

IN THIS ISSUE

Family Focus on Contouring Family Science's Negative Spaces

The aim of this issue of Family Focus is to bring attention to, and make visible, negative spaces that exist within family research, evidence-supported practices, educational pedagogies, and policies. Our contributing authors share a few examples of how scholarship can help us better understand and support the dynamic and fluid nature of families.

In the News:

Nominate Candidates to Be NCFR's
Next Leaders, 2

Hope in These Troubled Times, 3

The Decision to Move to a 2020 Virtual
Conference, 4

"Defund the Police": A Call to Action
for Family Science and Family Life
Educators, 5

Policy Activities at the 2020 NCFR
Annual Conference, 7

Member Group Updates, 12

In Memoriam, 17

2020 NCFR Annual Conference

Nov. 11-13, 2020

**Family Expansions, Expanding
Families: Contouring Family
Science's Negative Spaces**

Register now!

ncfr.org/ncfr-2020

Join Us at the 2020 Annual Conference

*Brad van Eeden-Moorefield, Ph.D., CFLE, Chair, 2020 Conference Program Committee,
vaneedenmobr@montclair.edu*

To my NCFR family near and far, I invite you to this year's NCFR Annual Conference! When I developed the theme for our 2020 conference, **Family Expansions, Expanding Families: Contouring Family Science's Negative Spaces**, I never imagined how truly defining the concepts of expansions and negative spaces would be. However, here we are in the middle of a global pandemic that has called on all of us to find and develop new ways to live, connect, work, and play.

As family professionals, we have a responsibility to act with greater intention and purpose to contribute to a safer, more secure, and a more just tomorrow for families.

I acknowledge there are great disparities in people's abilities to do these things, and these disparities are particularly prevalent among people and families of color. In addition to the pandemic and those related disparities, Black individuals and transwomen of color continue to be murdered, including at the hands of police in some instances. As family professionals, we have a responsibility to act with greater intention and purpose to contribute to a safer, more secure, and a more just tomorrow for families. The conference provides one avenue for us to come together and engage these responsibilities, and I hope we can do this in new ways in 2020.

The move to our first-ever virtual annual conference is an example of how we are being called on to expand our skills and practices; in this case, we are (re)examining the status quo to identify negative spaces and then recontouring the boundaries of the conference. Stated differently, we have an abundance of opportunities available to us for reimagining the NCFR conference experience. Some we have been able to put into action and test out, and many of those are actually closely aligned with my own goals for enhanced interaction in sessions and across the conference. Others, we now know are imaginable, and we can consider them for the future. Although these adjustments have been stressful and have created a tremendous amount of extra work, I believe that we have set up an excellent conference. We did this by pushing our creativity and trying hard to unbind ourselves—within the context of our resources, of course—from the way things have been while also being cognizant of the wisdom that history and historical practices afford us.

If you previously read the full explanation of the conference theme, you know that part of the meaning of the theme connected the



**Brad
van Eeden-Moorefield**

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.

President: Leigh A. Leslie

Board Members: Norma J. Bond Burgess, Jennifer L. Doty, April L. Few-Demo, Soyoung Lee, Bethany L. Letiecq, Brian G. Ogolsky, Robert Reyes, Andrea L. Roach, Joanne A. Roberts

Executive Director: Diane Cushman

News Editor: Trip Sullivan

Family Focus Editor:
Ted G. Futris, Ph.D., CFLE

How to contribute to the Family Focus section:

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.
- For information and guidelines, contact the editor, Ted G. Futris, Ph.D., CFLE at reporteditor@ncfr.org.

The contents of articles represent the views of their author(s), which may not represent the position of the entire organization.

How to advertise in NCFR Report

To advertise in NCFR Report, please see the specifications and price list at ncfr.org/about/advertise-ncfr/ncfr-report. NCFR reserves the right to decline any paid advertising at our sole discretion.

Deadlines for each of the quarterly issues are:

- Spring issue—Jan. 1
- Summer issue—April 1
- Fall issue—July 1
- Winter issue—Oct. 1

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.

Copyright © 2020 National Council on Family Relations. All rights reserved.

