Theory Construction and Research Methodology (TCRM) Workshop 2019

The Theory Construction and Research Methodology (TCRM) Workshop is a longstanding tradition within NCFR. Research works in progress are reviewed, discussed, and strengthened in this unique, interactive environment, which is held on-site at the NCFR Annual Conference. TCRM is made possible with the support of NCWR's Journal of Family Theory & Review.

TCRM sessions will run from Tuesday, Nov. 19, through the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 20, at the 2019 NCFR Annual Conference in Fort Worth, TX.

This year's TCRM co-chairs are Adam Galovan and Spencer James. Contact them at the 2019 TCRM email address (TCRM2019@gmail.com)

TCRM Registration
You may add the TCRM preconference to your full or single-day NCFR conference registration, or register for and attend TCRM sessions only (without attending the rest of the NCFR conference). Find more information about all NCFR conference registration options:

Pricing for TCRM Only:
Professionals: $50
Students: $35

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

What does a TCRM Paper Session look like? It features work in progress instead of finished products. Before the session, authors of accepted proposals have submitted their manuscripts, and TCRM has solicited comments from scholars in the field who have agreed to be discussants. (Papers and Comments are on line for registered attendees, who read them ahead of the TCRM Workshop) The TCRM paper session is not a presentation; it begins with a general overview of the paper. Discussant comments follow, and the author responds to the comments. Following this there is an informal conversation in which the audience participates in discussing the papers, theory issues, and methodological questions.

Overview of the Program

Tuesday, November 19
The program starts on Tuesday morning with concurrent workshops and paper sessions. Tuesday's program ends with a Reception/Business Meeting at 6:15 pm.
Following the business meeting and reception TCRM is sponsoring a 7-8:30 pm Planning Meeting with the editors of the new Sourcebook. TCRM sponsors the Sourcebook, and the editorial team: Kari Adamsons, April Few-Demo, Christine Proulx, and Kevin Roy will discuss the progress of the Sourcebook. We are hoping that everyone will be able to attend the Sourcebook meeting.

**Wednesday, November 20**

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

We hope that everyone will be able to come together for the 10:00 am Special Session with Thomas Bradbury, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor, UCLA Department of Psychology, *Theory as a Prelude to Action*. The Special Session will be video streamed. This session is sponsored by the University of Maryland - Department of Family Science.

**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

**Workshop 1, Tuesday, November 19, 9:00 am – Noon (Session #006)**

*Insights Into the Cycles of Family Life Via Spectral and Cross-Spectral Analysis*  
Presenters: Matthew Vowels, Laura Vowels, Nathan D. Wood, Kristen P. Mark  
Discussant: Brandon McDaniel

Many research questions family researchers are interested in, such as sexual desire or relational satisfaction, have periodic features. The fields of mathematics and engineering have a wealth of techniques (e.g., spectral analysis) to work with periodic data that can be applied at the individual as well as dyadic levels of analysis. This workshop will 1) address background and analytic assumptions for spectral analysis, 2) illustrate data preparation and structure, 3) demonstrate analytic procedures, and 4) interpretation of results. Data used in the workshop will explore the fluctuations of sexual desire for individuals and couples collected daily for a month.

Matthew Vowels, and Laura Vowels are at the University of Surrey; Nathan D. Wood is at the University of Kentucky.

**Paper Session 1, Tuesday, November 19, 9:30-11:15 am (Session #007)**  
*Theoretical and Methodological Issues in Children and Siblings*  
Discussant: Kani Diop

(Session #007-02) *A Theoretical Analysis of Role Changes and Effects on Coresidence Living*, Zhaoxi Shen, Emily Lam, Silvia K. Bartolic

Academic work has focused on the reasons for adult living with parents (Smits et al., 2010; Ward & Spitze, 1996), but lacks theoretical work explaining relationship dynamics in coresidence. A life course perspective considers not moving out as “out of sequence” (Neugarten, 1976) despite this having become more normative (Milan, 2016; Vespa, 2017). Symbolic interaction theory explains role shifts while conflict theory explains family dynamics. Using these theories, a new model can illustrate the factors affecting positive or negative experiences of coresidence. Redefining the meaning of “adulthood” and “home,” clarifying roles while recontributing resources, internal conflict within the family decreases.

