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Family Focus on Family Sustainability: Contextualizing Relationships Within Evolving Systems

The articles in this edition of Family Focus explore the theme for the 2019 NCFR Annual Conference. As families face stressors related to change and evolving systems, they may find strength and resilience in the family relationships around them. This concept is examined from several directions ranging from broad theoretical perspectives, to more specific examples of how relationships help create and support resilience in families.

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**2019 NCFR
Annual Conference**

Nov. 20-23, 2019
Fort Worth, Texas

ncfr.org/ncfr-2019

See details on p. 22

Join Us at the 2019 Annual Conference

Family Sustainability: Contextualizing Relationships Within Evolving Systems

Katia Paz Goldfarb, Ph.D., Chair, Conference Program Committee, goldfarbk@mail.montclair.edu

When in 1994 I coined the concept of family sustainability for my dissertation work, I would have never thought we would be reclaiming it and using it to frame our upcoming conference. As scholars and professionals in the discipline of Family Science, we are constantly strengthening the knowledge and practice needed to sustain families in these complex times.

Our theme for this fall's NCFR Annual Conference focuses on understanding the ever-complex reality of family relationships. The conference theme emphasizes the importance of acknowledging and working with supports that already exist within and outside of diverse families. We were most interested in proposals on the importance of looking at the what, the how, and the why of family relationships within their specific context and evolving systems.

Family sustainability is defined as the relationships among family members that maintain the well-being and resilience of the family unit across generations. Family sustainability is developed and strengthened by the continuous and various relationships in which the family engages and the impact of the family's social and physical environments. Family sustainability is a process, not a static goal.

The goal of this year's annual conference is to embrace and extend the theme of family sustainability to *all* families, with a particular focus on relationships. Our 2019 program will highlight strength-based research on

diverse families and their relationships within their context; innovative evidence-based best practices, programs, and pedagogies that promote family resiliency and well-being for diverse families in a variety of contexts; and critical analysis of policies that strengthen or are of detriment to relationships for all types of families.

To those ends, we are thrilled to have extraordinary plenary presenters whom we have asked to address aspects of family sustainability on areas of increasing relevancy and urgency to today's families. They include the following:

Stephanie Coontz, M.A., is the director of research and public education at the Council on Contemporary Families, and professor emerita at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. She has authored seven books on marriage and family life, including *Marriage, a History: How Love Conquered Marriage*, which was cited in the U.S. Supreme Court decision granting same-sex couples the right to marriage. Ms. Coontz is a frequent guest columnist for the *New York Times* and is widely interviewed in the press about her research. The title of her plenary is "Shifting Terrain: The Changing Context of



Katia Paz Goldfarb, Ph.D.

Mission Statement for NCFR Report

NCFR Report, the quarterly newsletter of the National Council on Family Relations, provides timely, useful information to help members succeed in their roles as researchers, educators, and practitioners. Articles address Family Science issues, programs, and trends, including association news.

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The Family Focus section of *NCFR Report* 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,
- 2) brevity due to space limitations, and
- 3) how articles form a complementary collection.

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- Summer issue—April 1
- Fall issue—July 1
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Send advertisements to Trip Sullivan at tripsullivan@ncfr.org. For all submissions, please supply an email address to allow readers to contact you.

NCFR Report is published quarterly by the National Council on Family Relations
661 LaSalle Street, Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55114
Toll free: 888-781-9331 Fax: 763-781-9348
www.ncfr.org

Third class postage permit. Reprints of this publication are available by contacting NCFR headquarters at the address above.

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Nominate Candidates to Be NCFR's Next Leaders

NCFR Elections Council co-chairs Kevin M. Roy, Ph.D., and Kimberly Updegraff, Ph.D.; Jodi B. Dworkin, Ph.D., Heather M. Helms, Ph.D., Ani Yazedjian Ph.D., and Cassandra Dorius, Ph.D., of the NCFR Elections Council; and April L. Few-Demo, Ph.D., board liaison to the Elections Council

The future of both NCFR and Family Science are inextricably tied to the quality and dedication of our leaders. Thanks to the strategic vision and perseverance of our leadership, we have made tremendous strides toward our mission of strengthening families. We need your help to keep up this momentum. As we approach the annual conference in Fort Worth, there are two ways you can assist the Elections Council. First, think about the leadership opportunities in NCFR that might be a good match for you. Speak with colleagues, mentors, section leaders, or Elections Council members about your desire to serve and your willingness to be nominated for a position. Second, consider nominating colleagues who you think would be a good match for the positions available in the next election cycle:

- Board president-elect (2021–2023, president 2023–2025)
- Affiliate Councils president-elect (2021–2023)
- Elections Council members (2021–2024), two positions
- Inclusion and Diversity Committee member-at-large (2021–2024)
- Inclusion and Diversity Committee Students and New Professionals representative (2021–2023)
- Fellows Committee members (2021–2024), three positions

- Annual Conference Program chair-elect (2021–2022, program chair for 2023 NCFR Annual Conference), board-appointed position

The election cycle begins each year at the annual conference, when we ask members, sections, and focus groups to nominate potential candidates for the organizational-level positions that need to be filled.

In the spring of 2020, the Elections Council will meet to identify and discuss possible candidates for 2021 who have been identified by nomination or who have previously served in leadership positions. We consider the experience of individual candidates and ensure that the overall slate reflects the strength and diversity of the entire NCFR membership and that reflects and promotes the mission and goals of NCFR.

The Elections Council's responsibility is to help NCFR members match their leadership abilities to the opportunities that abound within our organization. We take seriously the NCFR Board of Directors' charge to find the right people who are willing to have their names placed on the ballot each year. We are guided by the operating values outlined in the NCFR bylaws and the Elections Council policies and procedures. We are excited about the possibilities for future leadership and hope you consider being a part of it. ✨



My Swan Song as President: Reflecting on My Years on the NCFR Board

Anisa M. Zvonkovic, Ph.D., NCFR President, zvonkovic18@ecu.edu

This is my very last article as president in the *NCFR Report*. I have so appreciated the experience of being president of the Board of Directors at this organization that is my primary professional affiliation, since 1982. I have strived to live up to your confidence in me, and I have worked to build an organization in which the changes I have made are sustainable. I am pleased that Leigh Leslie, Ph.D., a colleague I've known for over 30 years, is taking over as president after the conference in November. Knowing that the organization is in good hands, I look forward to being involved as a supporter and participant again.

In reflecting back on my time as president, I've been thinking about something Executive Director Diane Cushman said when I was elected: "Every president puts their stamp on the organization." So I've been pondering what my stamp has been and reflecting back on the board since I joined it, thinking also about other professional organizations that we at NCFR work with and monitor. Some of the issues faced by NCFR include trends in membership (which I've written about), concerns about how to be involved in policy, costs to utilize the modern systems that people have come to expect but that small organizations struggle with funding because of economies of scale, and visibility of the organization and confusion between the organization and other organizations that have *family* in their name but are not professional societies like NCFR. The areas I've tried to make progress in are communication, refining involvement with policy, and building human capital.

Enhancing Communication With the Board. Communication with the board can be a challenge for an organization. Even though we post our contact information, board members have rarely been contacted by members. When I was president-elect,

the board conducted two surveys to obtain member feedback about NCFR's involvement in policy. We have also instituted regular phone calls with section chairs, who tend to have more direct contact with members. Prior to my time as president, section chairs met with the board only every other year. We have increased the frequency and duration of meetings with the board, and in general have provided more of a liaison model to section chairs.

Our discipline needs strong and capable leaders to "infiltrate" our larger communities of practice and to be leaders outside our Family Science discipline.

Refining Involvement With Policy. I am proud that during my tenure as board president we have developed more consistency and clarity on how NCFR will engage in policy-related issues. NCFR staff have been proactive in developing collections of resources that are relevant to family-related policy issues in the news. These resources have included empirical articles published in *NCFR Report*, and *CFLE Network*; on-demand webinars; and on-demand conference session recordings. As professionals monitoring current events, policy action nationally and in states, and other professional associations, the staff have been very quick to get these resources in order. They have brought issues to our attention, which is a wonderful approach. To my mind, these resources enable NCFR members, if they so choose, to advocate for issues that concern us as family researchers and professionals, armed with high-quality and relevant information. On rare occasions,

the board has also made statements. I suppose the speed of current events and the problematic nature of such events for families has either enabled us or forced us to develop a system, and we are working within that system effectively. Our efforts are not perfect, nor are they always received in a positive light. We continue to hear from some of you and to respond to you with our rationales and with our willingness to engage in further dialogue about your concerns.

The NCFR board strives to deliberate in many voices and to speak in one voice. NCFR established the Inclusion and Diversity Committee (IDC) to advise the board about issues of inclusion and diversity. When the committee was first established, its primary scope was issues of inclusion and diversity within NCFR. Recent revisions by the board to the IDC Policies and Procedures have invited the IDC to provide guidance on issues that are external to NCFR and to advise the board about outward messaging. We benefit from these scholars and their commitment to diversity and inclusion. As is the case with all board committees, the board retains the authority to act and make final decisions.

