



SPECIAL ISSUE CALL FOR PAPERS

Journal of Family Theory & Review

Midrange Theories about Families

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Submissions due: March 15, 2021

To promote active engagement with theory and theorizing in family science, we are calling for papers that focus on the creation of midrange theories about families. Currently, there is a dearth of empirical research in family science that truly uses theory to inform its hypotheses, methods, analyses, and interpretation of findings. On the deductive side, scholars often either engage in “post hoc theorizing,” adding on whatever theory seems to best fit their findings after the fact, or fail to mention theory at all. Similar problems exist on the inductive side of research, with far more scholars claiming to use a grounded theory approach, for example, than actually engaging in the development of theory from their data.

Midrange theories (sometimes also called mid-range models) are a promising entry point for scholars to engage in theorizing. Midrange theories constitute the “middle ground” between formal theories and frameworks (like Symbolic Interactionism or Family Systems Theory) on the one hand, and empirical generalizations on the other (Doherty, Boss, LaRossa, Schumm, & Steinmetz, 1993). Midrange theories use theoretical constructs and propositions to explain, predict, or understand a particular phenomenon.

This special issue seeks to bring together scholars across different theoretical frameworks, content areas, and methodological approaches to theorize about families. For this special issue, midrange theories should be either deductively derived from theory or inductively created (or both, sometimes called transduction). For deductive theories, the model must be explicitly derived from a particular theory or theories, and theoretical constructs and propositions (or proposed theoretical extensions/modifications) must justify all components of the model. Such papers should present their midrange theory and describe how it was theoretically derived, discuss existing empirical literature that supports their proposed model, point out gaps or inconsistencies in the existing literature that their midrange theory suggests should be explored, and offer implications of their midrange theory for the “higher order” theory from which it was derived. For inductive theories, a theory should be presented that was inductively derived from empirical data. Like deductive papers, authors should present their midrange theory and should describe the data/literature from which their midrange theory is being derived and the process by which it was developed. Submissions representing undertheorized areas of family research are particularly encouraged. **Papers that simply present empirical models without theory clearly behind or derived from them and empirical articles that just test theoretical hypotheses will not be considered.**

Manuscripts should not exceed 35 double-spaced pages including references and appendices. Please note in the cover letter that the manuscript is being submitted to the special issue “Midrange Theories About Families.” For manuscript preparation guidelines and to submit a manuscript, go to <http://www.ncftr.org/jftr/submit-jftr>.

Please contact the guest editors with questions or to discuss submission ideas. **We encourage authors to submit brief proposals describing their topic and proposed ideas to the guest editors before submitting a full manuscript:**

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