Zhaoxi Shen, Emily Lam, Silvia K. Bartolic are at the University of British Columbia, where Zhaoxi is a student.
**Paper Session 1, Tuesday, November 19, 9:30-11:15 am (Session #007) Continued**

*Theoretical and Methodological Issues in Children and Siblings*

**(Session #007-03) Understanding Siblings’ Differential Treatment Within the Cultural Contexts that Justify In-Group Hierarchy, Yan Wang**

The recent adoption of the two-child policy in China represents a major change in social policy that influences individual families’ structure and dynamics. The growing number of multi-children families is calling for more research on sibling interactions in the context of contemporary Chinese culture. The major goal of this research is to investigate the implication of siblings’ differential treatment within Chinese cultural contexts that emphasize within-family interdependence and the legitimacy of in-group hierarchy. Children’s values on family responsibilities and their acceptance of differentiated family roles will be studied as the moderator between siblings’ differential treatment and children’s developmental outcome.

*Yan Wang* is an Associate Professor at Endicott College.

---

**Paper Session 2, Tuesday, November 19, 9:30-11:15 am (Session #008)**

*Theorizing Family Dissolution Over Time and Place*

**Discussant: Kari Adamsons**

**(Session #008-01) Rethinking Marital Commitment: Theorizing about Change and Stability in Divorce Ideation Over Time, Sarah Allen, Alan Hawkins**

Scholarship on commitment uncertainty, marital ambivalence, and divorce ideation suggests the importance of better understanding the dialectical tensions involved in navigating the liminal space of marital commitment uncertainty. In order to model complex relational processes of change over time, however, researchers need to move beyond contextualized snapshots of relationship processes to a more continuous mapping of changes in emotions, beliefs, and behaviors. This longitudinal qualitative research explores divorce ideation over time to explore theoretical models that may better capture the dynamic processes of stability and change embedded within how married partners make decisions about the future of their marriage. In doing so, we suggest a different way of thinking about the meaning of marital commitment.

*Sarah Allen* is an Assistant Professor at Southern Utah University; *Alan Hawkins* is at Brigham Young University.

**(Session #008-02) Child Custody in the Context of Parental Dissolution: A Process-Relational Approach, Kristin Matera, Brad van Eeden-Moorefield**

In the United States, the forms and trajectories of parental relationships are diverse. Births commonly occur to both married and unmarried mothers, and parental relationships often end before their children reach the age of majority. Consequently, child custody is a prevalent issue for many families. Despite the profound impacts of child custody decision-making, understanding of this process remains limited. Little attention has focused on the holistic, dynamic processes involved in child custody disputes. Thus, we propose a theoretical framework of child custody decision-making that identifies the multi-level, dynamic processes that occur throughout contexts and accounts for intraindividual and intrafamilial change.

*Kristin Matera and Brad van Eeden-Moorefield* are at Montclair State University where Kristin is a student.
Workshop 2, Tuesday, November 19, Noon - 3:00 pm (Session #009)
TCRM Methods Workshop 2 - Comprehensive Literature Reviews Through Text Mining and Collaborative Open Science
Presenter: Daniel J. Laxman

Discussant: Isaac Washburn

The research literature for many topics grows at an exponential rate, making it difficult for seasoned researchers to stay abreast of new developments and for new students to select novel dissertation topics. Furthermore, literature reviews carried out by members of various research teams likely duplicate efforts but may also differ some in terms of the specific articles and chapters identified. This project addresses these issues by (1) demonstrating how text mining methods can be used to identify themes and emerging topics in the literature and (2) proposing a collaborative approach to building and maintaining a database of relevant research articles using principles of open science. An illustration is given for the topic of “coparenting.”

Daniel J. Laxman is an Independent Scholar and Data Analyst.

