

National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) 80th Annual Conference

Wed.–Sat., Nov. 7–10, 2018 (preconference workshops Tues., Nov. 6)
San Diego, California | Town and Country Resort & Convention Center



Program Chair:
Bahira Sherif Trask, Ph.D.
University of Delaware

Proposal Submission Deadline:
11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time
March 1, 2018

Conference Theme

Families and Cultural Intersections in a Global Context: Innovations in Research, Practice, and Policies

Contemporary families live in a world that is complex, increasingly interconnected, and culturally diverse. Families are affected by continuously evolving economic, technological, ideological, cultural, and political changes. In many areas, a decreasing fertility rate, the decline in household size, the aging population, and the sharp increase in the proportion of women entering the labor force have led to new and diverse family arrangements.

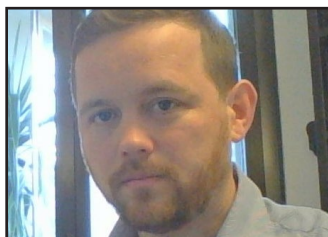
Despite these changes, families remain a central arena for promoting the well-being and resiliency of their members. The 2018 NCFR Annual Conference will focus on innovative approaches, theories, research, policies, and programs that support and strengthen families in all types of Western and non-Western settings. Of particular interest are proposals that focus on new lines of research and prevention and intervention approaches, programs, and policies that support vulnerable families.

The theme allows for a wide variety of topics, debates, and policy analyses. Find examples and more information about submitting your proposal at ncfr.org/ncfr-2018. The online proposal submission system opens in January 2018.

Confirmed Plenary Speakers



Nora Spinks, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
The Vanier Institute of the Family
*Topic: Perspectives on Family Diversity
in Canada*



Dominic Richardson, Ph.D.
Senior Education Specialist
UNICEF, Office of Research–Innocenti
*Topic: Supporting the Most Vulnerable
Families Through Culturally Appropriate
Policies*



Carola Suárez-Orozco, Ph.D.
Professor, Human Development
and Psychology, UCLA
Cofounder, Re-imagining Migration
*Topic: Family Influences on Latino
Adolescent Educational Achievements*

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Sustainable Conference Goals

- To highlight research on families in Western and non-Western contexts, culturally and socially marginalized families, and families that live at or embody cultural intersections.
- To feature innovative evidence-based best practices, programs, and pedagogies that promote family resiliency and well-being in varying settings.
- To draw attention to and critically analyze policies that support and strengthen all types of families, including the most vulnerable.

2018 Conference Program Committee

Program Chair: **Bahira Sherif Trask**, Univ. of Delaware

Program Chair-Elect:
Katia Paz Goldfarb, Montclair State Univ.

Affiliated Councils Program Chair:
Brandon Burr, Univ. of Central Oklahoma

Section Chairs:
Advancing Family Science:
Raeann Hamon, Messiah College

Education and Enrichment:
(Chair-Elect) **Wendy Middlemiss**, Univ. of North Texas

Ethnic Minorities:
Roudi Nazarinia Roy, California State Univ.-Long Beach

Families and Health:
Jerica Berge, Univ. of Minnesota

Family Policy:
Anne Farrell, Chapin Hall at the Univ. of Chicago

Family Therapy:
Thomas Stone Carlson, North Dakota State Univ.

Feminism and Family Studies:
Abbie E. Goldberg, Clark Univ.

International:
Mihaela Robila, Queens College, City Univ. of New York

Religion, Spirituality, and Family:
Michael Goodman, Brigham Young Univ.

Research and Theory:
Kari Adamsons, Univ. of Connecticut

Students and New Professionals (SNPs):
Katie M. Barrow, Louisiana Tech Univ.

Jessica Fish, Univ. of Texas at Austin

Inclusion and Diversity Committee (IDC) Representative:
Miriam Mulsow, Texas Tech Univ.

Theory Construction and Research Methodology (TCRM) Workshop Co-Chairs:
W. Justin Dyer, Brigham Young Univ.
Sylvia Bartolic, Univ. of British Columbia

Ex Officio:
NCFR Executive Director:
Diane Cushman
NCFR Director of Research and Policy Education:
Jennifer Crosswhite
NCFR Conference and Meeting Planner: **Judy Schutz**
Program Consultant: **Cindy Winter**

Conference Presentation Formats

NCFR considers all formats of equal value, and are reviewed with the same criteria.

For questions regarding content, call or email the chair of the section to which you will be submitting.

For technical or process questions, email Cindy Winter (cindywinter@ncfr.org).

Remember that the more choices in presentation format you provide ensures a better chance of being accepted if the review scores are high enough. You'll choose from among the following presentation formats:

Lightning Paper Session — 6 papers centered on a common theme. Focuses only on key findings/observations, followed by a question and answer time. Each presenter has 8 minutes to present. A maximum of 8 slides are to be prepared in advance.

Paper Session — 3-4 papers that coalesce around a common idea or theme, followed by a question and answer time. Each presenter has approximately 12 minutes to present.

Poster — A graphical, instructional display containing a short abstract, headlines, charts, graphs, pie charts, or other illustrative information. It provides an opportunity for in-depth discussion of presentations with attendees. Posters are scored using the same criteria as papers, symposia, and workshops and are equal in merit to all other formats.

Poster Symposium — An addition to the poster session. Authors prepare material as a regular poster. During the last 20-30 minutes of the poster session, a facilitator leads a discussion among each of the posters presenters grouped within the poster symposium and the audience.