Along the same lines, the NCFR Family Policy Section may at times create documents about how to engage in policy, but the section is not involved in creating NCFR board statements or activities about specific policies. While I have been on the board, NCFR has begun rolling out Research and Policy Briefs, which are intended not to argue for specific policy recommendations but to provide both empirical information about policies from a Family Science perspective and multiple research-based policy implications. Elaine Anderson, Ph.D., longtime NCFR member, Fellow, family policy researcher, and professor, is our Research and Policy Brief editor. It is challenging to decide

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Discussing the State of Family Science With NCFR Leaders

Diane Cushman, NCFR Executive Director, dianecushman@ncfr.org

The spring meeting of NCFR's Conference Program Planning Committee, usually held over a weekend in Minneapolis in April or May, is an opportune time for NCFR's elected and appointed leaders to discuss important issues with staff related to the Family Science discipline, in addition to conference planning.

This year, conversation at our meeting included considerations of different formats for future conferences, improvements to the conference submission and review process, outreach efforts to encourage members to run in NCFR elections, and changes occurring in academia that impact Family Science degree programs. This final topic was a major focus of our time on Sunday with the chairs of NCFR's 10 sections.

This conversation on the current state of Family Science with section chairs was both exhilarating and sobering. While some chairs reported that their college programs seemed to be in decline, others shared the innovative ways they are enhancing the value of classes and degrees to their universities.

Since 2014, when NCFR formally adopted *Family Science* as the preferred term to identify the discipline, we've encouraged departments to use the term for department and program names. *Family Science* is a more accurate and understandable term for students and prospective employers. It denotes a rigor and reflects the underpinnings of research-informed practice, and as such, it carries with it a new higher level of credibility and regard. In addition, the term provides a professional identity—that of Family Scientist—to program graduates. Many departments have changed their names over the years to incorporate *Family Science*, and the continuation of this national trend in turn helps to improve the overall standing of the discipline.

In our meeting with section chairs, we heard about how using the name *Family Science* is increasing the popularity of and enrollment in bachelor's and master's programs; it is enhancing the visibility and status of departments around campus with both prospective students and colleagues with the university. Incorporating *Family Science* into entry-level classes is helping students determine a degree earlier in their education, broadening the appeal of programs to majors in other disciplines, and creating opportunities to partner with other academic departments.

Many departments have changed their names over the years to incorporate Family Science, and the continuation of this national trend in turn helps to improve the overall standing of the discipline.

Indeed, there was consensus among the section chairs that cooperation across disciplines is key to program success, as the interdisciplinary nature causes us to "run the risk of getting lost in our own field." The group agreed that as *Family Science* becomes more widespread, it will be easier to market to other departments across universities and to employers.

While many members have shared positive feedback from students about the *Family Science* name, others have encountered resistance at their schools to the idea of a name change. If your department is considering a name change, NCFR has sample documents and resources available for you that other schools have successfully used.

The increase in nontenured positions is having an impact on some programs, with a teaching-only position becoming a common example that is valuable to many departments. The group discussed how NCFR could support faculty in those roles by providing more resource exchanges at the NCFR conference. Although conference attendance may not be budgeted for nontenured positions, funding for professional development often is.

Finally, there was a universal call for NCFR to market Family Science and the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) credential across the country to "any job, any field where our students can get work." Some academic members are dismayed that even jobs at their universities in departments such as extension are hiring family life specialists with no CFLE preference in the job description. Section chairs called for NCFR's marketing efforts to "give foundation to us at the universities."

2019 Annual Conference in Fort Worth

Past conference attendees have praised NCFR for choosing second-tier cities with affordable hotel room rates. This year's city, Fort Worth, Texas, is such a city; the Omni Fort Worth is offering a \$129 hotel rate that is far below rates at previous NCFR conferences.

When NCFR decided to step away from a hotel in Indianapolis for 2019 due to state legislation that had been signed, we were delighted to find that the Omni Fort Worth was eager to book NCFR and fill the hotel the week before Thanksgiving.

State legislation, though, continues to challenge NCFR in its search for conference sites. After we signed the Omni contract, Texas enacted legislation that allows child

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Neurodiversity—Flipping the Narrative

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

“Inclusion is a moral, social, and economic imperative. We all lose when human potential is squandered.” —Dr. Nancy Doyle

Have you ever heard of the word *neurodiversity*? I hadn't until I heard Nancy Doyle, Ph.D., a British psychologist and neurodiversity expert, give a talk titled “Coaching as a Disability Accommodation for Neurodiverse Adults” at the Family Life Coaching Association conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. Her keynote presentation introduced me to a whole new way of thinking about how we as a society view and treat people diagnosed with autism, ADHD, Tourette syndrome, and other neurodiverse conditions. Dr. Doyle commented on the need to “flip the narrative” and consider the ways we view and talk about people with neurodiversity. Her goal is to “work towards a future where all people with neurodiversity will be able to maximize their potential and work to their strengths.”

In her presentation Dr. Doyle explained that within one person there usually is not too much diversity in cognitive ability. Most people are “neurotypical” in that their verbal and visual skills and memory capacity are relatively equal. About two-thirds will score in the average range on all abilities, a minority will score above, and a minority will score below. Their scores, if plotted on a graph, will form a reasonably flat line.

However, those with conditions such as autism, ADHD, and Tourette syndrome tend to vary enormously in their cognitive ability. Their line on a graph will reflect peaks and valleys. They may have exceptional memory but poor processing skills, or competent visual skills but weaker memory. Dr. Doyle referred to this as “within-person” diversity; and the diversity between an individual's strengths and weaknesses is statistically significant. Most diagnostic tools focus on identifying the valleys, or low points, and give less or little attention to identifying or recognizing peaks or strengths. And

as a society, we have a tendency to view neurodiverse people relative to the valleys as well. Yet the areas in which they excel represent true gifts and exceptional abilities that offer tremendous value to society.

As an occupational and organizational psychologist, Dr. Doyle works with both neurodiverse people and employers to identify opportunities for successful collaboration. Her organization, Genius Within,

Dr. Doyle's approach resonated with me because of the focus on strengths, a focused shared with the practice of Family Life Education.

supports clients to improve productivity at work through diagnosis and coaching of neurodiverse conditions. She applies a “carrot versus stick” approach to improving the employment rate of neurodiverse people by enabling employers to see the benefit and value a person with neurodiversity can bring to the workplace rather than viewing hiring

as an issue of compliance. I encourage you to check out her website at geniuswithin.co.uk.

Dr. Doyle helped create the A&E series *The Employables*. The series follows job seekers with conditions such as autism or Tourette syndrome as they work to overcome obstacles and find fulfilling, long-term employment that capitalizes on their strengths.

Episodes of *The Employables* also include the families of these neurodiverse job seekers and the impact their conditions have on their family life. They are clearly loving and committed parents but struggle with the reality of having children in their early 30s who are still somewhat dependent on them, and often still living at home. They provide tremendous support by going with them to job fairs, practicing phone calls and interviewing, and comforting them through disappointments and frustrations. The systemic impact of their children's neurodiverse conditions is clearly portrayed. One particular episode of *The Employables* follows Nathan, who has high-functioning autism, as he works to find employment. Nathan has an unusual interest and aptitude

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Have You Tried the New Online CFLE Application?

You can now apply for the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) credential and maintain your certification completely online.

At my.ncfr.org, current CFLEs can now:

- Upgrade from provisional to full CFLE status
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To find the CFLE online application:

1. Go to my.ncfr.org and log in using the email address you use for NCFR or CFLE purposes.
2. On the main page, in the My CFLE Certification box, you'll see the online application options that apply to you.
3. If you are moving from provisional to full CFLE status, click on Start Upgrade Application. If you need to complete your five-year recertification, click on Start Recertification Application.

If you need assistance, please contact us at cfl@ncfr.org, call 763-781-9331, or toll free at 888-781-9331.

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Family Sustainability and Healthy Relationships.” Ms. Coontz will also lead a special preconference workshop titled “Taking Your Family Science Research Public: Media Training Workshop.”

Valerie Maholmes, Ph.D., CAS, is the chief of the Pediatric Trauma and Critical Illness Branch at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at the National Institutes of Health. In this role, she sets the vision and priorities for research that addresses the continuum of psychosocial, behavioral, biological, and physiological influences that affect child health outcomes in trauma, injury, and acute care. Dr. Maholmes’ plenary address is titled “Supporting and Sustaining Research on Children and Families: Research Priorities and Future Directions.” It will focus on the institute’s long history of supporting child development and family research, as

well as contemporary efforts to advance science that promotes child health and well-being. She will discuss advances in research on pediatric trauma as well as relevant funding opportunities for researchers at all career stages.

Cynthia García Coll, Ph.D., is a professor of clinical psychology; associate director of the Institutional Center for Scientific Research at Carlos Albizu University in San Juan, Puerto Rico; and editor in chief of *Child Development*. She has authored more than a hundred publications, including several books. Dr. García Coll has published extensively on sociocultural influences and the development of children with emphasis on populations under risk conditions and minorities. Her plenary address is titled “Children of Immigrant Backgrounds: Contribution or Burden?” In this presentation, Dr. García Coll will use various theoretical

frameworks to present studies that will elucidate the necessary conditions for children of immigrant backgrounds to succeed in their receiving communities.