Paper Session 3, Tuesday, November 19, 12:15-2:00 pm (Session #010)

Theorizing Romantic Relationships

Discussant: Spencer James

(Session #010-01) Relationship Satisfaction Across the Transition to Parenthood Among Biracial Couples: An Integrative Model, Roudi Nazarinia Roy, Anthony G. James, Tiffany L. Brown, Alexandrea L. Craft, Yolanda T. Mitchell

As the percentage of bi/multiracial families continues to increase in the United States greater attention must be given to the unique experiences of these couples across the transition to parenthood. In this manuscript, a conceptual model on relationship satisfaction among bi/multiracial couples across the transition to parenthood is proposed. In support of this model, this manuscript includes (a) a review of existing theories that can contribute to our understanding of bi/multiracial family experiences, and (b) the identification of factors that create a unique experience among of bi/multiracial families’ transition to parenthood. Based on this review an integrative conceptual model of the transition to parenthood among bi/multiracial families is presented.

Roudi Nazarinia Roy is an Assistant Professor at California State University – Long Beach; Anthony G. James is at Miami University–Ohio; Tiffany L. Brown is at California State University – Long Beach; Alexandrea L. Craft is at the University of Massachusetts; Yolanda T. Mitchell is at the University of North Texas.

(Session #010-02) Reasons to Disclose or Not Disclose a Sexually Transmitted Infection to a Sexual Partner: A Symbolic Interaction Theory Perspective, Kayley Davis, Spencer B. Olmstead

Symbolic interactionism (SI) discusses meanings that individuals place on their interactions with others, and is uniquely position to examine the reasons that individuals with sexually transmitted infections (STIs) choose to disclose or not disclose their STI to a sexual partner. This paper discusses the emotional consequences of an STI diagnosis, and how these consequences inform disclosure motives. We analyze disclosure and non-disclosure motivations through the lens of SI, drawing specific attention to the role of the discloser and non-discloser, and analyze the specific motivations through SI concepts. We discuss limitations of the theory and implications for research and clinical practice.

Kayley Davis and Spencer B. Olmstead are at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville where Kayley is a student.
Paper Session 4, Tuesday, November 19, 12:15-2:00 pm (Session #011)

Phenomenology and Advances in Qualitative Theorizing

Discussant: Jason Whiting

(Session #011-01) A Post-Intentional Phenomenological Exploration of a Sense of Safety in Three-Generation Low-Income Families, Kaitlin Mulcahy, Brad van Eeden-Moorefield

The phenomenon of a sense of safety within family units has emerged as an interest of further exploration, yet, the phenomenon of the sense of safety in families has not yet been explored in the discipline of family science. This study used a constructivist, strengths-based epistemology and post-intentional phenomenological methodology and arts-based analytic methods to conduct an entirely strengths-based effort to explore how the sense of safety is experienced in three-generation families who report incomes at a maximum of 150% of the federal poverty level.

Kaitlin Mulcahy and Brad van Eeden-Moorefield are at Montclair State University.

(Session #011-02) Toward a Conceptual Model of Successful Transgender Aging: Findings From a Systematic Qualitative Meta-Synthesis, Steffany Sloan, Jacquelyn J. Benson

Transgender elders have been subject to life-long stigma and marginalization, resulting in significant social and health consequences. Despite these challenges, transgender elders report thriving in later life. In order to attend to the nuanced experiences of transgender elders, theoretical models of successful aging must reflect complexities presented by gender minority status. In order to address theoretical gaps, a systematic qualitative meta-synthesis was conducted to summarize findings across the body of qualitative transgender aging research. Themes from this analysis contributed to developing a culturally relevant theoretical model of successful aging for transgender elders that centralizes the role of gender expression.

Steffany Sloan and Jacquelyn J. Benson are at the University of Missouri where Steffany is a student.

Paper Session 5, Tuesday, November 19, 2:15-2:55 pm (Session #012)

Theorizing Family Leisure

Discussant: Adam Galovan

(Session #012-01) Leisure Participation and Parent Well-Being in Nuclear, Stepparent, and Single-Parent Families, Camilla J. Hodge, Jocelyn S. Wikle

Family leisure has been linked to quality of family life; however, family leisure research has focused almost exclusively on nuclear, two-parent families. The Ecology of Family Experiences framework positions family leisure outcomes such as well-being as the product of Family and Activity factors over Time. We evaluate differences in family leisure participation and parents’ well-being during family leisure by family structure using a large, nationally representative data sample of parents from the American Time Use Survey (N = 69,199). Single parents report a large deficit in home-based family leisure participation, and higher levels of positive affect (i.e., well-being) during leisure.