Symposium — A presentation and discussion by 3-4 experts on a particular topic. A discussant integrates and summarizes the papers, develops implications for policy and practice from the research, and initiates audience discussion. **See below for special instructions for symposia proposals.**

Workshop — A **training session** in which the speaker leads participants through exercises or skills development in a given field.

Other special formats for sections are described below, under their section plans.

Special Instructions for a Symposium Proposal

- **On Page 1**, include the following:
 - (1) symposium title
 - (2) a list of individual paper titles and authors
 - (3) symposium chair and discussant names

- **Page 2** is a one-page description (i.e., abstract) of the symposium, including how all the individual papers fit together. Include three measurable objectives (**see the shaded box on page 4 for sample objectives**).

- **Page 3 and following:** Prepare a proposal of no more than 500 words and one page of tables/references for each of the papers to be presented in the symposium. Combine everything into one document. For questions about content, contact the section chair to whom you will submit your proposal (email addresses on succeeding pages). For questions about the computer submission process, contact Cindy Winter (cindywinter@ncfr.org).

For all first authors and the discussant, you must list a current employer and title, highest degree earned, discipline and institution from which the highest degree was attained, current licenses, and email addresses. Include email addresses, credentials, and affiliations for the chair and all co-authors.

Criteria for Proposals

- The proposal describes work that meets BOTH of the following criteria:
 - (a) Progress on the work is far enough along so that a polished presentation can be prepared in time for the conference; AND
 - (b) Regardless of focus (i.e., research, practice), a prescribed methodological approach is used which is appropriate and rigorous.
- The proposal is clearly written and logically organized, with complete references provided.

- Proposals can be based on qualitative, quantitative, or mixed method research, or can focus on systematic literature reviews, analyses of theoretical or pedagogical approach from which the scholarship was conducted.
 - (a) Regardless of focus, the proposal explicitly articulates a strong connection to existing research;
 - (b) Regardless of focus, the proposal explicitly articulates a strong connection to theory;
 - (c) The proposal has the potential to stimulate new knowledge and/or innovative practices.

Proposal Submission Checklist

- **Proposal title** (maximum of 75 characters, including spaces and punctuation)
 - **Select a primary subject keyword.** (See list on page 13 of this document.)
 - **Name your first and second choice of preferred formats** (e.g., paper, symposium, workshop, poster, poster symposium, lightning paper, resource exchange roundtables, etc.).
 - **Proposal Focus:** Indicate the focus of your proposal. Is it: a quantitative research study; a qualitative research study; a mixed methods research study; is it a literature review; evaluation, policy analysis, an intervention, teaching technique, research or practice methodology?
 - **Determine to which group you will submit your proposal:** one of the 10 sections; affiliate councils; Students and New Professionals (SNP only accepts proposals that address professional development); or TCRM.
 - **Prepare a short abstract.** This is a 100-word synopsis of your proposal, keyed into the submission system. Do not list the names of the authors on the abstract. The computer program tracks author identity.
 - **Prepare a long proposal** and save it as a PDF (you will only be allowed to submit your proposal as a PDF). This document is used for the review process. The proposal consists of no more than 1,000 words plus a maximum of two pages of figures/tables and one page of references. Do not list author names or address. The proposal is reviewed anonymously in a blind-review process.
- Your long proposal must include the following elements** (no abstract):
- **Thesis/Aims/Goals:** Begin by summarizing the thesis of your proposal, followed by the aims and goals. Because of the brevity of the proposal, make your point up front rather than writing your entire proposal before you get to the purpose.
 - **Methods:** Write the main points; do not include reasons in support of your thesis. Briefly discuss the methods you are using to provide evidence for your thesis and show how this is timely, relevant, and cutting-edge. Explain the implementation of your methods. Demonstrate your knowledge on the methods you used and explain how they benefit your research.
 - **Analysis and Preliminary Results/Conclusions:** Indicate the kinds of procedures you are using to answer your hypothesis, and provide preliminary results and conclusions based on the data that you have collected. Readers will want to know the possible benefits and drawbacks of your research.
 - **Implications for Practice/Policy:** Discuss the potential impact of your results. Be sure that you show how your research can be applied.

See our webpage at bit.ly/NCFRLitRev for specific tips for writing a successful literature review.

Prepare 3 Measurable Objectives for Your Proposal

Sample objectives:

- To evaluate the effectiveness of the [insert title here] family program.
- To analyze the [insert policy here] from a family perspective.
- To demonstrate the return on investments families provide in health care.

The NCFR Annual Conference is an approved continuing education (CE) provider for National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), and for Certified Family Life Educators (CFLE). As such, additional information, including objectives, is required during the proposal submission process to ensure we have the required information for the CE application.

Submission Questions

May I submit a previously published/presented paper?

No. Papers that have been published or previously presented are not accepted.

When will I know if my proposal has been accepted?

You will be notified by June 1, 2018.

If my proposal is accepted, what is expected of me?

- At least one author of accepted proposals must attend the conference, register, and pay the registration fee.
- Upload copies of the PowerPoint slides you will be using to the NCFR website by one week prior to the conference.
- If your presentation is accepted as a paper, symposium, lightning paper, or poster symposium, a copy of your final presentation must be sent to the session facilitator/discussant by Oct. 15, 2018. You also are required to upload your presentation PowerPoint slides to the NCFR website (except poster symposium).

May I submit more than one proposal as a first author?

Yes.

How to Submit Your Proposal Online

Stay tuned for more information about how to submit your proposal through the online submission system.