Rubén Parra-Cardona, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the Steve Hicks School of Social Work (SHSSW) at the University of Texas at Austin. At the SHSSW, he serves as coordinator for initiatives in Mexico and Latin America, as well as codirector of the Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. His primary research focus is on the cultural adaptation of prevention parenting interventions for underserved low-income immigrant Latino communities. Dr. Parra-Cardona’s plenary address is titled “Closing the Gap Between Two Countries: 10 Years of Implementation of a U.S.-Mexico Program of Parenting Prevention Research With Underserved Populations.” Specifically, parallel programs of research will be described focused on the cultural adaptation of the evidence-based parenting intervention known as GenerationPMTO.

Beyond the excellent research and practice-based presentations, fully embracing the theme of family sustainability impels us to think about our own organization. We recognize NCFR as a family and its sustainability should be our priority. To this end, I proposed to the Conference Program Planning Committee the idea of sustainability in relation to our annual conferences. The committee embraced the idea and took it far beyond the scope of my original proposal. For almost a week during the conference we enter into a community together. Recognizing this, the committee imagined what footprint we could leave and what types of relationships we could create and sustain. The Local Programming Committee, a wonderful and committed group of colleagues, with the constant support of NCFR staff, is developing a sustainable local program leading up to, during, and after the conference. I hope to see you when we sit around the table at our family reunion in November. ✨

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among all the possible topics to develop into briefs and to pitch the briefs to the right audience, I am pleased that NCFR is involved in the policy arena in this way. As with the other efforts during my time as president, I believe that this structure has become embedded into regular NCFR practice and that it is of great benefit to NCFR members and the broader community.

Developing Human Capital. On the topic of developing human capital, I have found NCFR to have consistently done an extraordinary job, arguably unique among the other professional organizations with which I am familiar, in attending to the professional development of its members. Its work nurturing students and new professionals to the CFLE credential, the Academic Administration and Leadership Focus Group, practitioner groups, sessions on advocating for families in state capitals, and so much more—all these make NCFR a premier professional society. In my term as president, we have initiated a mentoring program, I have witnessed the

Affiliate Council’s outstanding work within states, and I have attended many sessions focused on the professional development of members. I hope to conclude my NCFR presidency in the spirit of taking professional development seriously and being intentional about it. I see this effort as linked to the broader Advancing Family Science effort. Our discipline needs strong and capable leaders to “infiltrate” our larger communities of practice and to be leaders outside our Family Science discipline. I would hope that each of you, in whatever professional roles you have, takes a serious interest in nurturing the human capital of your peers and those who are less experienced than you (no matter where you are in your career, there are always people less experienced than you). As a woman, as an ethnic minority, and from a moral and ethical stance, I’ve been committed to using the privilege I have to smooth the way for others to rise up. I’ll continue to do this for you, my colleagues, and I exhort you to do this for others. ✨



Policy Activities at NCFR, Highlighting the 2019 NCFR Annual Conference

Jennifer Crosswhite, Ph.D., CFLE, Director of Research and Policy Education, jennifercrosswhite@ncfr.org

It's that time of the year again—preparing for the NCFR Annual Conference. Conference Program Planning Chair Katia Paz Goldfarb, Ph.D., and the Conference Program Planning Committee have pulled together another excellent conference with many excellent, high-quality sessions, including plenaries, special sessions, invited presenter symposia and workshops, and more. The theme for this year's conference, "Family Sustainability: Contextualizing Relationships Within Evolving Systems," will focus on "understanding the ever-complex reality of family relationships. The theme stresses the importance of acknowledging and working with supports that already exist within and outside diverse families." The specific conference goals are as follows:

- Highlight strength-based research on diverse families and their relationships within their context.

- Feature innovative evidence-based best practices, programs, and pedagogies that promote family resiliency and well-being for diverse families in a variety of context.
- Draw attention to and critically analyze policies that strengthen or are of detriment to relationships for all types of families.

I want to take this time to call your attention to some of the many policy sessions that will occur during this year's conference. Be sure to check out the conference program (ncfr.org/ncfr-2019/conference-schedule) for a full list of policy and policy-related posters and sessions not listed here—and all of the other sessions too. (📺 = live-streamed session)

Wednesday, Nov. 20

- **Parenting, Work, Resources, and Relationships: Dynamic Interactions**

of Policy and Family, a Family Policy Section lightning paper session

- **Family Policy and Research**, a Family Therapy Section roundtable session
- **Dynamic, Transactional Effects of Parenting Stress and Daycare on Developmental Outcomes Across Childhood in Diverse Families**, a Family Policy Section symposium

Thursday, Nov. 21

- **Family First Prevention Services Act: Building a 21st Century Child Welfare System**, an invited presenter symposium organized by the Family Policy Section 📺
- **Intimate Partner Violence and Immigration: Research and Policy Perspectives**, a special session organized by the Feminism and Family Studies and Family Policy Sections 📺
- **Contextualizing Relationships and Systems Across the Life Course: Adoptees, Adoptive Families, and Adoption Professionals**, a Family Policy Section symposium

Friday, Nov. 22

- **Shoring Up the Capacity of Health Care, Early Childhood, and Families to Prevent and Mitigate Toxic Stress: Opportunities and Challenges**, an invited presenter symposium organized by the Family Policy and Families and Health Sections

In addition to these sessions, the scheduled plenaries are sure to inspire us to think critically about family policy implications and how research can and should have an impact on policies at the federal, state, and local levels.

- **Shifting Terrain: The Changing Context of Family Sustainability and Healthy Relationships**, Stephanie Coontz, Wednesday opening plenary 📺

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NCFR Releases New Policy Brief—Immigrant Families Across the Life Course: Policy Impacts on Physical and Mental Health

Recent immigration policies related to family separation and deportation have negative mental and physical health implications for immigrant families across the life course, according to Family Science research published and cited by NCFR.

A new NCFR policy brief examines in detail the impacts of policies focused on immigrants and immigration. Included in the brief are recommendations for policymakers to dismantle policies harmful to immigrant families and to strengthen or initiate policies to bolster health and well-being among immigrant families across the life course.

A two-page executive summary and an eight-page policy brief with more in-depth information are available for you to download and share with others.

Read the full brief at bit.ly/immigrant-policy-brief.

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welfare providers to discriminate against children and families on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, religion, disability, and other protected classes. Our Local Programming Committee has been working since June on ways to engage with local community agencies in an open dialogue with members at the conference. Programming is being planned for Friday afternoon and Saturday morning that focuses on LGBTQ and immigrant families. At the time of this writing, plans are in the early stages of development. By the time you are reading this, more details should be available.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in November in Fort Worth. ✨

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.

Unlike the content of our scholarly journals, the articles in *NCFR Report* have not been peer-reviewed. In the spirit of open debate and academic freedom, *NCFR Report* is a member forum for exchanging ideas. The opinions or findings expressed are those of the author(s), which may or may not represent the official position of NCFR as an organization nor the prevailing scientific consensus on the topic. Author email addresses are provided to encourage readers to offer comment to writers.

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for road maps and traffic lights. After an awkward face-to-face interview, Nathan is given a test: read through a large stack of papers, including a narrative and multiple tables, graphs, and photos, and determine what could be done to improve the safety and efficiency of an intersection.

After what appears to be a few hours of review, Nathan makes some recommendations, most notably, the installation of a roundabout. The employer smiles and shares that the company recently paid a consulting firm several thousand dollars to provide the exact same recommendation, adding that they had to wait several weeks for the report. As a result of the test, Nathan is offered a job and accommodations are made for his workspace, such as lighting. Nathan is given an opportunity to use his strengths and contribute to society, and the employer has found an employee who can efficiently and uniquely support the work of the organization.

Viewing this show and listening to the information shared by Dr. Doyle in her presentation was inspiring. Her approach resonated with me because of the focus on strengths, a focus that is shared

with the practice of Family Life Education. A foundational principle of Family Life Education is that it is strengths-based and recognizes and embraces the capacity and abilities within people.

The National Council on Family Relations has published research relevant to families and disability, most notably, a February 2014 special issue of *Family Relations: Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Family Studies* titled "Special Issue on Families and Disabilities."

There are many Certified Family Life Educators (CFLE) who work with individuals and families struggling with various conditions and disabilities, and we will highlight some of that work in the fall issue of the newsletter *CFLE Network*, on the theme "Families and Disabilities." I had planned this issue before hearing Dr. Doyle, and now I am further motivated to consider other ways to focus on the strengths of individuals with disabilities and neurological conditions within Family Life Education programming. I plan to reach out to CFLEs and NCFR members in hopes of identifying more positive, strengths-based, and diversity-appreciative terminology. I welcome your input as well.

