professor at the University of Denver and author of more than 60 academic articles. Dr.

Hawkins has been a visiting scholar with the National Fatherhood Initiative and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. He is author of numerous studies and articles on responsible fatherhood and relationship education. Kendy Cox is the director of Community-Based Training Services for the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative. The conference will also feature paper and poster presentations from regional faculty and students. In a preconference session, Dr. Rhoades will provide training on "Within My Reach" to registered attendees. We look forward to an excellent conference! ■

family policy continued from page 15

As the proud sponsor of two Feldman Travel Awards and one Outstanding Research Proposal Award, we highlighted the achievements of three talented family scientists: Anthony Ferraro, graduate student at Florida State University; Colleen Vesely, Assistant Professor at George Mason University; and Lorien Jordan, graduate student at the University of Georgia. We will soon be soliciting award applications for the 2015 annual conference. We hope you will consider submitting an application and encouraging your colleagues and graduate students to apply.

Please see our section page for details: <https://www.ncfr.org/awards/section-awards/family-policy>.

Submit that conference proposal to the Family Policy Section! See you in Vancouver. ■

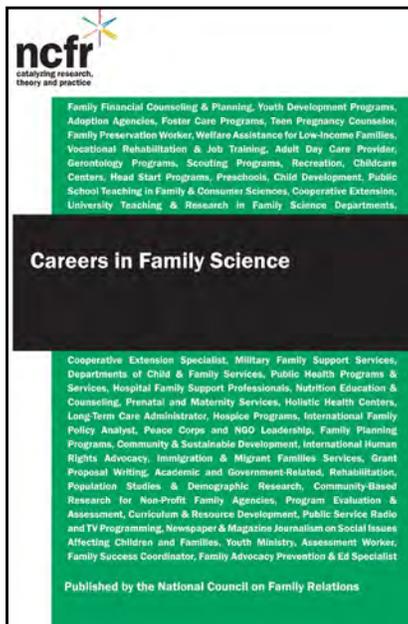
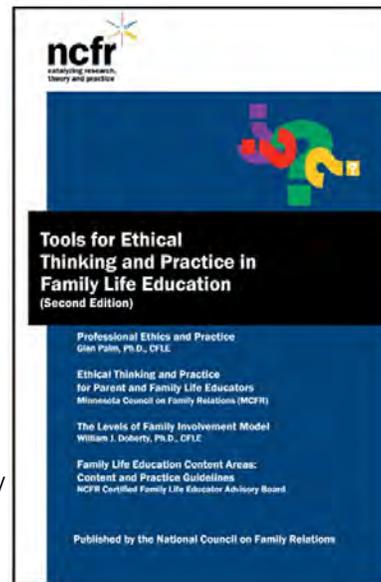
Tools for Ethical Thinking and Practice for Family Life Educators (Third Edition)

This popular NCFR publication is useful for teaching about professional ethics in the classroom as well as a resource for practicing family professionals. This third edition includes a new article, *The Domains of Family Practice Model: A Summary of Its Development and Purpose*. The third edition also includes an article on *Professional Ethics and Practice and Family Life Education Content Areas: Content and Practice Guidelines* which combines content from the University and College Curriculum Guidelines, the FLE Lifespan Framework and the CFLE Exam Content Outline into one document. The updated ethical thinking and practice guidelines developed by the Minnesota Council on Family Relations includes a helpful case study process.

42 pages. 2012

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Careers in Family Science

What can you do with a degree in Family Science?

This booklet provides information on Family Science as a discipline and profession. A brief discussion of the Domains of Family Practice Model helps to facilitate understanding of family science and the various ways that it is translated into work with families. The booklet also includes information helpful when considering undergraduate and graduate degree programs as well as career options for each degree level. Profiles of NCFR members and CFLEs working in the field provide real-life examples of family career options. 2015. 48 pages.

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Northwest Council on **nwcf** Family Relations annual meeting

Portland State University, Portland, Oregon
May 14-15, 2015

The Northwest Council is gearing up for another great spring conference. This year's theme is "Resiliency in Children and Families." In addition to our regular sessions, which include breakout presentations and a student poster session, we are in the process of arranging a few special sessions that will align with our conference theme. We have invited the Dougy Center--The National Center for Grieving Children and Families--to conduct a training for our conference attendees on how to help children grieve and cope in developmentally appropriate ways after experiencing the death of a family member.

Two panel discussions are planned, one focusing on the field of child life, and the other on substance abuse and resilience in family systems.

Something else new to our program will be "round table mentoring." We have replaced traditional speed mentoring with this new format in the hopes that mentors and mentees will have more time to interact.

Those interested in presenting or attending should check out our website for more information as it becomes available: <http://northwest.ncfr.org>. We are all looking forward to an engaging and informative conference this spring!

At NWCFR's 2014 conference attendees gathered to hear NCFR President Paul Amato deliver a keynote address on Marriage, Cohabitation, and Health. This year we have invited Terry Cross, who will speak about *Resiliency in Native American Children and Families*. ■

macfr

Mid-Atlantic affiliate news

Save the date!

Mid-Atlantic Council
on Family Relations
Annual Conference 2015

October 16, 2015

Keynote Speaker: Paul Amato
Penn State University
NCFR President

Hosted by the
University of Delaware



At NWCFR's 2014 conference attendees gathered to hear NCFR President Paul Amato deliver a keynote address on Marriage, Cohabitation, and Health. This year we have invited Terry Cross to speak on Native American families, children, and resilience.

Illinois affiliate news **ilcfr**

The Illinois Council on Family Relations (ILCFR), a state affiliate of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR), will host their annual conference on Friday, April 17, 2015 at the I-Hotel at Urbana-Champaign.

The theme for this year is *Modern Family*, which will feature research and applied work related to a variety of problems and promises of the modern family. Dr. Jackie

Frank, Associate Professor at Eastern Illinois University, will provide the keynote address. Check our website (il.ncfr.org) for more information, including the call for proposals, online submission and registration. For more information, visit our website or email Conference Co-Chairs Dr. Jane Rose Njue (jnjue@niu.edu) and Mrs. Christina Yousaf (csyousaf@eiu.edu). ■

in this issue:

**Family Focus on...
Family Resource Management**

NCFR REPORT - A MEMBER FORUM

NCFR Report is a quarterly magazine for members designed to encourage member-to-member dialogue; to inform colleagues about our research and to discuss research application for practitioners and policy professionals. Through *Report*, NCFR also builds our community by reporting on people, events and organizational news.

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