Family Focus is part of NCFR Report, a copyrighted publication of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR). No part of NCFR Report, including Family Focus articles, may be reprinted, reproduced, disseminated, or distributed by any means, including for classroom use, without permission of NCFR. Permissions are available through the NCFR website at bit.ly/2LFmbc2. NCFR reserves the right to deny any permission at its sole discretion.

Nominate Candidates to Be NCFR's Next Leaders

Jodi B. Dworkin, Ph.D., and Heather M. Helms, Ph.D., NCFR Elections Council Co-chairs

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, NCFR has made tremendous strides toward our mission of strengthening families. We need your help to keep up this momentum. As we approach the 2020 NCFR Annual Conference in November, 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 member-at-large (2022–2025), two positions
- Elections Council members (2022–2025), two positions
- Fellows Committee members (2022–2025), two positions
- Inclusion and Diversity Committee (2022–2025), two positions
- Conference Program Committee chair-elect (2022–2023, program chair for 2024 conference)

- Conference Program Committee Students and New Professionals Program Representative (2022–2024)

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 2021, the Elections Council will meet to identify and discuss possible candidates for 2022 who have been identified by nomination or who have previously served in leadership positions. We consider the experience of individual candidates and ensure both that the overall slate reflects the strength and diversity of the entire NCFR membership and that it 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. ✨

Thank You, NCFR Donors

April to June 2020

Katherine R. Allen

Elaine A. Anderson

Linda S. Behrendt

I. Joyce Chang

Laura Ellen Findley

Mary Agnes Gobert-Harrel

Tammy S. Harpel

Toni Hill

Bob E. Keim

Colton T. Kilpatrick

Bethany L. Letiecq

Wendy Middlemiss

Sharon N. Obasi

Michael S. Sitton

Gregory Smith

Kyleigh Donn Sullivan

Richard S. Wampler

Rebecca J. Ward

Terry Webster

Bethany N. Willis Hepp

Anisa M. Zvonkovic



Hope in These Troubled Times

Leigh A. Leslie, Ph.D., NCFR President, lleslie@umd.edu

As I sit in my office in June contemplating where we will be as an organization, a discipline, and a nation in September when you will be reading this, I am sure of very few things. One thing the past several months have taught me is how quickly reality can change and, at the same time, not change. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are all living with a dramatic upheaval in our personal, professional, and civic lives like nothing we have ever experienced. At the same time, White Americans are coming face-to-face with the ongoing White supremacy and racial injustice that tragically seems to be marrow in the bones of this nation. So where will we be in three months in grappling with this new reality and this old reality? While I do not know, I have hopes.

When I think of our new reality of living in the time of COVID-19, I hope that in three months we, as a nation, have learned the value of caring for one another and of making small personal sacrifices to keep others safe. I know many of us will be practicing this as never before as we return to our campuses and workplaces, many of us in person. For those of you on campuses, I hope you experience support from students, colleagues, and most importantly, administration as you navigate keeping yourself and your loved ones safe.

I also hope we continue to harness the flexibility and creativity this pandemic has demanded from us. Moving our classes and practices online and discovering new ways to conduct our research has made us stretch and grow, sometimes in ways we did not realize we were capable of (who knew I'd ever be able to move students into online chat rooms when 4 months ago I couldn't start a Zoom call? I feel like Scotty on *Star Trek!*). I want to send out a huge thank you to Conference Chair Brad van Eeden-Moorefield, the entire Conference Program Committee, and our amazing NCFR staff for coping with the realities of keeping us

safe during the pandemic and switching to a virtual platform (or multiple virtual platforms) for this year's annual conference. I was amazed at the optimism, determination, and (dare I say it) even enjoyment these folks demonstrated in rising to the challenge to ensure that we all have a professionally stimulating conference in November.

When I think of the old reality of racism, I desperately hope that in three months the national energy to make meaningful structural changes has not stalled. At the organization level, I hope we are heeding the NCFR Board of Directors' call to action in response to the death of George Floyd both to listen and to act to build an antiracist

Moving our classes and practices online and discovering new ways to conduct our research has made us stretch and grow, sometimes in ways we did not realize we were capable of.

society. I want to thank the Feminism and Family Studies Section and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Straight Alliance Focus Group for their rapid response to the board's call and putting out their "Statement in Admonishment of Anti-Black Racism and Call to Action," which outlined six steps that they, as a section and a focus group, would implement immediately. Between the time of this writing and your reading, I am confident many other sections and focus groups will have begun this important dialogue and development of an action plan. I trust this work will be further elaborated as we come together at the conference in November.