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- **Supporting and Sustaining Research on Children and Families: Research Priorities and Future Directions**, Valerie Maholmes, Ph.D., C.A.S., Thursday plenary 📄
- **Children of Immigrant Backgrounds: Contributions or Burden?** Cynthia García Coll, Ph.D., Friday plenary 📄
- **Closing the Gap Between Two Countries: 10 Years of Implementation of a U.S.-Mexico Program of Parenting Prevention Research With Underserved Populations**, Rubén Parra-Cardona, Ph.D., Saturday closing plenary 📄

Two final sessions to highlight social justice are the Inclusion and Diversity Committee's special session, "Revisiting Social Justice in the Context of Family Science: Considerations for Teaching, Scholarship,

and Research," and "Stress, Discrimination, and the Promotion of Social Justice Among Youth of Color," an Ethnic Minorities Section lightning paper session. Both sessions are on Wednesday, Nov. 20.

Be sure to check out all of the excellent sessions offered throughout the conference related to policy, advocacy, social justice, and more. You can find a full list of these sessions and more information in the annual conference program. At the conference, you can also discover sessions to attend based on your interest areas, such as NCFR's 10 sections, and relevant topics such as immigration and LGBTQ+. The 2019 NCFR Annual Conference is sure to generate multiple ideas, connections with new and familiar colleagues, and future conference proposals and research collaborations! ✨

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One of the best ways to connect with other professionals and students who share your interests is through NCFR's "focus groups." You can join a focus group at any time, and it's free. For more information, visit ncfr.org/focus-groups.

If you're present for the **2019 NCFR Annual Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, Nov. 20–23**, you are welcome to attend any of the following focus group meetings. Schedule is subject to change, so please confirm the day and time the week of the conference.

Academic Administration and Leadership Focus Group

Thursday, Nov. 21 | 6:45–8 p.m.
Session #250

Jackie Kirby-Wilkins, Thomas Pavkov, and Karina Shreffler, co-chairs

Adoption and Foster Care Focus Group

Friday, Nov. 22 | 7–8:15 p.m.

Session #351
Rachel Farr and Cheryl Fortner-Wood, co-chairs

African Families Focus Group

Thursday, Nov. 21 | noon–1:15 p.m.
Session #223

Kani Diop and Pearl Stewart, co-chairs

Asian American Families Focus Group

Thursday, Nov. 21 | noon–1:15 p.m.
Session #223A

Kristy Y. Shih, Chang Su-Russell, and Hyun-Kyung You, co-chairs

Coparenting/Divorce Education Focus Group

Thursday, Nov. 21 | 8:15–9:30 p.m.
Session #258

Lawrence Shelton, chair

Directors of Graduate Study Focus Group

Thursday, Nov. 21 | noon–1:15 p.m.
Session #224

Alan C. Taylor, chair

New Group

Diverse Family Structures Focus Group

Wednesday, Nov. 20 | 7:30–8:45 p.m.
Session #164

Todd Jensen and Caroline Sanner, co-chairs

Eastern European Families Focus Group

Saturday, Nov. 23 | 7:45–9 a.m.

Session #400

Sylvia Asay, chair

Extension Network Focus Group

Thursday, Nov. 21 | 8:15–9:30 p.m.

Session #259

Ahlishia Shipley, chair

Families and Technology Focus Group

Friday, Nov. 22 | noon–1:15 p.m.

Session #323

I. Joyce Chang, chair

Families With Disabilities

Wednesday, Nov. 20 | 7–8:15 a.m.

Session #100

Yolanda S. Fredrickson and Myles Maxey, co-chairs

Family Economics Focus Group

Friday, Nov. 22 | noon–1:15 p.m.

Session #324

Clinton G. Gudmunson and Xiaohui "Sophie" Li, co-chairs

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Straight Alliance (GLBTSA) Focus Group

Wednesday, Nov. 20 | 7–8:15 a.m.

Session #102

Alison Chrisler and Jenifer K. McGuire, co-chairs

Grief and Families Focus Group

Wednesday, Nov. 20 | 7–8:15 a.m.

Session #101

Lisa M. Moyer, chair

Home Visiting Focus Group

Friday, Nov. 22 | 7–8:15 a.m.

Session #300

Jennifer A. Mortensen, Carla Peterson, and Bridget A. Walsh, co-chairs

Issues in Aging Focus Group

Wednesday, Nov. 20 | 11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Session #134

Amber Seidel and Ashley Ermer, co-chairs

Korean Families Focus Group

Wednesday, Nov. 20 | 7:30–8:45 p.m.

Session #165

Woosang Hwang and Soyoung Lee, co-chairs

Latino(a) Research Focus Group

Thursday, Nov. 21 | noon–1:15 p.m.

Session #225

Veronica Regina Barrios and Gloria Andrade, co-chairs

Men in Families Focus Group

Saturday, Nov. 23 | 7:45–9 a.m.

Session #401

Henry Gonzalez and Laura Cutler, co-chairs

Military Families and Children Focus Group

Wednesday, Nov. 20 | 11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Session #135

Christina Marini, and Kayla Reed-Fitzke, co-chairs

Qualitative Family Research Network (QFRN) Focus Group

Thursday, Nov. 21 | 6:45–8 p.m.

Session #251

Samuel H. Allen and Kevin M. Roy, co-chairs

Sexuality Focus Group

Thursday, Nov. 21 | 7–8:15 a.m.

Session #203

Erin S. Lavender-Stott and Dana Weiser, co-chairs

Social Justice Network Focus Group

Wednesday, Nov. 20 | 7:30–8:45 p.m.

Session #166

Kristen Benson, chair

Work and Family Focus Group

Friday, Nov. 22 | 7–8:15 p.m.

Session #352

Kamala Ramadoss, chair ✨

Congratulations to Our New Certified Family Life Educators

The following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators (CFLEs) designated between April 1 and June 30, 2019.
Provisional unless otherwise noted.

Prince Edward Island, Canada

Kerri Ballum

U.S. Armed Forces Pacific

Jennifer Kay Allar

Alabama

Stellesia Conwell
Jacquelyn L Cottrell
Haley Sherman

Colorado

Jacklyn Ann Rummel

Connecticut

Kimberly Beisner

Florida

Taysha Kadene Griffiths

Georgia

Andrea Nicole Davis
Layne V. Fisher
Dylan Timothy Hanley

Idaho

Heather Jones Topham

Illinois

Rachel Smith
Alana Zucker

Indiana

Katelynn Rene James FULL

Iowa

Kristen Lauren Krueger

Kansas

Shelby Marie Astle
Lousiana
Jordan Lee Brint
Jaime Lynn Evans
Emily Gallegos

Maryland

Marissa Anne Cooksey

Michigan

Cedrina Renee Davis
Kelley Marie McLean
Ashley Misa
Melisa Schultz

Minnesota

Amanda Lynn Hanson FULL

Missouri

Mia Kathleen Ponder

Mississippi

Ashley N Barksdale
Tess Rebeca Richardson
Marla Jean Russell

North Carolina

Sydney Redmond Roach

Nebraska

Kristyne Danielle O'Brien FULL
Emaly Lynn Ball

New Mexico

Sarah Calvo
Sarah Hutchins
Jessica Torres

New York

Jessica M. Galante
Aja Camille Levenson

Ohio

Shelby L. Phillips FULL
Larontia M. Mckinney
Joshua James Whitelaw

Oklahoma

Arika Taylor FULL
Lyric Alexandra Haxton
Katoya Woody

Pennsylvania

Maureen P. Ittig FULL

Rhode Island

Erica Stad

South Carolina

Laura Fobbs-Green
NDejah Wright

Tennessee

Alexandra Nicole Davis
Hannah Gregory
Rachel Lace Thornbury

Texas

Marie Elizabeth Ament
Mayra Arriaga

Utah

Richard J. Beardall
Nathan Boyd Bingham

Virginia

Bailey Merrell

Washington

Arica Joan Goulet FULL
Hannah Kathryn Royball

Wisconsin

Ciarra Kressel

West Virginia

Honey Melanie Jeanne Bonjour



Joslyn C. Armstrong, spring 2019 honors graduate.
See more honors grad photos on page 19.

Congratulations to NCFR's Honors Graduates for Summer 2019

NCFR awarded honors to three university students who completed their academic programs in summer 2019. Thank you to our members who reviewed applications!

- **Teresa P. Nguyen, University of California, Los Angeles**
- **Ethan R. Jones, Oklahoma State University**
- **Elizabeth B. Jelsma, University of Texas at Austin**

NCFR Honors Student Recognition is awarded to students who demonstrate outstanding achievements in academics, leadership, and community service in the discipline of Family Science.

Welcome to the Newest Members of NCFR

Please join us in welcoming these members who joined between April 1 and June 30, 2019.