NCFR, through Oxford Abstracts, is pleased to provide an improved online submission system for 2018. Among other improvements, the upgraded system will:

- feature an updated and more user-friendly interface, where all fields appear on the same webpage;
- be better optimized for current internet browsers and devices; and
- improve the process for re-entering the system to continue an incomplete proposal, or further amend an already completed proposal (until the submission deadline).

Please note: The submission system will now require submitters to submit *names, email addresses, and credentials* of **all authors** of their work.

NCFR will post and publicize complete details about how to navigate the online submission system prior to when the system opens in mid-January 2018.

To submit a proposal when the online submission system is open:

- 1. Visit ncfr.org/call-for-proposals**
- 2. Click on “Submit a Proposal”**

Proposal Submission Deadline:

11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time | March 1, 2018

NCFR Resources Available

NCFR has created **free webcasts** on the NCFR conference submission and review process to help submitters and presenters prepare for the conference. Find these webcasts on the NCFR website:

- **How to Submit a Conference Proposal**
(bit.ly/NCFRsubmit)
- **Understanding NCFR Conference Presentation Formats** (bit.ly/NCFRformats)
Includes a guide for students and new professionals, and roles of/tips for authors, facilitators, and discussants.
- **How to Review a Conference Proposal**
(bit.ly/NCFRreview)

Proposal Mentoring Program

NCFR offers a conference proposal mentoring program. We have assembled a cadre of experienced presenters who are willing to volunteer their time to help you with your proposal.

To participate, email a draft proposal to Cindy Winter (cindywinter@ncfr.org) **before Feb. 15, 2018.**

We will match you with a supportive mentor who will give you feedback before you submit your proposal online.

Section, Affiliate, SNP, and TCRM Calls for Proposals



Advancing Family Science (AFS) Raeann R. Hamon, Chair

The AFS Section seeks to expand, strengthen, and enhance the Family Science discipline and profession. In particular, the section is concerned with issues related to the strength and sustainability of Family Science programs, including marketing and recruiting for Family Science programs; innovative and effective teaching strategies for Family Sciences courses including the development, delivery, and evaluation of Family Science curricula; best practices for administrators of Family Science programs; ethical issues in the practice of Family Science; and the state of Family Science as a discipline. The section welcomes conference proposals which address these issues.

We also are interested in proposals which address the 2018 theme, *Families and Cultural Intersections in a Global Context: Innovations in Research, Practice, and Policies*. More specifically, presenters might consider how the discipline of Family Science and the curriculum within Family Science programs can contribute to conversations about families in global contexts. Examples of topics related to the conference theme might include:

- How study abroad and other international collaborative partnerships help to expand Family Science student awareness about families and cultural intersections in a global context.
- Skills necessary for Family Science students to work with increasingly complex and culturally diverse families.
- Innovative strategies for teaching about contemporary challenges and salient topics in Family Science.
- Approaches for educating students about their capacity to build bridges between disparate family and cultural groups.
- Expanding Family Science programs and the influence of Family Life Education across the globe.
- The role of Family Science administrators in advancing Family Science programs and the discipline by addressing pressing needs of families across the globe.

In addition to the many other conference proposal formats, we will again feature Resource Exchange Roundtables during the AFS Section member meeting. (See special instructions for this format on this page.)

Proposals focusing on theory development, research methodology, and specific issues confronted by families do not fall within the focus of the AFS Section and would be a more appropriate fit for another section.

We encourage submissions of proposals from all Family Science professionals, including administrators, educators, and students. NCFR student members who serve as first authors of the accepted proposals are eligible for the Wesley Burr Student Paper Award which includes a cash award. Applicants must be members of the AFS Section.

Contact: Raeann R. Hamon, Messiah College, Department of Human Development and Family Science; email: rhamon@messiah.edu



Education and Enrichment (EE) Wendy Middlemiss, Chair-Elect

The EE Section welcomes proposals that focus on programs, resources, and scholarship that increase practitioners' effectiveness in providing education and enrichment for individuals, couples, parents, and families. The 2018 conference theme offers an opportunity to submit proposals that examine how Family Life Education (i.e., programming, evaluation, research) contributes to family-culture intersections highlighting practices, policies, and research unique to our section goals. Proposals highlighting educational family- and community-level evidence-informed best practices, as well as innovative tools and approaches supporting families across these contexts, are welcome. Fitting this year's theme, proposals can include, but are not limited to, exploring the role of how Family Life Educators address family within and across a diversity of cultural settings.

Proposals related to a broad variety of topics covered within Family Life Education also are welcome. We encourage established family educators,

students, and new professionals to submit proposals.

In addition to the regular conference formats (see page 3), we will feature **Resource Exchange Roundtables** during the section member meeting. Highlighting the role of practice as integral to Family Science, we are looking both for resources from an applied setting and basic research to strengthen the work of Family Life Educators. See special instructions for this format on this page.

Proposals from students as the sole or primary author are encouraged. Outstanding student proposals from students who are EE Section members are recognized with a cash award and registration waiver. All proposal types are considered for the award.

Contact: Wendy Middlemiss, University of North Texas, Department of Educational Psychology; email: Wendy.Middlemiss@unt.edu

Special Instructions for Advancing Family Science and Education and Enrichment Resource Exchanges Roundtables

In addition to all conference proposal formats, the Advancing Family Science and Education and Enrichment Sections will again feature Resource Exchanges Roundtables during their combined section member meetings.