As a board, we are working to develop an organizational action plan based on input from members. To that end, by the time you are reading this, we hope to have had two listening sessions in which NCFR members

were invited to join board members in a virtual space to share their ideas about next steps. There will also be an opportunity for listening to occur at the Inclusion and Diversity Committee breakfast during the conference. I certainly invite all who did not join us in the listening sessions, as well as those who did, to join the IDC and board as we listen to both your experiences and your ideas for moving forward in an antiracist way as an organization. My hope is that we come away from these sessions with action steps for our organization and our professional homes, be they universities or community clinics.

In the next 3 months, and in the months and years to come, I also hope that Family Science as a discipline investigates and dismantles the implicit and explicit biases that infiltrate our teaching, research, and practice. For example, although systems theory undergirds much of our discipline, we far too often teach and write about race differences in health, education, income, and relationship dynamics as if they were about differences between groups—instead of, for example, locating the origins of those differences in larger societal processes and structures that advantage some groups at the expense of others. We must ground our empirical questions and explanations, as well as our interventions, in the reality of structural racism and oppression.

Progress on both these realities may be slow, but the work is so important, and I hope that we as a nation, a discipline, and an organization are up to the challenges.

I have written so far about what I hope, but let me end by saying a few things about what I know. I know that as we take on both of these realities, relationships are critical to not just surviving but also thriving. Who among us has not reconnected with old friends during the pandemic? The multiple happy hours or sharing-hour virtual calls

President's Report continued on page 9



The Decision to Move to a 2020 Virtual Conference

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

The COVID-19 pandemic has quickly reshaped our world in many ways, especially when it comes to how businesses operate remotely or with minimal in-person contact. When Minnesota's stay-at-home order came down from Governor Tim Walz in mid-March, necessity dictated several changes to how NCFR operates.

The first change was that NCFR staff relocated their offices to home. For years we have made regular use of telecommuting for staff and had all the systems in place to redeploy to a virtual workforce. All meetings among staff moved to Microsoft Teams and those that included NCFR members moved to the Zoom platform. Board committees that had previously met face-to-face in the spring moved their meetings online. Our largest spring meeting, of the Annual Conference Planning Committee, had been scheduled to take place in Minnesota over April 30 and May 1. (See the article on the 2020 conference submission and review process at bit.ly/ncfr20planning). The hotel contract had been signed months earlier, and all flights had been booked. Nonetheless, the meeting was moved online out of necessity. Flight bookings were canceled, with NCFR eventually recovering nearly all the airfare, and the Saint Paul Hotel released NCFR from its contract without penalty.

A major obstacle and decision remained: the matter of the annual conference scheduled for November 11 through 14 in St. Louis, Missouri. Since 1938 NCFR has hosted 78 annual in-person conferences. Only during the World War II years were conferences suspended. When NCFR issued its 2020 conference call for submissions in December 2019, we were excited to explore the visual aspects afforded by the intersection of the Gateway Arch of our host city and our conference theme, Family

Expansions, Expanding Families: Contouring Family Science's Negative Spaces. We were looking forward to returning to the site of the 1974 NCFR conference, and also to learning from the experiences of local colleagues in the years following the police killing of Michael Brown in the city of Ferguson, Missouri, in August 2014.

From the initial reporting of the novel coronavirus in China to the first cases in the United States, my thoughts turned to the annual conference and the safety of our staff and members. Our first sign of concern

We're developing the virtual NCFR conference to provide as much academic content as an in-person conference, including real-time discussions and interaction.

among members was the submission rate. Having risen to over 800 in recent years, it fell to 587 in 2020. Our next indication that it was going to be difficult to move forward with planning a face-to-face event was feedback from the Conference Program Committee that special session and invited presenters were reluctant to commit to presenting in person at the conference. All the while, the incidence of COVID-19 was on the rise, airlines were canceling flights, countries were closing to international travel, and health officials were warning of the dangers of gathering in groups.