Ismat Abbas	Jasmine Fraser	Yen-Lin Lee	Ruth Nyabeta	Jacklyn Ann Rummel	Ashley Nadene Tuft
Sumbleen Ali	Kaitlin Marie Fronberg	Kiki J. Leis	Judy C. Obieke	Erika Sabovik	Joshua J. Turner
Sorita Ann	Shelby Gale	Frances Marisa Lobo	Sangmin Oh	Allison Schillinger	Brian J. Visconti
Shelby Marie Astle	Suzanna Gevock	Ali J. Luempert	Bukola Anthonia Onyirioha	Savannah Rose Schneider	Sabrina Voltaire
Liu Bai	Caroline Gimarc	Jordan Madison	Margaret Tresch Owen	Megan Schouweiler	Katherine Leigh Wagoner
Kerri Ballum	Jen Graves	Michelle Y. Martin Romero	Erin Sahlstein Parcell	Giyeon Seo	Cierra Marr Waide
Miranda Bejda	Patrick Daniel Grayshaw	Ann M. Matthews	Leah M. Persky	Tong Shen	Karen Jean Walker
Marta Benito-Gomez	Kristine Gregor-Laviska,	Kim McBride	Treisha K. Peterson	Haley Sherman	Kaitlin Paxton Ward
Eddy B. Benoit	Taysha Kadene Griffiths	Kathleen McCallops	Ellyn Petrino	Ginger G. Simonton	Robin Machelles Watts
Andrea Beshuk	Andrea Gross	Wendy Carolyn McLean Cooke	Hannah Pearce Plauche	Kendria Renee Smith	Corey Jean Whitesell
Alex J. Bishop	Alan Groveman	Tara G. McManus	Kaitlin Jo Ponchione	Gregory Smith	Jocelyn Wikle
Audra Lea Bishop	Jake Guidry	Shannon Meeks	Mary Lee Porterfield	Sarah Smtih	Kathryn Willis
Jennifer Blodgett	Mary Anne Gunter	Nicole Meighan	Ruth Quatro	Savannah Sommers	Stephanie J. Wilson
Jessica Elaine Blume	Hua Guo	Annette Miles	Geoff Reddick	Sapna Srivastava	Marilee Woodfield
Patricia E. Borgono	Naomi J. Hansen	Cayla Minaiy	Jeffrey Reed	Erica Stad	Chelsey Christine Wooten
Hafeezah Branch	Jayla Head	Stephanie Mittelman	Rachel Regal	Xiaoran Sun	Jia Yan
Jordan Lee Brint	Kari Hemba	Kimberly Morrison	Rebecca G. Renegar	Tianyuan Tang	Zhenqiao Yang
Jasmine P. Brown	Chelsea Hetherington	Rachel Munk	Patricia Rivera	Alex Theobald	Jacqlyn Lillie Yourell
Kay Burningham	Deborah Sue Hodson	Lisa A. Neff	Ashley Dawn Rogers	Ruhama M. Tollossa	Kunping Yu
Michaelen R. Burns	Rosie M. Jackson	Christine Neugebauer	Beth K. Root	Shaelise Marie Tor	Chang Zhao
Sarah Cabecinha-Alati	Maya Marie Jacob	Teresa P. Nguyen	Austin Scott Ross	Kristian G. Travis	McKenzie Leigh Zimmermann
Amanda L. Capannola	Jesse Marie Jaeckels	Thao Nguyen	Christina Albina Rowley	Tiffany Traylor	Alana Zucker
Monica Romina Cardenas	Yoo Kyung Jeong				
Kelly A. Cheeseman	Baek Jeong				
Ulziimaa Chimed-Ochir	Christine Noel Joachims				
Shelby Clouthier	Kania Johnson				
Tiffany Clyde	Brian Grant Johnson				
Callie Manea Corless	Madeline Elizabeth Johnson				
Jennifer Lee Cottle	Faith Ann Jones				
Diana D. Coyl-Shepherd	Caroline Susan Keeler				
Sara Croymans	Lorin Kelly				
Yiyi Dai	Charity Angel Kerr				
Keisha Dionne Daniels	Christine Kim				
Holly Nicole Davis	Jared King				
Madison Day	Erin R. Kisch				
Richard Steven Dell'Isola	Heather M. Koehl				
Emily Marie Downs	Jason Kreidman				
Guillermina T. Echauri	Eun Jin Kwak				
Twyla Ens	Walker Ladd				
Abigail Estes	Danielle Lauricella				
Paul Florsheim	Linh Le				
	Jeenyoung Lee				

Free On-Demand Webinars for Members

As a benefit of your NCFR membership, you now receive **free, unlimited access to past NCFR webinar recordings** beginning one year after the webinar's live debut. Right now, that gives you access to **more than 40 webinars**, including presentations by preeminent family scholars and practitioners such as Pauline Boss, David Olson, Alan Hawkins, Karen Bogenschneider, and others. Watch these webinars for your own professional development, or to preview any webinar before **requesting a classroom license** to use a webinar with your students.

Here's how to access your free webinars:

1. Visit nconf.org/on-demand and log in to the website.

2. Click any webinar title with a live date **of over a year ago**. (For example: *"Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL): A Line of Research You Can and Should Pursue"* from Aug. 23, 2018)
3. Near the top of the webinar's webpage, you will see a **"Watch Now" button** if you are logged in to the website. Click the button to watch the webinar. (If you are not logged in, you will see a prompt to log in; after you log in you will see the "Watch Now" button.)

We hope you enjoy this expanded access to professional resources now included with your NCFR membership. ✨

Inclusion and Diversity Committee Report: Social Justice in the Context of Family Science: Considerations for Teaching, Scholarship, and Research

Tiffany L. Brown, Ph.D.; Anthony G. James, Jr., Ph.D., CFLE; Christi R. McGeorge, Ph.D.; and Elizabeth G. Holman, Ph.D.

Over the past several years, NCFR's Inclusion and Diversity Committee (IDC) has sponsored special sessions on the use of a social justice framework in the context of Family Science. These special sessions have advanced conversations around identifying the dynamics of socially structured and institutionalized oppression and privilege, as well as reflections on our own social locations (e.g., the intersections of race, class, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ability) in our work as family professionals.

The 2018 session addressed how social locations—race, class, gender, and sexual orientation—and interactions within and between broader systems of privilege and oppression affect research and practice in the discipline of Family Science. More specifically, that session encouraged participants to identify their social locations while considering the social locations of those they work with, in an effort to identify how social identities shape spaces of teaching, research, and practice. Overall, participants developed new insights and skills to challenge institutionalized inequality across Family Science domains. More information about this session can be found at bit.ly/IDC2018session

With the continued support of the NCFR board, the IDC will host another special session to discuss issues related to social justice at the NCFR Annual Conference in Nov. 20–23 in Fort Worth, Texas. This upcoming session is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019 from 3 to 4:15 p.m., and it will be closely tied with this year's conference theme of "Family Sustainability: Contextualizing Relationships Within Evolving Systems."

In this special session, reflecting on how the use of a social justice framework in

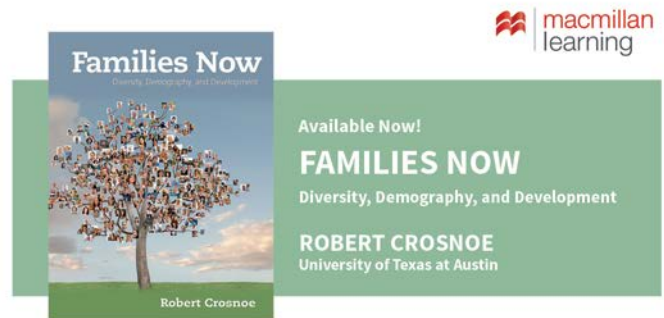
research, teaching, and practice can support well-being and resilience in families across generations helps move scholars and practitioners away from deficit models and toward more empowering ways of supporting, researching, and teaching about diverse families. In other words, considering how issues of oppression, differential privilege and power, and structural inequalities are connected to family strengths across time broadens ways of defining and engaging in social justice work.

Utilizing a social justice paradigm encourages an awareness of diversity, injustice, and inequalities, as well as self-reflection and "acting on systematic and hidden disparities with meaningful leadership in the discipline of Family Science" (IDC, 2017). Consequently, unpacking more concrete methods for conceptualizing and operationalizing social justice in Family Science theory, education, scholarship, and practice is a critical gap in the discipline.

The 2019 IDC Special Session will address the action portion of our call to social justice by highlighting the various ways scholars can enact these principles in their work around family

sustainability within evolving social contexts. In addition to the special session, the *Journal of Family Theory & Review (JFTR)* will publish a social justice-themed special issue with a focus on race and racism in the fall of 2019. The special session will include a discussion with a panel of authors from that special issue and a Q&A segment. The overarching goal of the session is to demonstrate the diverse ways that social justice principles are incorporated in teaching, research, and practice while encouraging attendees to think deeply about integrating a social justice paradigm into the work they do with and around families. The session will be moderated by Christi R. McGeorge, Ph.D.,

IDC continued on page 15



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Princeton University

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Melissa Swauger
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

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Feminism and Family Studies Section Update



Abbie E. Goldberg, Ph.D., Section Chair, agoldberg@clarku.edu

In anticipation of the 2019 NCFR Annual Conference, the Feminism and Family Section (FFS) is planning some exciting events, including several special sessions.