The Resource Exchange Roundtable is an interactive opportunity to demonstrate an educational, administrative, enrichment, or pedagogical (e.g., specific curricula or teaching technique) resource that has been particularly useful when working with students, families, professionals, or other populations. An overview is given by the leader who then facilitates active discussion about the topic. Evidence of effectiveness such as evaluation data should be provided in the proposal.

Please note: Resource Exchange Roundtable submissions for the AFS and EE Section member meeting go through the normal proposal review and evaluation process. Those accepted for the conference program are peer reviewed.



Ethnic Minorities (EM)
Roudi Nazarinia Roy, Chair

The EM Section examines child, youth, individual, family, and community issues within the sociopolitical, historical, economic, and cultural context and through the lens of ethnicity, race, and other social addresses. We specifically focus on the social, cultural, biological, regional and ancestral characteristics, traditions, learned behaviors, customs, and adaptive tendencies found at all levels of the human ecology. Our section strives to continue the legacy of our past section members **Marie F. Peters** and **John L. and Harriette P. McAdoo**. The goal of the 2018 conference will be to focus on “innovative approaches, theories, research, policies, and programs that support and strengthen families in all types of Western and non-Western settings. Of particular interest are proposals that focus on new lines of research and prevention and intervention approaches, programs, and policies that support vulnerable families” in various settings. When thinking of this year’s conference theme one might consider:

- How immigration policies and practices have impacted ethnic minority families in the United States.
- How globalization has influenced the way we teach about ethnic diversity in the United States.
- How immigration and globalization have influenced what we know and how we work with ethnic minority families.
- How transborder* families have been affected by and are dealing with the current political climate in the United States.
- How the strengths of ethnic minority families have promoted their resilience and well-being.
- How existing prevention programs can be adapted to meet the needs of the ever growing and diverse population of ethnic families.
- How we can promote and learn from the strengths and resilience of ethnic minority families.
- How we can continue to acknowledge the within group differences that exist among ethnic families in the current United States cultural climate.

**Broadly, transborder families represent families living in a border region between*

two or more countries. In this perspective, a border is not limited to physical or natural boundaries or to geopolitical borders between countries, and can include metaphysical and psychological borders that cannot be seen or felt by families occupying the same territory.

We encourage and welcome other research, theory, practices, and policies that provide a cultural perspective on any aspect of the 2018 conference theme and research that emphasizes children, youth, and families from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Scholars, practitioners, new professionals, and students of all ethnic, racial, and diverse backgrounds are encouraged to submit proposals. Accepted proposals submitted by Students or New Professionals (SNP)—who are members of the EM Section—will be considered for the SNP Best Paper Award for the section. The submission must demonstrate research that is completed and focused on a topic that has direct relevance to ethnic families.

Contact: Roudi Nazarinia Roy, California State University, Long Beach, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences; email: roudi.roy@csulb.edu



Families and Health (FH)
Jerica Berge, Chair

The mission of the FH Section is to promote the health and well-being of all families and their family members through interdisciplinary activities that facilitate excellence in family health practice, research, education, and policy development. Even though our members come from diverse backgrounds, we stand together in our commitment to improve the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities. We view health holistically and on a continuum that encompasses a variety of wellness and disease states. We also believe health promotion and prevention activities are important, as are projects that address myriad situations affecting families and their well-being. We encourage the submission of proposals related to the conference theme or any aspect of families and health.

Given the focus of the 2018 conference theme, we highly encourage proposal submissions highlighting research, theory, policies, and best practices that address

global families and health issues. Such areas include:

- health and well-being;
- the reduction of health disparities for individuals, families, communities, and societies;
- obesity prevention and/or treatment;
- chronic conditions (physical and mental health);
- public health prevention (e.g., community health workers, nursing);
- health and wellness issues across the lifespan (birth to death);
- relational influences on health (e.g., siblings, partners); and
- community influences on health (e.g., schools, health care centers, community mental health centers, military, churches, parks and recreation centers).

The section is interested in proposals that utilize innovative methodologies (e.g., direct observational methods, ecological momentary assessment [EMA], geographical informational systems [GIS]) and mixed-methods in gaining a more in-depth understanding of socioecological influences on families and health issues.

The section also is interested in proposal submissions that present information on

- health-related interventions and outcomes-based research;
- practical solutions to family health issues;
- integrated reviews of topics related to family health, or the effects of disability, illness, caregiving, loss, sleep, conflict, violence, substance abuse, risk behaviors, etc. for family members.

Established scholars, new professionals, and students are encouraged to submit proposals to us. We especially encourage symposium submissions with established scholars as presenting authors. Each year, the FH Section acknowledges two outstanding papers from students and professionals and two posters from undergraduate and graduate students with monetary awards. **FH Section members who are interested in applying** can email their applications to the Section Chair-elect, Kimberly Greder (kgreder@iastate.edu), by email before June 1, 2018.

Contact: Jerica M. Berge, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Minnesota Medical School phone: 612-626-3693; email: jberge@umn.edu



Family Policy (FP)
Anne Farrell, Chair

NCFR is the national organization committed to informing our understanding of how families live, struggle, and (hopefully) thrive. It is hard to imagine a public system, market, industry, or academic discipline that does not intersect with family life. We live in a global society; this year's international theme should not preclude you from submitting work that addresses any and all facets of family life!

The primary mission of the FP Section is to examine the influence of social policies and laws on all aspects of family life, including the ways in which policies facilitate and/or hinder family well-being across the lifespan and across the diversities of families. We recognize that policies influence the functioning, adaptation, coping, and health of individuals, families, and communities and that we as researchers, educators, practitioners, and policymakers can influence policy matters in the academy, at the state and national levels, and globally. Through our scholarship and translation of research findings in our teaching, practice, outreach, and engagement, policy implications abound.