Camilla J. Hodge is an Assistant Professor at the University of Utah; Jocelyn S. Wikle is at Brigham Young University.
Paper Session 6, Tuesday, November 19, 2:15-4:00 pm (Session #013)

Advancing Theory in Therapeutic Approaches

Discussant: Stan Knapp

(Session #013-01) Integrating Postmodern Therapy Into Qualitative Research: Guiding Theory Into Methods, Carlos Perez

Recent attention has been paid and innovation explored in qualitative data collection and analysis. Epistemology, philosophy, memoing, reflexivity, and openness of the researcher are imperative to the practice of qualitative research. However, in these practices, other characteristics of the researcher are seldom discussed. This workshop will draw from postmodern theories of counseling and marriage and family therapy and apply therapist characteristics to the researcher’s methods and approach to inquiry. This paper argues that the researcher and therapist have strong similarities. A qualitative researcher, with traits similar to a therapist, can expand the process of research, collecting and analyzing rich data.

Carlos Perez is an Associate Professor at Lubbock Christian College.

(Session #013-02) Structured Experiential Theory: Combining Structural and Experiential Family Therapy, Bornell Nicolson

We can build healthier families. Families have inherent structures to how they operate. How that structure is set up—be it rigid, diffuse or clear boundaries, enmeshment or disengaged (Minuchin, 1974)—impacts a family’s ability to handle change. Family members experience themselves and their relatives through this structure. Healthier families can break free of their old ways of interacting and adapt to transitions and shifts when problems arise. Here I combine Structural Family Therapy (SFT) with Symbolic Experiential Family Therapy (SEFT) to approach a more holistic understanding of families. It is a freedom within limits that then allows for the most optimal family functioning.

Bornell Nicolson is a student at Kansas State University.

Workshop 3, Tuesday, November 19, 3:00 - 6:00 pm (Session #014)


Discussant: Thomas Bradbury

Evaluation science and its potential for useful application and meaningful impact on the families served by community partners continues to evolve. However, the field’s origins in bench science and medicine continue to create a tension for evaluators between academic expectations of rigor, and programmatic focus on utility and feasibility. The balancing of these tensions, and efforts to improve the representation of marginalized segments of the population in the evidence base, leads to epistemological questions about the perspectives and agendas that underpin evaluation. This workshop critically examines these issues and aims to: 1) describe the primary limitations of traditional methods in meeting current programmatic needs, 2) review some emerging evaluation paradigms that address these limitations, and 3) offer recommendations for creating a more expansive evidence base.

Beth Russell is at the University of Connecticut; Amy Lewin and Ghaffar Ali Hurtado Choque are at the University of Maryland
Paper Session 7, Tuesday, November 19, 3:00-6:00 pm (Session #016)
Who Counts? Conceptualizing Inclusion and Exclusion

Discussant: Daniel Puhlman

(Session #016-01) A Paradigm Shift From Social Exclusion to Inclusion: An Action Research Intervention, Diana Cedeno

Social exclusion and inclusion have been researched in European contexts, among middle-class families, and from a quantitative perspective, however, its research has remained elusive in the U.S. The social exclusion and inclusion debate centers around its several definitions, which results problematic from a theoretical and methodological perspective. The first purpose of this study is to propose a paradigm shift from social exclusion to social inclusion to break the dichotomy between the two terms. The second is to provide a proper definition of social inclusion and the third is to describe how to develop and deliver a social inclusion intervention.

Diana Cedeno is at Montclair State University.

(Session #016-02) The Poverty Paradox: Conceptualizing the Relational Dance Between Privilege and Oppression, Julie A. Zaloudek, Amanda E. Barnett

The time has come for a new conceptual model for explaining and alleviating poverty – the relational dance between generational privilege and generational oppression. We synthesize literature on wealth and privilege, poverty and oppression, which spans family science and a range of disciplines to create a framework that elevates generational privilege to the same level of societal concern as generational oppression. This theoretical proposition takes a critical approach to challenging the dominant narrative of the intergenerational transmission of poverty and the ontological assumptions of current poverty-focused models to advocate for a more balanced and just narrative that better sustains all families.