The first special session, “Religion, Family, and Raising Trans Kids: Personal and Research Perspective,” is a collaborative presentation featuring leading researchers on trans youth, Katherine A. Kavalanka, Ph.D., and Jenifer McGuire, Ph.D., along with S. Okrey Anderson, M.S.W. This dynamic presentation will include a brief discussion of research on religion, families, and raising trans kids; a personal account of raising a trans daughter; and a

Q&A session. This session is co-organized by the Religion, Spirituality, and Family Section. The session will be held on Friday, Nov. 22, from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m.

The second special session, “Intimate Partner Violence and Immigration: Research and Policy Perspective,” will include perspectives of leading researchers Laurie Cook Heffron, Ph.D., L.M.S.W., and Jhumka Gupta, Sc.D., M.P.H., as well as policy advocate Krista Del Gallo, of the Texas Council on Family Violence. All are working to understand, respond, and craft more relevant and effective solutions for immigrant survivors of intimate partner

violence. This session is cosponsored by the Family Policy Section and will be held on Thursday, Nov. 21, from 3 to 4:15 p.m.

In addition, Ramona Faith Oswald, Ph.D., will give the Alexis J. Walker Lifetime Achievement in Feminist Family Studies Award Address on Thursday, Nov. 21, from noon to 1:15 p.m.

All three of these sessions will be available online for conference attendees to watch live or on demand following the conference.

The FFS will hold its annual section member meeting during the conference on Wednesday, Nov. 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. The first half of the meeting will include reports from the chair-elect, past chair, and current chair, as well as updates on the FFS section financials and announcing of the incoming FFS executive board. Additionally, we will hold a live auction during the section member meeting to raise money for our section and for our section awards specifically.

We will also present three awards at the conference—the Jessie Bernard Research Proposal Award, the Jessie Bernard Paper Award, and the Alexis J. Walker Mid-Career Award.

We hope you will be registering soon for the 2019 NCFR Annual Conference. We look forward to exchanging new ideas and the opportunity to connect and reconnect with old and new friends and colleagues. ✨

IDC continued from page 14

and Anthony G. James, Jr., Ph.D., CFLE, with special remarks by *JFTR*'s editor, Mark Fine, Ph.D.

Understanding how to implement a social justice lens in the discipline can assist the evolution of theory to praxis through a critical examination of issues of power and privilege that position some individuals and families to thrive and have greater access to well-being while simultaneously constricting such access to other individuals and families. In the United States and around the world, race has been at the center of systems granting access to power, privilege, and resources (Golash-Boza, 2016). If the discipline of Family Science and NCFR is to hold true to its spoken goal of “strengthening families” by being “the premier professional association of understanding families through interdisciplinary research, theory, and practice,” then clearly articulating the historical and current state of how families thrive, and how to dismantle barriers to such thriving, is in order. We hope that this multiyear, multimodal approach to social justice helps NCFR, its members, and Family Science professionals live up to that goal. As we have done at past conferences, the IDC will also sponsor an Interactive Breakfast

Meeting on Friday, Nov. 22, 2019, from 7:30 to 9 a.m., to continue discussing themes from the special session. Using a roundtable format, attendees will be invited to delve deeper into the ways they can enact social justice principles in their work as scholars and practitioners. We will also use this time to garner feedback from conference attendees on future directions and initiatives for the IDC. This is particularly important to the IDC’s mission of supporting the needs of NCFR’s diverse membership.

We look forward to seeing you in Fort Worth and engaging in these transformative conversations with you! ✨

References

- Golash-Boza, T. (2016). A critical and comprehensive sociological theory of race and racism. *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, 2(2), 129–141.
- Inclusion and Diversity Committee. (2017). *National Council on Family Relations Inclusion and Diversity Board Committee Policies and Procedures*. Retrieved from <https://www.ncfr.org/board-and-governance/board/board-committees/inclusion-diversity-committee>



Families and Health Section Update

Kimberly Greder, Ph.D., CFLE, CFCS, Section Chair, kgreder@iastate.edu

2019 Annual Conference

The Families and Health (FH) Section has exciting events planned for the 2019 NCFR Annual Conference in Fort Worth, Texas.

Please plan to join us!

- Join us for the preconference workshop, “Mental Health First Aid for Higher Education,” on Tuesday, Nov. 19., from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The presenter is Jennifer Rojas-McWhinney, Ph.D., CFLE, a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Texas Tech University. This workshop is cosponsored by FH and the Family Therapy Section.
- Make sure to attend one or more of the excellent FH invited symposia:
 - **Mental and Physical Health in the Context of Masculinity and Fathering** (also livestreamed)
 - **Youth Trauma and Peer Harassment/Discrimination: Associations With Body Image, Dieting, and Obesity**
 - **Older Families in Daily Life** (co-organized with the Issues in Aging Focus Group and livestreamed)
 - **Cumulative Influence of Economic, Marital, and Parental Stress on Mental and Physical Health: A Prospective Investigation of Enduring Couples Over 28 Years**
 - **Sleep and Health Across the Lifespan**
 - **Shoring up the Capacity of Health Care, Early Childhood and Families to Prevent and Mitigate Toxic Stress: Opportunities and Challenges** (co-organized with the Family Policy Section)
Check ncfr.org/2019-schedule for dates and times.
- The FH section meeting will be held on Thursday, Nov. 21, from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. We will have door prizes, networking, and free memberships for newcomers, and we will recognize paper and poster award winners. If you are not a current FH section member,

consider coming to our section meeting. From 7:45 to 9 p.m. we will join the Family Policy Section and Ethnic Minorities Section for roundtable discussions.

Families and Health Poster Awards Due Oct. 11, 2019

Do you want to be recognized for the excellent research you are doing? Do you have an outstanding poster that was accepted to the NCFR Annual Conference in the FH Section? If yes, consider submitting your poster to the FH Section Outstanding Student and New Professional Poster Award.

WHO CAN APPLY: Any student or new professional who is a current member of the FH Section and who is the first author on an accepted poster. One award is given in the undergraduate and master students category, and another in the Ph.D. students and new professionals category.

JUDGING CRITERIA: Posters will be judged on their relevance and clear delivery of research content (background, methods, findings, discussion) as well as visual quality.

HOW TO APPLY: Send the following information by Oct. 11, 2019, to the FH

Section’s Students and New Professionals representative Carolyn Sutter at carolyns@illinois.edu:

- One “blinded” PDF of your finalized poster that does not include author or coauthor names or names of affiliated institutions.
- One “unblinded” PDF of your finalized poster that does include author or coauthor names and affiliations.
- Your current status as an undergraduate, master’s, or Ph.D. student or new professional.
- Information regarding your designated poster session time at the NCFR Annual Conference.

AWARD: Award recipients will receive a **\$100 prize**, a certificate, and a ribbon on your poster. You will also be recognized at the Families and Health Section meeting at the annual conference. The award will also look great on your CV and can help offset your conference travel costs! You will be notified via email of your award status before the conference.

FIND OUT MORE: ncfr.org/awards/section-awards/families-health ✨

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Family Policy Section Update

Anne Farrell, Ph.D., Section Chair, afarrell@chapinhall.org



The Family Policy Section would like to congratulate the 2019 award recipients of its two awards. We are impressed with the hard work of both of these family policy scholars and look forward to congratulating them formally at the 2019 NCFR Annual Conference in November.

Melissa Rector LaGraff, M.S., a doctoral candidate from the University of Tennessee, has been selected to receive the **Feldman Outstanding Research Proposal for Research in Family Policy**. Her proposal, entitled “Workplace Flexibility, Work–Family Guilt, and Parenting Behavior,” utilizes mixed methods to examine workplace flexibility, parenting behavior, and work–family guilt. Findings from this policy-relevant study will enhance understanding of family-oriented workplace policies and expand the literature

on how the workplace environment influences parenting behavior.

The **Feldman Internship Award** was granted to **Brittany Mihalec-Adkins, M.S.Ed.**, a doctoral student at Purdue University. She recently completed a three-semester internship with the Purdue University Center for Families and the Family Impact Institute. As a Levien Family Policy Intern, Mihalec-Adkins assisted with and led multiple efforts related to policy education for legislators, constituents, and researchers, and she engaged in policy analysis and dissemination. She has reciprocally used this experience and other efforts to engage more meaningfully in policy-oriented research as a Doris Duke and National Science Foundation graduate fellow, in her service on national child welfare advisory

councils, and in her work as a Court Appointed Special Advocate.

The Family Policy Section is eager to help welcome NCFR members and other attendees at this year’s conference in Fort Worth, Texas. In addition to dozens of papers, posters, and symposia, we have planned and cosponsored several invited sessions that address and stimulate research related to child welfare, intimate partner violence, and social determinants of health.

- **Family First Prevention Services Act: Building a 21st Century Child Welfare System** (Thursday, Nov. 21, 8:30 a.m.): This event provides a terrific opportunity for scholars and practitioners alike to learn how this landmark federal legislation requires jurisdictions to use evidence-based interventions and focus efforts more directly on prevention.
- **Intimate Partner Violence and Immigration: Research and Policy Perspective** (Thursday, Nov. 21, 3 p.m.): This symposium features important scholarship about the intersection of two phenomena that not only are timely but also represent critical opportunities for intervention
- **Shoring Up the Capacity of Health Care, Early Childhood and Families to Prevent and Mitigate Toxic Stress: Opportunities and Challenges** (Friday, Nov. 22, 4:15 p.m.). This panel includes researchers and implementers who are concerned with the impact of adverse childhood experiences across domains of functioning and the systems and supports that are implicated. The presenters are part of a national, funded collaboration that includes mixed-methods evaluation and policy analysis.