The FP Section aims to leverage this year's theme by emphasizing the ways in which research can inform policy. Of particular interest are proposals that focus on **new lines of research and prevention and intervention approaches, programs, and policies that support vulnerable families.**

- Does your work address family structure?
- The effectiveness of programs and strategies that attempt to build individual and family resilience?
- Promote community?
- Reduce the effects of trauma and stress?
- Help parents manage in an increasingly complex media atmosphere?

Research in any and all of these areas is of policy relevance, and we warmly invite you to submit your proposals.

The FP Section also seeks proposals that reflect the ways in which Family Science both reflects and informs the ecology of child and family development. Topics might include:

- the relationship of family and community, including their shared capacity to reciprocally influence development and outcomes;
- the experience of adversity, poverty, and toxic stress;
- the capacity of public and private programs, supports, and systems to capitalize on resilience and shore up vulnerable families; and
- the efficacy and efficiency of programs and systems with respect to improving well-being.

Research designs need not be embedded in or emerge strictly from policy, however, authors and presenters should devote significant attention to the potential impact of research (e.g., how methods and findings might inform public policy or policy relevant outcomes including access, cost, and well-being). Proposals should examine how policies and laws influence the functioning and well-being of individuals, children, and families through a community lens not only within the United States but globally.

In addition to proposals addressing the conference theme directly, the FP Section encourages submissions of all formats that investigate:

- the influence of social policies on family structures and functioning, family processes and transitions, and
- the ways in which individuals and families navigate, negotiate, and make meaning of their lives in multiple and global contexts.

As a section, we are keenly interested in examining effective and innovative methods of teaching family policy, and how scholars conduct policy analysis both within and distinct from scholarship, how researchers negotiate policy engagements through a range of activities.

Proposals submitted to the FP Section should include a clearly articulated policy context or clearly articulated policy implications. Prospective presenters are advised to consider a range of policy-relevant questions, especially as they might relate to the priorities of major public systems (e.g., healthcare, education, child welfare, housing, juvenile and criminal justice, financial supports for needy families, mental health and substance abuse, etc.).

FP Section members—especially students and new professionals—are encouraged to apply for one of our Feldman Awards.

Contact: Anne F. Farrell, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago,
afarrell@chapinhall.org



Family Therapy (FT)
Tom Stone Carlson, Chair

The theme of the 2018 NCFR conference, *Families and Cultural Intersections in a Global Context: Innovations in Research, Practice, and Policies*, invites us to consider our role as family therapists in how larger social, cultural, and global factors influence the daily lives and well-being of the families that we serve. We hope that the 2018 conference theme will attract scholarship covering a broad range of cutting-edge relationally-oriented clinical research that examines the ways that family therapists can appropriately and responsibly address the intersections between societal and cultural factors and how these factors shape the individual and relational experiences of the people with whom we work. In particular, we are seeking proposals focused on

- developing and testing clinical theories;
- creating and evaluating therapeutic interventions; and
- improving the training and supervision of couple and family therapists in ways that help families and couples contribute to the overall well-being of society.

In addition to the conference theme, we also invite submissions on a wide variety of other topics important to the couple and family therapy field. Research and applied presentations can focus on topics including but not limited to:

- intimacy, relationship formation, and dissolution;
- parent-child relationships;
- diverse families and couple relationships;
- influences of larger social factors such as sexism, racism, classism, and heterosexism on individuals, couples, and families, and therapeutic approaches and techniques.

The FT Section has a strong tradition of vibrant and well-attended roundtable presentations. Please consider submitting a roundtable proposal as these are a great way to showcase the work that we do as family therapists in an interactive format. Established researchers, therapists, and

educators as well as students and new professionals are encouraged to submit proposals. Poster and paper submissions that are first authored by NCFR student and new professional members—who are also FT Section members—are eligible for awards from the section (please see descriptions on our section website <http://bit.ly/NCFR-FTawards>).

In addition to the general NCFR review criteria for proposals, the FT Section expects that proposals will include practical implications for clinicians, educators, supervisors, and the couple and family therapy profession.

Contact: Tom Stone Carlson, North Dakota State University, Department of Human Development and Family Science; email: tom.carlson@ndsu.edu

 **Feminism and Family Studies (FF)**
Abbie E. Goldberg, Chair

Feminist family scholars recognize the power of social, cultural, and political context in shaping individuals' and families' lives, and work to advance research and policy that reflects the rapidly changing and increasingly diverse family landscape. In 2018, the conference focus is on contemporary families and the increasingly complex, interconnected, and culturally diverse world that they inhabit. This is an excellent chance for feminist scholars to share work that reflects innovations in family practices and structures in a wide range of social, cultural, and political contexts. We encourage your submissions of work examining the ways in which sex/gender/identity and feminist theories intersect with family roles and the multiple other social locations that individuals and families embody. We especially encourage submissions that use feminist perspectives to tackle how gender and other social locations intersect with key societal changes such as a declining fertility rates, a rise in women's participation in the labor force, and growth in the number of families headed by LGBTQ parents. We invite proposals advancing feminist theories and practices, whether they are linked specifically to the conference theme. Established professionals, newer professionals, and students are all encouraged to submit proposals.

In addition to submissions of regular presentation formats, this year we also are soliciting submissions of **Praxis and Learning Roundtables** on the theme **Contemporary Challenges Facing Feminist Family Studies Scholars**. Roundtable submissions will be **reviewed through the same process as all other NCFR submissions** and those accepted will be considered a part of the official conference program. Roundtables will be scheduled within our section membership meeting time.