Julie A. Zaloudek is at Century College.

(Session #016-03) Theorizing Hookup Behavior Through An Intersectional Lens, Jacqueline Bible, Brad van Eeden-Moorefield

Hookup behavior has long been studied in the context of White, heterosexual, college students. Because of this, the field has a limited understanding of the processes, meanings, and experiences of individuals outside of this demographic (e.g. racial and sexual minorities, noncollege attending individuals, older adults). Further, it neglects to consider how social power, privilege, and social location play into hookup processes. Therefore, this paper suggests using intersectionality to frame hookup research and outlines ways in which this could progress theory, practice, and future research.

Jacqueline Bible and Brad van Eeden-Moorefield are at Montclair State University.

(Session #016-04) Women’s and Men’s Participation in and Valuation of Production and Social Reproduction, Maya Autret, Brad van Eeden-Moorefield

Drawing on Foucault’s conceptual framework of power, we aim to achieve a better understanding of the interplay between power and agency. We begin by distinguishing different levels of power and how they function; direct control being the exertion of power at the individual and dyadic level and social control at an aggregate level, which exudes its own effects and is not controllable by a single person or act. Importantly, we propose that ideology plays a critical role in the way individuals exert and are subject to power and theorize about ideology’s influence over individuals and their agency. Specifically, we see ideology as a lever that moderates individuals’ agency, where increased consciousness of the ideology’s influence enables more agency, and decreased awareness results in less agency. Although not all individuals enjoy equitable societal privilege, they are all able to equally contribute toward social control. This adapted conceptual framework of power and agency provides a novel approach to analyzing and influencing power relations.

Mayra Autret and Brad van Eeden-Moorefield are at Montclair State University.
TCRM Reception/Business Meeting and Update on the Sourcebook
Tuesday, November 19, 6:15-8:45 pm

(Session #017)

(TCRM is made possible with the support of NCFR’s Journal of Family Theory & Review.)

Presiders: Adam M. Galovan and Spencer James, 2019 TCRM Co-chairs
This meeting is open to all registered participants of the 2019 TCRM Workshop and/or the 2019 NCFR Annual Conference.

Following the Business Meeting, Kari Adamsons, April Few-Demo, Christine Proulx, and Kevin Roy, Sourcebook Editors, will report on the progress of the Sourcebook.

Paper Session 8, Wednesday, November 20, 8:00-9:45 am (Session #106)

Using Complex Statistics Correctly

Discussant: Jeremy Yorgason

(Session #106-01) A Novel Use of Zero-Inflated Models: Combining Events and Intensity, Isaac Washburn, Clint Broadbent
Zero-Inflated models are widely utilized to deal with an over-abundance of zeros in intensity data where the data has a natural zero. This paper will show how using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) versions of Zero-Inflated models frees up the restriction of a natural zero. In particular, we will present an overview of common regression models for zero-inflated data (Poisson and negative binomial) and contrast those with their SEM counterparts (Poisson, negative binomial, and semicontinuous). Lastly, we will provide examples of novel outcomes and how they are handled in these various models using both real examples and simulated data

Isaac Washburn is an Assistant Professor at Oklahoma State University; Clint Broadbent is at Southern Utah University.

Sometimes social scientists fabricate their data; sometimes, the reports contain typographical errors. How can we detect such flaws and tell the difference among them? We review six ways to detect problematic data, using social science articles published since 2000, some of which have been found to have been total fabrications. Some mistakes can easily be corrected and are not much of an issue; however, in some cases, our approach may help detect fraudulent or fabricated data.

Walter Schumm is at Kansas State University.

(Session #106-03) P-Hacking? How About P-Slashing? Walter Schumm, Duane Crawford, Lorenza Lockett (Presented by Lorenza Lockett)
“p-hacking” is a term that labels attempts to find significant results when there may be none. We propose a term “p-slashing” which refers to avoiding findings of statistical significance. Several popular methods for this are described, using recent published articles in major journals. Potential remedies for discovering “p-slashing” are discussed.