Additionally, please mark your calendar for the Family Policy Section Annual Member Meeting, followed by the Tri-Section Meeting that includes the Family Policy, Ethnic Minorities, and Families and Health Sections on Thursday, Nov. 21, at 6:45 p.m. We’ll serve a light dinner. Please join us! ✨

In Memoriam: Jetse Sprey

NCFR Fellow Jetse Sprey, Ph.D., died on June 1, 2019, at age 93. He was a member of NCFR for 59 years.

Born in the Netherlands, Dr. Sprey moved to the United States to attend Yale University, where he earned a master’s degree in Southeast Asia area studies and a doctorate in sociology. In his first faculty position at Franklin and Marshall College, he was assigned a course in the sociology of marriage and family, which became a primary focus of his scholarship. In 1964, Dr. Sprey joined the sociology department at Case Western Reserve University, where he remained until his retirement in 1991.

During his career he contributed numerous articles to family and sociology journals, primarily on family theory, as well as many book chapters. Dr. Sprey was the editor of *Journal of Marriage and the Family* from 1982 to 1985. He was also a founding member and regular presenter at the Theory Construction and Research Methodology Workshop, part of the annual NCFR conference.

Dr. Sprey remained active in his retirement as a contributing author to *JMF* and the *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, as recently as 2013. He was awarded NCFR Fellow status in 2004. ✨



NCFR Launches Mentoring Academy Benefit for Members

When NCFR asked members in 2018 whether NCFR should create a mentoring program, “yes” was the answer for more than 96% of survey respondents.

Given many members’ clear desire for a program that creates professional mentoring relationships, NCFR and its Students and

New Professionals (SNP) leaders are excited to pilot the NCFR Mentoring Academy program, in which any NCFR member is eligible and invited to participate as either a mentor or a mentee.

The NCFR Mentoring Academy is currently a two-year pilot program beginning in 2019, with one mentoring term per year. Each mentoring term begins at that year’s NCFR Annual Conference and ends at the following year’s annual conference.

Applications for the first year were due July 1, 2019, and applicants were notified in September about

the status of their application. Thank you to everyone who applied! Training and orientation for those selected will occur at the 2019 NCFR Annual Conference, Nov. 20-23 in Fort Worth, Texas.

This program was made possible by the important feedback shared through surveys and town-hall meetings on how the mentoring program should look. These insights were invaluable to the development of this program. Thank you to all who shared their thoughts and ideas.

Special thanks to the dedicated members of the NCFR Mentoring Academy Steering Committee: Kimberly A. Crossman, Ph.D.; Katie M. Barrow, Ph.D., CFLE; Jessica N. Fish, Ph.D.; Andrea L. Roach, Ph.D., CFLE; and Dana A. Weiser, Ph.D. ✨



NCFR Discussion Groups: An Online Gathering Place

NCFR’s discussion groups are an online gathering place for NCFR members and CFLEs to join conversations with members of their section, focus group, CFLE community, and other member groups. Group members can ask questions, share resources, and more.

- **Use email OR log in online.** You can create discussion threads and reply to others from your email, and you can also log in to a web platform to see group activity and read and post from a web browser.
- **See the people you’re talking to.** Each discussion group member is able to create a profile (including picture) that is connected to their posts. There’s also a directory that shows who’s in the group, and you can even send private messages to other individuals.

- **Browse and search past discussions and resources.** Log in online, go to your group, and search by keyword or browse through all past discussions in one place—no more going back through your entire email in box!

How to Post

There are two ways you can participate in this and your other discussion groups:

1. **Log in at nconf.org.** Logging in to the web platform will show you all of the groups you are in; allow you to search the library of documents and resource that group members post; and, of course, create and respond to discussions in your groups.

Your username is likely your preferred email address on file with NCFR, and is the same username and password you use to log in at my.nconf.org.

2. **Post directly from your email.** In this email and other discussion group emails, click “Post New Message” at the top of the email to create a new discussion. You’ll also see links in the email that allow you to respond to existing discussion threads.

Visit groups.nconf.org to join the conversation. ✨





*Clockwise from left:
Lauren Slivinski, Heather Nitzki, Julie McAnally, Maggie Joyce, Morgann Hegge, Rebecca Bush, and (above) Mandy Meserve.*



Letters to the Editor

You may submit letters to the editor to *NCFR Report* on topics and activities relevant to NCFR member interests. The following guidelines apply:

- Only letters submitted by members will be accepted.
- Length is limited to 250 words; letters may be edited for space and clarity.
- Letters must be signed and include author contact information; submissions are verified.
- Letters that are deemed libelous, malicious, or otherwise inappropriate will not be published.