Roundtables can address teaching, research, or activism on a variety of topics within the theme, such as: feminist teaching, mentorship, leadership, and research challenges and strategies in our current political climate; integrating research, teaching, and/or activism; and addressing institutional inequities and injustice. Roundtables will be facilitated by the presenter/organizer but are explicitly interactive.

Contact: Abbie Goldberg, Clark University, Department of Psychology; email: agoldberg@clarku.edu

 **International (IN)**
Mihaela Robila, Chair

Through its focus, the IN Section is uniquely positioned to make a significant contribution to the 2018 NCFR Annual Conference and its theme on Families and Cultural Intersections in a Global Context: Innovations in Research, Practice, and Policies. The IN Section strives to increase the understanding of families around the world by promoting family research, education, policy, and practice globally. It also encourages communication and collaborations among international family scholars.

The IN Section calls for proposals that use sound theoretical and empirical approaches focused on families in an international context. Examples of topics related to the conference theme include:

- Examination of factors (e.g., economic pressure, immigration, military conflict, technology) that impact families and their functioning in different cultural contexts
- Development, implementation, and evaluation of different prevention and intervention programs and services that

support family well-being and adaption in countries around the world

- Examination of different social policies and their impact on families in the global context
- Presentations and analysis of educational approaches, trainings, and practices that strengthen families and communities around the world
- Analysis of the impact of rapid contemporary changes on children and families in the global context
- Exploration of ways in which family scholarship and practice can address global issues, such as gender equality, poverty reduction, health and well-being, sustainable development, and strong communities and societies.

IN strives to attract submissions from colleagues from around the world and have a wide geographical representation at the conference. We encourage our colleagues who are submitting and attending the conference from outside the U.S. and Canada to apply for the IN travel awards. Established scholars, early career professionals, and students are encouraged to submit proposals.

Contact: Mihaela Robila, Queens College, City University of New York, Department of Human Development and Family Studies; email: mihaela.robila@qc.cuny.edu

 **Religion, Spirituality, & Family (RSF)**
Mike Goodman, Chair

The 2018 NCFR Annual Conference seeks to “focus on innovative approaches, theories, research, policies, and programs that support and strengthen families in all types of Western and non-Western settings.” There will be a focus on supporting families in different cultural, ideological, and political environments. The RSF Section is made up of scholars and practitioners representing an incredibly diverse array of beliefs and perspectives. Our section has much we could contribute to this year's conference.

The following questions may be helpful in formulating proposals to be submitted to the RSF Section for the 2018 conference:

- What are some of the unique settings religious families find themselves both nationally and internationally?
- What role can religion and spirituality

play in helping families adapt to the ever-changing circumstances of modern life?

- Are their specific ways various religious traditions can contribute to the well-being of families today?
- Is religion becoming less central to family life in a modern society which at times tends to emphasize more secular values?
- What role does or can religion play in some of the circumstances and challenges identified in the 2018 conference theme:
 - Decreasing fertility rates;
 - Decline in household size;
 - An aging population; or
 - A large increase in the number of women entering the labor force?
- Are there areas where religion actually adds to the challenges faced by families in the modern world?
- Do religion and spirituality connect with families differently internationally than they do domestically?
- Are there understudied religious traditions which could be examined?
- Does identifying as “spiritual” but not “religious” have a different impact on couple and family relationships?
- In what ways do religion and spirituality intersect with race, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, etc.?
- How does the increase in interfaith marriage impact family life?
- What methodological innovations can improve the study of religion and family life?

These questions are not meant to be exhaustive but rather are intended to provide a few ideas on how a focus on religion and spirituality may add to this year’s conference theme. All proposals on these or other issues related to religion, spirituality, and the family will be seriously considered.

As we did last year, we encourage and invite our senior professional section members to submit a proposal to the 2018 conference. Student members are still encouraged to contribute even as we invite our professional section members to share their expertise and knowledge with us all.

**Contact: Michael Goodman,
Brigham Young University,
Department of Marriage, Family,
& Human Development; email:
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**Research and Theory (RT)
Kari Adamsons, Chair**

The RT Section focuses on promoting work that effectively integrates research and theory about families and the context in which families live, work, interact, and develop. All theoretical perspectives and styles of research that emphasize both conceptual and empirical rigor are welcome.

As the RT Section works to strengthen its identity, we are particularly interested in proposals that:

- Explore the links between theory and the process of research;
- Emphasize the connection between theory and research methodologies; or
- Anchor research questions or hypotheses in a clearly articulated theoretical perspective.

This year’s theme provides an opportunity to explore the diversity of families and the ever broadening global context in which families live, work, interact, and develop. This theme is particularly relevant to cross-cultural research and research relating to measurement and theoretical equivalence across contexts, ecological research designs, demographic and population trends, and ethnographic research, among others.

We invite you to submit a proposal and encourage your colleagues to do the same. Each symposium proposal should include a maximum of four papers organized around a common theme, with at least one named discussant. Symposium proposals would be strengthened by including scholars who are from diverse disciplines, or who approach the topic with innovative methodological strategies or theoretical perspectives. Formats other than symposia also are welcome. Presentations by senior scholars, rising new scholars, and scholars from outside of North America are encouraged. We particularly encourage presentations on cutting edge aspects of a content area, theory, methodology, or analytic procedure.

We look forward to seeing all of your proposals, and putting together another great selection of RT Section sessions in 2018!

