

## Theory Construction & Research Methodology (TCRM) Workshop

Kani Diop and Daniel Puhlman, Co-Chairs

Since its establishment in 1971, the Theory Construction and Research Methodology Workshop (TCRM) has been a collegial forum for the discussion, development and refinement of theory and methods relevant to the study of families. It is a venue for cutting-edge work in family theory and/or research methods. TCRM workshops are held in conjunction with the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) annual conference. All who have an interest in family theory and research methods, including graduate students and new professionals, are invited to attend and participate.

The Theory Construction and Research Methodology (TCRM) Workshop offers a unique opportunity for scholars to discuss working papers on family theory and research methodology. The TCRM workshop is held immediately preceding the 2020 NCFR Annual Conference, on Nov. 10–11, 2020, in St. Louis, Missouri.

We invite scholars to submit theoretical or methodological proposals that would be of interest to both basic and applied researchers.

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 sponsored by NCFR's *Journal of Family Theory & Review* (JFTR), and many papers presented at TCRM have eventually been published in JFTR.

TCRM 2020 will accept proposals for three 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.
- **Dialogue Session:** This *new* session option invites scholars to present opposing or differing viewpoints on a specific topic. The session format, similar to an NCFR symposium, will invite presenters and the audience to engage in a discussion around a common topic and examine and sort out conceptual differences. Please follow NCFR symposium guidelines for submitting a proposal for this format.

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 1,750 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; and
- where possible, briefly discuss implications of the theoretical work or methodology to applied research or practice.

Showing evidence of work already underway is highly encouraged.

The deadline for TCRM submissions is **March 15, 2020, 11:59 p.m. PST**. Authors of accepted papers will be required to submit a full version of the paper, up to 35 pages, **by Aug. 15, 2020**.

TCRM submitters should fill out the TCRM application form and attach the proposal in PDF format. Email your proposal to TCRM Co-Chairs **Kani Diop and Daniel Puhlman** at [tcrm.ncfr@gmail.com](mailto:tcrm.ncfr@gmail.com).

Note that TCRM proposals are not submitted through the usual NCFR online submission system with other conference proposals.

Please **contact Kani or Daniel** with any questions regarding TCRM, the proposal process, or being a paper discussant. We are looking forward to seeing you in 2020!

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