As the international scope of the pandemic was unfolding, the staff were in discussions with the host hotel in St. Louis, trying to determine when and whether it would be feasible to make a decision about an in-person conference. Would it be safe to hold an in-person event? Would people attend?

Would airlines be operating? Would the virus be less prevalent by November?

Hotel contracts commonly contain clauses that allow either the hotel or the client to cancel the contract, without penalty, under certain circumstances. In this unprecedented situation it was not clear when or whether an "impossibility" or "force majeure" clause might be enforceable. Typically such clauses are intended to be invoked when a singular event such as an earthquake renders a hotel uninhabitable and therefore not able to host a conference. As time continued to pass, the pandemic expanded and crowd size and travel restrictions were put in place, yet the hotel in St. Louis refused to let NCFR out of the contract without significant penalty. As the April 30 meeting of the Conference Program Committee neared, a decision was needed so that planning could continue.

In the end, the NCFR Board of Directors supported the only decision that could ensure the safety of staff and members: moving forward with planning a virtual conference. It was a difficult decision made in the face of uncertainties, informed by a member survey but without a resolution to the issue of the hotel contract, and with the recommendations of scientists around the world that it could be many months before it would be safe to gather people in large groups.

Staff who had already begun to research virtual conferences discussed their findings with conference planners. Budget models were prepared. The conference planning committee held a successful Zoom meeting. Pricing decisions were made, which included a "COVID Year" discount for all registration levels, and registration opened for a virtual conference on June 22.

Executive Review continued on page 6



“Defund the Police”: A Call to Action for Family Science and Family Life Educators

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

The current conversation around “defunding” the police is leading the way for a paradigm shift in how we as a society choose to deal with social problems. This paradigm shift provides an opportunity to advocate for the discipline of Family Science and to highlight the important role that Family Life Educators can play in meeting the needs of society in a more effective and positive way.

For some, the phrase “defund the police” conjures images of a lawless society, but in reality, the movement is about transferring resources from the police to social programs and community-based efforts, in order to focus on more efficiently and effectively meeting the needs of the community. It is also about considering ways in which we can focus more efforts toward preventing social problems in the first place.

The conversations around this concept of defunding provide opportunities to consider the current work that police are doing in our communities and to think about how else we might deal with social problems like homelessness, domestic violence, substance abuse, and mental illness, which are often at the root of crime. In our current society, the go-to response for dealing with many of these problems is with police and prisons. What if we start to think about different ways to respond to these same problems, such as decreasing the role of the police in situations that are not dangerous and instead allowing trained medical and social service professionals to take the lead? Clearly this approach would provide opportunities to increase the role of Family Life Educators in addressing many of the issues and situations the police currently face.

Conversations around reallocating resources from the police to community-based efforts provide two opportunities for NCFR: advocating for the discipline of Family Science and advocating for the role of Family

Life Educators and Family Science graduates as agents in increased efforts to provide education and resources to support and strengthen families.

Advocating for Family Science

In taking a truly preventive and proactive approach to minimizing societal problems, we can focus on increasing awareness and understanding of, as well as providing tangible financial support toward, the important role of family in society. We can advocate for Family Science and the importance of studying families and providing individuals and families with research-based information about the knowledge and skills they need to function at their full potential.

CFLEs are particularly qualified to create and administer programs focused on preventing violence, homelessness, and substance abuse.

I am reminded of a proverb from Ghana: *the ruin of a nation begins in the homes of its people*. Perhaps a more positive approach to that idea is to consider the home as the foundation of a healthy and successful society. We can take advantage of this moment and bring attention to the important role that family can play in providing individuals with the knowledge and skills they need in order to be contributing members of society. The family is the logical place for individuals to learn basic life skills, including communication, conflict resolution, parenting, and caring for ourselves and others. The family is also often where we develop our sense of self and of others. It is this sense of self, whether it be positive or negative, that affects how we move forward in the world and how we

treat others. Some families are successful in providing a positive foundation for their members, but we know that many times they are not. As we begin to think differently about how society can address social problems, we can take this opportunity to promote the value of investing more money and resources into making sure that families have everything they need to be successful.