Contact: Kari Adamsons, University of Connecticut, Department of Human Development and Family Studies; email: kari.adamsons@uconn.edu



**Affiliate Councils (AC)
Brandon K. Burr, Program Chair**

The Affiliate Councils (AC) hosts a workshop annually at the 2018 NCFR Annual Conference for members of NCFR affiliates (local chapters). The workshop offers a unique session for members of state/regional and student affiliates to discuss what their respective affiliate councils are doing, how they are doing it, and gather new ideas that they can utilize moving forward.

Although each individual affiliate can focus on and address their local needs, the AC link those groups together to strengthen the work of each. Sharing ideas, giving support and combining resources are a few of the services of the AC. Strong college and university, state and regional affiliates are necessary for the long term viability of NCFR. In many ways AC helps build the interconnection between the national and the local and regional. Submitting to AC highlights important affiliate level research and practice, and aids in the exchange of ideas and resources with others across the nation. AC welcomes proposals which address important issues related to affiliate success and managing challenges.

The 2018 Affiliate Conference Workshop will feature roundtable presentations.

Affiliate members are encouraged to submit one or more proposals for roundtable discussion that highlight top areas in which their affiliate is doing well. The goal is for councils to identify their strengths and successes, and showcase these successes in a unique way at their accepted roundtable. Discussion with members of other affiliates across the country will be a priority at the conference.

Specific workshop topics to consider include the following:

- recruitment and retention of members;
- service projects and involvement; annual conferences;
- fundraising ideas and accomplishments;
- strategies for meeting with policymakers and providing education;
- marketing and social media outreach strategies;

- leadership; and
- community engagement.

We encourage the submission of roundtable proposals from campus, state, and regional affiliates. **Proposal requirements include:**

- 1. Full proposal title and presenter information** (i.e., name, credentials, affiliation, and email). While the presentation may be individually authored, it must be state, regional, or student affiliate-based.
- 2. Short abstract** (maximum 100 words)
- 3. Full summary of the roundtable proposal** (maximum 1000 words) for peer review. All documents must be in PDF format and should:
 1. Provide a brief background of the proposing affiliate council.
 2. Explain the significance of the considered topic and what the affiliate council is doing that would be beneficial for other affiliate councils.
 3. Include innovative methods, tools, concepts, and approaches for engaging participants with the topic.
- 4. Email your proposal by March 15, 2018, 11:59 p.m. PST to Bethany Cox** (bethanycox@ncfr.org), NCFR's manager of member relations.

Authors of accepted roundtables will be required to bring any materials needed for their roundtable to the Affiliate Councils Workshop at the 2018 NCFR Annual Conference.

We also encourage applications/nominations for the three AC awards, for those who meet the criteria: Affiliate Grant (grant money for the affiliate group); Meritorious Service Award (for outstanding service by state and regional affiliate members); President-for-a-Day-Award (empowers a student or new professional to continue growing in their leadership within NCFR).

Contact: Brandon K. Burr, University of Central Oklahoma, Department of Human Environmental Sciences; bburr1@uco.edu



Students and New Professionals (SNP)
Katie Barrow and Jessica Fish,
Co-Reps

Students and New Professionals promote skills and information relevant for students (undergraduate and graduate) and new professionals (within 5 years of their final degree). The primary emphasis is to promote professional development for students, teachers, researchers, and practitioners. We encourage students, new professionals, and seasoned members to submit proposals. Specifically, we are looking for proposals that provide tips and techniques on:

- how to successfully apply to graduate school
- how to find, apply, and interview for academic and non-academic jobs
- mentoring undergraduate students, graduate students, and early-career scholars
- developing leadership skills
- identifying and applying for grants (federal and private)
- how to work efficiently
- balancing family and life
- balancing the roles of scholar-activist and/or practitioner-activist

In following the 2018 conference theme, we particularly welcome proposals that are relevant to families, scholars, and practitioners living in a culturally diverse and global world. Potential ideas could be how to:

- improve the lives of individuals and families who are socially marginalized, occupy varying cultural intersections, and inhabit Western and non-Western contexts
- translate research to shape national and international policies
- create prevention and intervention approaches that improve family life in the U.S. and abroad
- develop collaborative relationships among researchers, practitioners, community leaders, and organizations in vulnerable and marginalized communities
- build an approach to research, teaching, or practice that incorporates social class, gender, ethnicity, immigration status, and race from a global perspective
- develop cultural sensitivity in one's research, teaching, or practice

- empower students, early-career scholars, and practitioners to engage in issues of social justice and advocacy that positively influence families in Western and non-Western contexts

We welcome all proposals provided the proposal includes professional development that reflects our goal of promoting an information exchange relevant to SNP. Do not automatically submit to SNP because you are a student or new professional. If your proposal does not have a professional development component, it will not be considered for the SNP program.

Contacts: Katie Barrow, Louisiana Tech University, School of Human Ecology; email: kbarrow@latech.edu, and Jessica Fish, University of Texas, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences; email: jessica.fish@utexas.edu

Theory Construction & Research Methodology (TCRM) Workshop
Silvia Bartolic and Justin Dyer,
Co-Chairs

The Theory Construction and Research Methodology Workshop (TCRM) offers a unique opportunity for scholars to discuss working papers on family theory and research methodology. The TCRM workshop will be held immediately preceding the 2018 NCFR Annual Conference (Nov. 6-7, 2018).