Email letters to the editor to:
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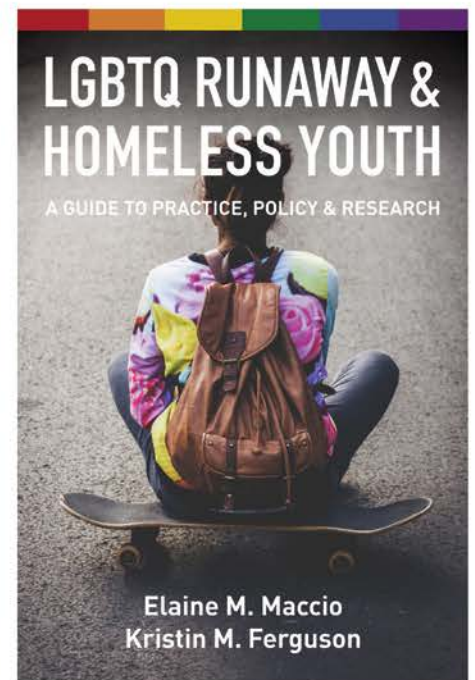
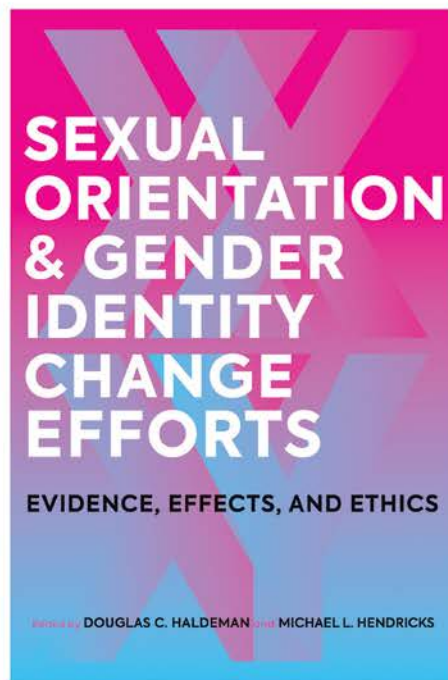
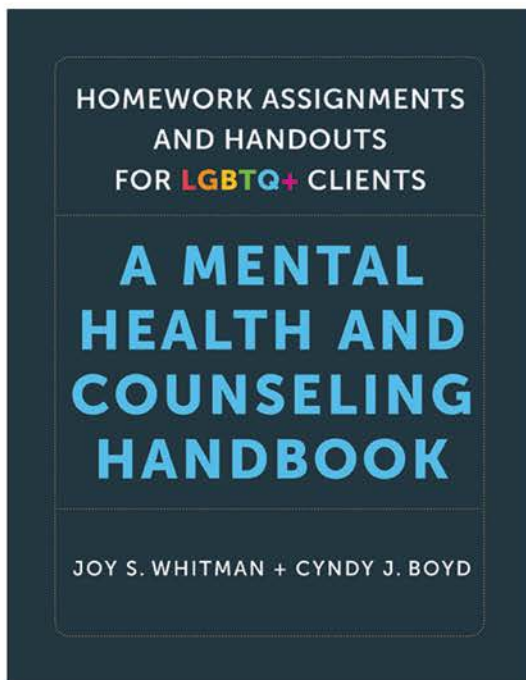
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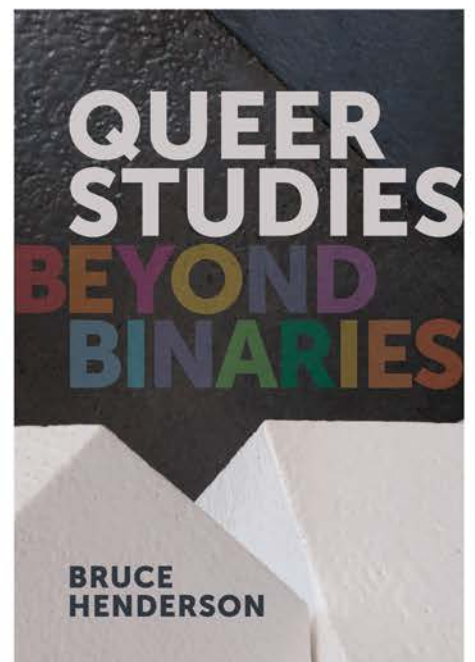
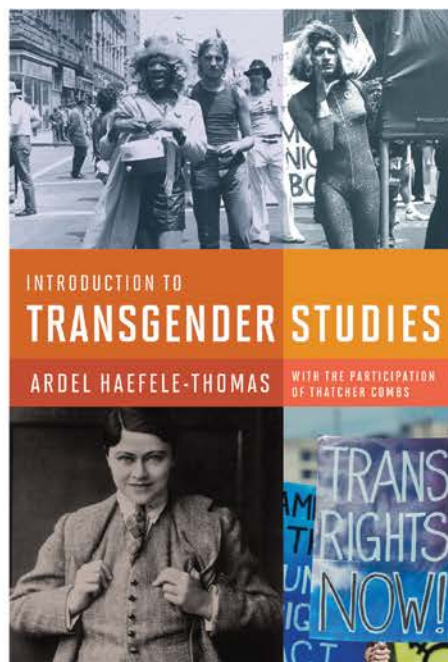
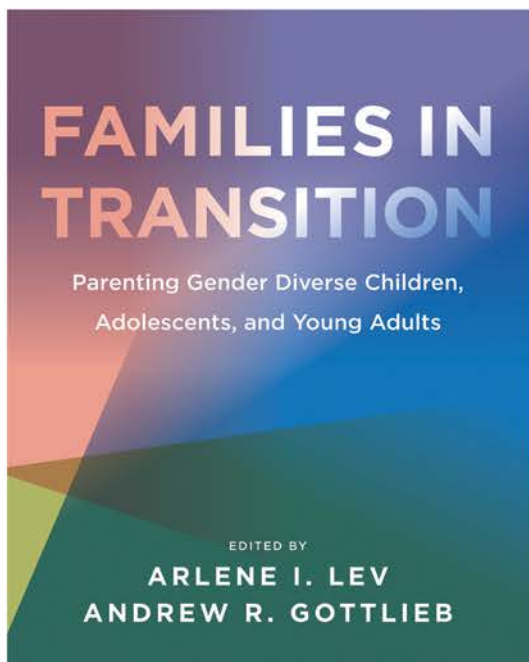
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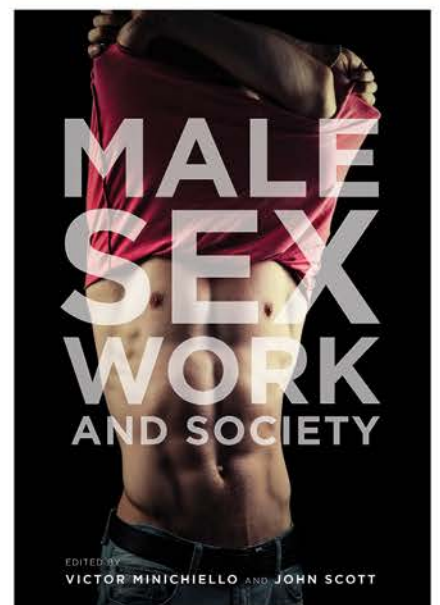
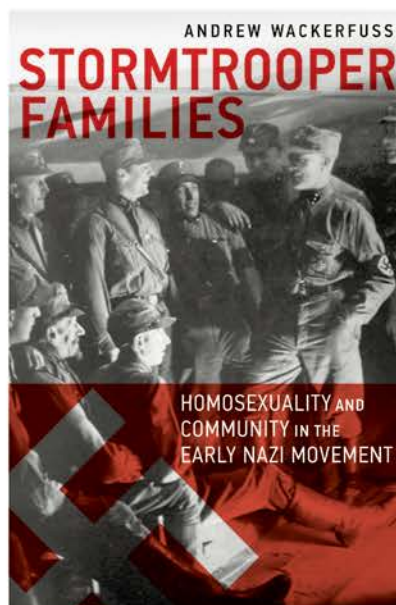
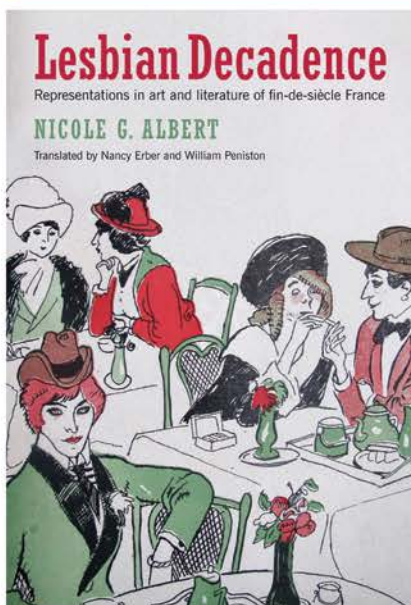
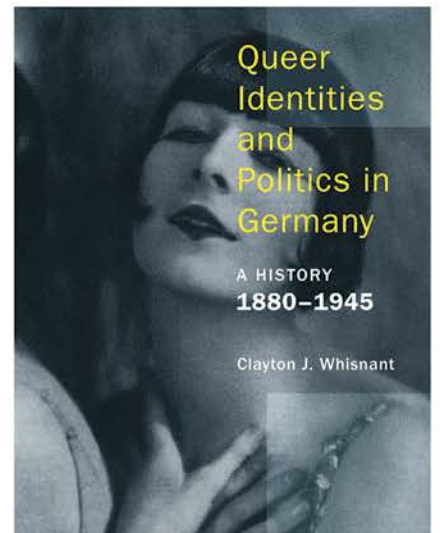
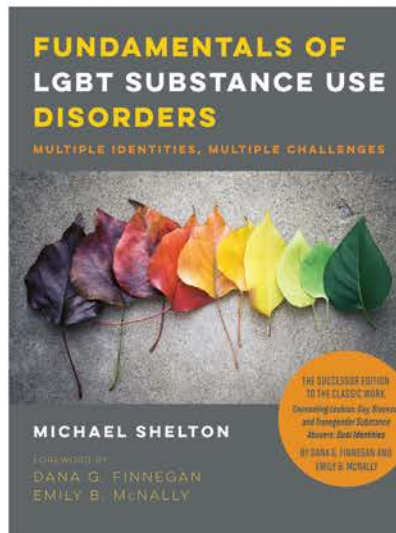
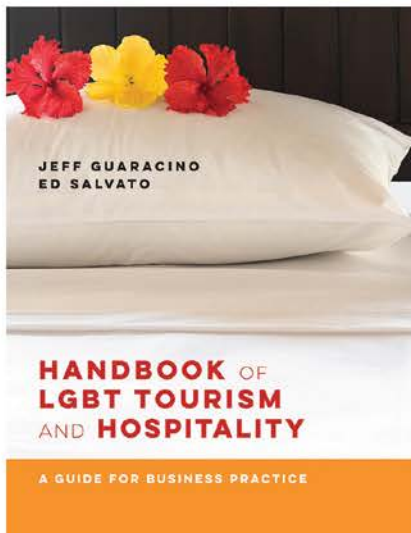
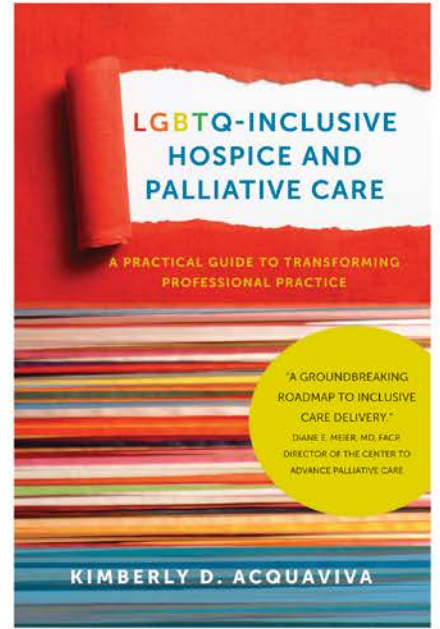
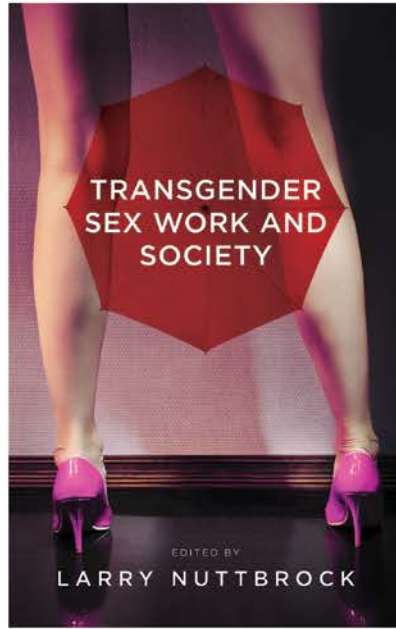


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Valerie Maholmes, Ph.D., CAS

Chief of the Pediatric Trauma and Critical Illness Branch, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health

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