Advocating for Family Life Education

The paradigm shift that is occurring also provides an opportunity to advocate for Family Life Education (FLE). The foundation of Family Life Education is one of optimism. It is based on belief in the inherent strength of individuals and families and recognition of the wisdom and value of taking a preventive and educational approach to contributing to healthy, functioning families. According to NCFR’s white paper “Family Life Education: A Profession With a Proven Return on Investment,” Family Life Educators play an important role in prevention education, outreach and engagement methods, and current and future funding models. A core concept within FLE is that “societal problems such as substance abuse, domestic violence, unemployment, debt, and child abuse can be more effectively addressed from a perspective that considers the individual and family as part of larger systems” (retrieved from “What Is Family Life Education,” at ncfr.org/fle). Knowledge of Family Science and FLE can be applied to prevent or minimize many of these problems through classes, programs, and publications and other educational efforts. Beyond prevention, Carol A. Darling, Lane Powell, and I note in *Family Life Education. Working with Families across the Lifespan* (2014), that many intervention strategies rely on providing some level of education, including the teaching of new skills to help avoid similar problems in the future.

Directions continued on page 6

Executive Review continued from page 4

We're developing the virtual NCFR conference to provide as much academic content as an in-person conference, including real-time discussions and interaction. Our goal is to ensure that the important work family scholars and professionals are producing can still be presented, discussed, and shared widely among the Family Science community. Our conference chair Brad van Eeden-Moorefield was an early booster of the virtual conference. He and the conference planning team are excited by many of the possibilities that a virtual conference affords for learning and connecting through inventive and creative means. We know our conference attendees truly value and

enjoy connecting in person with one another, and NCFR remains committed to facilitating opportunities for networking and connection in this new virtual setting.

Now with a few months of hindsight, the decision to move forward with a virtual conference feels even more like the right one. Although states have since opened back up in many capacities, gatherings large and small outside the home have resulted in spikes of virus cases and deaths. More and more large gatherings are being canceled or drastically modified to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Many schools across the country are planning for their new school year to occur totally via distance learning or by a mix of virtual and limited in-person instruction.

Philadelphia canceled all large events into February 2021. Major league sports teams are playing games with no fans present and the players abiding by strict medical and social distancing protocols. I am encouraged by these circumstances that we can still come to a resolution with the St. Louis hotel that avoids a substantial cost to NCFR.

Already we have begun to ask whether we will ever go back to the way life was before the pandemic. The Greek philosopher Plato is credited with having said that "necessity is the mother of invention." Throughout time, need has driven invention and adaptation. The year 2020 is likely to go down in history as one of the most inventive years ever. ✨

Directions continued from page 5

Opportunities for Family Life Educators

The field of Family Life Education identifies the content, knowledge, skills, and abilities needed for effective practice. The Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) credential provides a mechanism for recognizing expertise.

CFLEs' training and experience in Family Science and Family Life Education, and their knowledge about best practices, leaves them particularly qualified to create and administer programs focused on preventing violence, homelessness, and substance abuse and to teach about anger management, conflict resolution, communication skills, money and resource management, parenting education, job skills, and more. Family Life Educators

have been doing this work for years, as is demonstrated through the many articles in the CFLE newsletter *Network* that highlight the work of CFLEs working in substance abuse prevention programs, schools, housing, trauma-informed education, adverse childhood experiences, violence prevention, and incarceration. Many of these articles highlight the preventive and proactive efforts of Family Life Educators.

As communities throughout the United States discuss what a reorganization of police and social services can look like, they are considering how to allocate funds and resources to programs that prevent problems, support families, reduce the

need for police intervention, and provide strategies for minimizing future problems. It is time to bring attention to the qualified workforce of Family Life Educators. They need to be working alongside social workers and therapists in meeting the needs of the members of our society.

A Call to Action

It is important that we act during this important moment in our country's history. CFLEs and NCFR members need to get involved in their community to make sure that those involved in implementing change understand the role of strong families in reducing social problems. Make sure that they know about Family Science and Family Life Education, and that CFLEs and Family Science graduates are available to design and implement programs and services to prevent and minimize problems, and to increase the success of intervention efforts. The time to act is now.