TCRM sessions follow a distinctive format. Authors submit their papers several months before TCRM and leaders in the field serve as discussants, writing reviews of the paper. Authors' papers are made available prior to TCRM so attendees can come to the session already having read the paper. Each session begins with a brief summary of the papers followed by discussant comments, author responses, and audience conversation providing invaluable feedback to the authors and stimulating the thinking of authors, discussants, and attendees alike.

Rather than focusing on empirical findings, TCRM papers should advance family theories or research methodologies. TCRM is co-sponsored by the *Journal of Family Theory & Review* (JFTR) and many papers presented at TCRM have eventually been published in JFTR.

TCRM 2018 will accept proposals for two types of sessions:

- **Working papers:** Special topics in theory and methodology. Paper proposals are submitted individually.
- **Methodology workshops:** Open format sessions focusing on specific methodological techniques or data sources.

When submitting a paper proposal to TCRM, proposals should include

1. **the full paper or workshop title**
2. **a running page header** appropriate to your topic
3. **a short abstract** (maximum 100 words, for publicity purposes)
4. **a long proposal**, no more than 1,500 words (excluding tables, figures, and references) for peer review
5. **2-3 suggestions for discussants** for working papers

All documents should be sent in PDF format. Proposals should

- provide a brief background and context for the paper
- explain the significance of the topic and what gaps in knowledge the paper seeks to fill
- underscore how the proposed work will advance either family theory or research methodology
- describe how the project takes up innovative aims or employs novel concepts, approaches, or methods.

Showing evidence of work already underway is highly encouraged.

The **deadline** for TCRM submissions is **March 15, 2018, 11:59 p.m. PST**. Authors of accepted papers will be required to submit a full version of the paper, up to 30 pages, by Aug. 15, 2018.

TCRM proposals should be **emailed** to the TCRM co-chairs, Silvia Bartolic and Justin Dyer, at the following email address: **2018TCRM@gmail.com**.

Note that TCRM proposals are not submitted through the usual NCFR online submission portal.

Please feel free to contact Silvia or Justin with any questions regarding TCRM, the proposal process, or being a paper discussant. We are looking forward to seeing you all in 2018!

Contacts: Silvia Bartolic and Justin Dyer; email: 2018TCRM@gmail.com

Proposal Submission Deadline: **11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time | March 1, 2018**

To submit a proposal when the online submission system is open:

1. **Visit *ncfr.org/call-for-proposals***
2. **Click on “Submit a Proposal”**

With questions regarding content, contact the chair of the section to which you are submitting.

With technical or process questions, email Cindy Winter (cindywinter@ncfr.org).

Subject Codes

When you submit your proposal online you will be asked to designate subject codes that show the focus of your submission. The codes below will be available from a pull-down menu. You may submit up to 3 subject codes.

abuse/neglect	economics	international	relationship dissolution
advocacy	education	interpersonal relationships	refugees
activism	elder care	intersectionality	relationship education
addiction	emerging adulthood	interventions	relationship formation
administration	emotional problems	intimate partner violence (IPV)	relationships
adolescence	employment	item response theory (IRT)	religion
adoption	enrichment	latent variable modeling	remarriage
adulthood	environment	leadership	reproductive health
African Americans	ethnography	LGBTQ+	research
aging	ethics and values	lifespan development	resilience
American Indian/Alaskan Native/ First Nations	ethnicity	longitudinal modeling	risky behaviors
anxiety	evaluation	longitudinal research	rural families
Asian/Pacific Islander	evidence-based practice/ programs	low-income	schools
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	family formation	marriage	self harm
biobehavioral processes	family life education	mate selection	sexual orientation
bio-markers	family processes	media	sexual abuse / harassment
birth	family relations	mediation/indirect effects models	sexuality
blended families	family resource management	men	siblings
caregiving	Family Science	mental health	singlehood
Caucasian/White	family structure	mentoring	sleep
child(ren)	family therapy	meta-analysis	social class
child care	fatherhood	middle adulthood	social justice
childhood	feminism	middle childhood	social media
chronic illness	fertility	migrants	social construction
clinical / therapeutic orientation	food security	migration	society
cluster analysis	fostercare	military families	spirituality
cohabitation	gender	mindfulness	states
communication	gender identity	mixed-methodology	stepfamilies
communities	gender roles	motherhood	strengths
community participation/ action research	geographical informational systems	mood disorders	stress
community violence	gerontology	multicultural	structural equation modeling (SEM)
conflict	globalization	multilevel modeling	substance abuse
coparenting	governmental assistance and programming	multiracial/multiethnic	suicide
coping	grandparenting	narrative	survival analysis
couples	grief/loss	nationality	sustainabilities
crisis	group based trajectory analysis	nutrition	technology
cross-cultural	growth curve modeling (GCM)	obesity	theory
curriculum development	healing	older adulthood	therapy
dating	health care	parent-child relationships	time series analysis
death	Hispanic/Latino/a	parental leave	transgender
decision making	homelessness	parenting	transitions
depression	human rights	parenting education	transnational
developmental problems	human trafficking	path analysis	trauma
direct observation	identity	pedagogy	traumatic brain injury
disabilities	illness	physical health	urban families
disaster	immigrants	policy	violence
discipline	immigration	poverty	vulnerabilities
discrimination	incarceration	pregnancy / prenatal development	well-being
displacement	inclusion	post-partum	wellness
diversity	indigenous	prevention	women
dyadic analysis	inequalities	professional development	work-family issues
early childhood	infancy	public health	young adulthood
eating disorders	infidelity	qualitative methodology	
ecological momentary assessment	intergenerational	quantitative methodology	
		race	

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