Walter Schumm is at Kansas State University.
Paper Session 9, Wednesday, November 20, 8:00-9:45 am (Session #107)

Family Measurement and Paradigms

Discussant: Kevin Shafer

(Session #107-01) Towards More Accurate Measures of Family Structure: Accounting For Sibling Complexity, Caroline Sanner, Todd Jensen

In this paper, we argue that accounting for sibling complexity is a necessary step towards more accurate assessments of family structure. Using qualitative data from a grounded theory study, we first shed light on the complexity of sibling compositions through exemplar cases of half- and stepsiblings. Second, we explore the barriers to accounting for sibling complexity by analyzing the extent to which these complex constellations are captured in publicly available secondary datasets recently used to study families. Finally, we consider the implications of failing to account for sibling complexity in family research and offer recommendations for future data collection efforts.

Caroline Sanner is a lecturer at the University of British Columbia; Todd Jensen is at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

(Session #107-02) Coparenting and Gatekeeping: Are They The Same Thing? Daniel Puhlman, Raymond Petren

Although research and theory have focused more on coparenting and parental gatekeeping in recent years, the conceptual link among these constructs remains unclear. The authors suggest that gatekeeping is a unique aspect of coparenting that is contingent upon power imbalances and perceptions of power and control in coparental relationships and examine gatekeeping as a dynamic that varies across contexts. In line with family systems theory, gatekeeping is proposed as an indication of a dysfunctional coparental subsystem wherein one parent establishes control over one or more domains of childrearing in the absence of collaboration between coparents.

Daniel Puhlman is an Assistant Professor at the University of Maine; Raymond Petren is at Penn State University.

Session #107-03) The Ecosystemic Masculinity Paradigm: An Existential Multi-Systemic Approach to Masculine Psychology, Anthony Mielke

This paper proposes the Ecosystemic Masculinity Paradigm, which addresses the implications of traditional masculine ideology adherence from systemic and existential perspectives. Foundational theoretical work in masculine psychology provided the foundation for empirical research establishing the negative effect of traditional masculine ideology on a male’s individual and relational health. There is, however, a distinct lack of theoretical work considering the multi-systemic and existential factors that may contribute to continued adherence to traditional masculine ideology tenets despite ongoing individual and relational consequences for males. This paper proposes theoretical constructs that operationalize concepts such as belonging, isolation, ideology, and subjective experience to address this gap in masculine psychology literature.

Anthony Mielke is an Assistant Professor at Mount Mary University.

Special Session, Wednesday, November 20, 10:00 - 11:15 am

(Session #121)

Theory as a Prelude to Action, Thomas Bradbury, Ph.D.

(This session is sponsored by the University of Maryland - Department of Family Science)

Facilitator: Adam M. Galovan

Few tasks are more important, or more challenging, than enabling couples and families to function at their highest potential. Managing the complexity of this task requires an appreciation of basic processes that affect the behaviors of individuals, dyads, and entire family units, together with recognition of how interventions and social policies might modify and bolster focal patterns of interaction in these social systems. Conceptual frameworks and formal theories are crucial tools for organizing existing knowledge, for maximizing the value of future research, and,
perhaps most importantly, for determining how best to intervene to promote strong and healthy partnerships. In this talk Dr. Bradbury will discuss his experiences developing and testing a conceptual framework that attempts to explain relationship development and deterioration as a function of the enduring vulnerabilities and experiences that partners would bring to any relationship, the stressful events circumstances that can dysregulate partners and their partnership, and the adaptive interpersonal processes by which couples contend with various challenges while striving to remain close and connected (Vulnerability-Stress-Adaptation Model; Karney & Bradbury, 1995). Reviews of recent longitudinal research on how couples develop and change naturally, combined with analyses of recent clinical and policy-oriented interventions intended to strengthen couples and families, will be used to illustrate critical gaps in this model and to highlight promising next steps for developing informed and informative theories of couple and family functioning.

Thomas Bradbury, Ph.D., is Distinguished Professor, UCLA Department of Psychology

(TCRM is made possible with the support of NCFR’s Journal of Family Theory & Review.)