Please take advantage of NCFR's discussion forums to network with your colleagues and share ideas and strategies for making sure that efforts to restructure how society addresses public safety include Family Life Education and Family Science. ✨



Policy Activities at NCFR, Highlighting the 2020 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. This year, we are spending extra time preparing for a virtual conference! The Conference Program Planning Chair, Brad van Eeden-Moorefield, Ph.D., and the Conference Program Planning Committee have pulled together another amazing 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 Expansions, Expanding Families: Contouring Family Science's Negative Spaces, "places a particular emphasis on taking time to reflect and look for elements of family life that not only are present or emerging, but also those that become visible with the use of a new or yet to be discovered perspective or vantage point," as stated in the call for proposals.

The goals of the 2020 conference are to better understand the dynamic and fluid nature of families in this new decade.

We will use dialogue, engagement, and presentations of scholarship to articulate a set of inclusive priorities and practice, including:

- research priorities,
- evidence-supported practices,
- policy priorities, and
- educational and pedagogical priorities.

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-2020/schedule) for a full list of policy and policy-related posters and sessions not listed here—and all the other sessions too. Some sessions will be presented live, some presentations will be recorded, and all sessions will be available to access on demand. Live sessions will become on demand after the live presentation. Check the conference program to learn more about which sessions are live.

Wednesday, Nov. 11

- **Contouring Negative Spaces: Attending to Underrepresented Topics in Research on Foster and Adoptive Families**, a Family Policy Section symposium
- **Surfacing the Language of Family Privilege in the Media, Policy, and Family Science: A Critical Workshop for Systems Change**, a Feminism and Family Studies Section workshop
- **Immigration Policy and its Impact on Families and Communities**, an International Section symposium

Thursday, Nov. 12

- **Translating Your Work to a Broader Audience: A Workshop for Researchers Whose Work is of Practical and Policy Significance**, an invited presenter workshop organized by the Family Policy Section
- **Community and Place as Context**, an interactive paper session from the Family Policy Section
- **Going Public: Recommendations for Engaging in Public Scholarship, Translational Research, and Advocacy Efforts**, an invited presenter symposium organized by the NCFR Students and New Professionals Group

Friday, Nov. 13

- **The Fight at Home: Understanding the Contexts of Stressful Experiences for Military Families**, a Family Policy Section symposium
- **Linking Healthy Relationships Research and Practice—Findings From the Marriage Strengthening Research and Dissemination Center**, a Family Policy Section symposium
- **Understanding Family Processes in the Context of Policy**, an International Section paper session
- **Disseminating Bootcamp: Turn Your Scholarship Into Public Engagement**,

an Education and Enrichment Section workshop

Plenary Sessions

In addition to the above sessions, the scheduled plenaries are sure to inspire us to think critically about the implications of family policy and how the research can and should have an impact on policies at the federal, state, and local levels. See page 9 for details on the plenary sessions.

- **Wednesday: Raising Equity: Helping Families Navigate Systems of Oppression**, Kira Banks, Ph.D., and Amber Johnson, Ph.D.
- **Thursday: Global Health Disparities Among Families in the COVID-19 Pandemic**, Ndidiamaka N. Amutah-Onukagha, Ph.D.; Anis Ben Brik, Ph.D.; and Rosario Esteinou, Ph.D.
- **Friday: The Manifestations of Microaggressions Within Families: Intersectional Identities, Power, and More**, Kevin Nadal, Ph.D.

A final session to highlight is the Inclusion and Diversity Committee's special session **Environmental Justice in Family Research, Teaching, and Scholarship** on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

Be sure to check out all of the excellent sessions offered throughout the virtual conference related to policy, advocacy, social justice, and more. You can find a full list of these sessions and more in the annual conference program

Remember, don't miss a single session in which you are interested. All sessions will be available on demand this year!

The 2020 NCFR Annual Conference is sure to generate multiple ideas, connections with new and familiar colleagues, future conference proposals and research collaborations, and new perspectives when interacting with your colleagues during the conference. ✨

Annual Conference continued from page 1

conference to its originally planned location, St. Louis. The meaning of the theme provided a nod to the symbolic nature of the Gateway Arch (U.S. westward expansion) with an understanding of both the (a) potential expansion and an orientation toward the future holds for advancement and (b) a stark reminder that expansion often includes serious maltreatment of many marginalized populations (e.g., Blacks, Native Americans, immigrants) and misuse of their talents and labor to achieve the goals of the day. Suffice it to say, progress often is a result of the hidden work and sacrifices of marginalized individuals and their families. These individuals and families, and their work and sacrifice, are negative spaces that must be made visible alongside the progress that otherwise would not have been achieved without them.

We also must consider advancement in a more global context that highlights the true nature of our interdependencies. For anyone who does not fully realize how highly connected our global world is, or for those who cannot imagine the myriad ways in which we are interdependent, the current pandemic provides example after example. Scientists in multiple countries are now collaborating on the shared goal of developing treatments for COVID-19, as well as a vaccine. We have also learned the degree to which many supply chains are global and highly interdependent such that distribution can break down when just a few businesses slow down or close and/or when there are impediments to moving materials between countries (e.g., think disinfectant wipes). Various global health disparities have garnered new visibility during the pandemic, and others have been made visible for the first time. Concurrent with the pandemic, we have witnessed additional social interdependencies across the globe. One example of this includes multiple protests erupting across several countries after the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

The point I hope to make is this: We have great opportunity to more deeply and intentionally join with one another in ways that allow us to identify and coalesce around the most critical needs of families today and in the decades ahead. Often, we are put into silos, which limits us to a narrow expertise related to areas within research, teaching, practice, or policy. Rarely do we engage with those in other silos, and even more rarely do we create work that truly bridges research, teaching, practice, and policy. Certainly, this is changing. There is opportunity, and negative space to contour, to collaborate and identify some critical areas of focus for the coming decade, and then to assemble larger groups that come further out from their silos to drive these priorities forward. Over my years in the academy, I have witnessed more movement toward creating project teams (and more pushback against organizational policies that get in the way

of these efforts that value the individual over the collective). I also have witnessed, and read in the conference evaluations completed by attendees, the value of coming together for our conference each year so that we, as a larger body, can share, think, and debate ways to continue our mission of strengthening families. We have expanded our own definitions of families, we have engaged some efforts toward diversity and inclusion, and we have begun to assert a more public voice about the strengths and challenges of contemporary families.

As you prepare for the 2020 conference, I ask that you consider these questions: What can we see that has always been there waiting to be seen? What can we imagine and innovate if we remove limits and constraints? Set aside the rules, at least for a moment, and color outside of the lines. Have fun, engage yourself and others, and test out the unknown opportunities awaiting you at this year's conference. I think that I might be even more excited about this year's conference because we get to try out some new things and see what happens. That said, I am entirely confident that the conference content will be insightful and rigorous, and that we will find new ways to promote our cherished time to interact with one another. I am thankful for the efforts of the NCFR Conference Program Planning Committee and NCFR staff, especially Jennifer Crosswhite and Cindy Winter, who have made this all happen.

To my NCFR family, I end this conference invitation with a brief overview of the plenaries (see next page), with the full realization that what is going on in the world may slightly alter some of the material by the time of the conference. I am absolutely excited about every presenter, topic, and the variation in plenary formats. Each plenary speaks to our world today with an understanding of our history and an envisioning of what tomorrow can be when we work together. Again, please join me at this year's annual, and first-ever virtual, NCFR Annual Conference! ✨

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:

tripsullivan@ncfr.org

Or mail to:

NCFR
Attn: NCFR Report
661 LaSalle Street, Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55114

2020 Annual Conference Plenary Presenters

Wednesday Plenary

Focus: Community engagement, helping families navigate systems of oppression, healing, creating empathy, and the needed social justice efforts to continue combating and preventing future injustices against Black individuals and families, especially killings of Black men, such as those experienced in Ferguson, Minneapolis, and too many other communities across the U.S.

Kira H. Banks, Ph.D.
(Pronouns: She/Her/Hers), Department of Psychology, Saint Louis University; racial equity consultant for the Ferguson Commission and Racial Equity Catalyst for Forward Through Ferguson; developer of *Raising Equity* podcast and YouTube channel.



Amber Johnson, Ph.D. (Pronouns: They/Them/Theirs), Department of Communications, Saint Louis University; founder and creator of The Justice Fleet; cofounder of the Institute for Healing Justice and Equity



Thursday Plenary

Focus: Global health disparities among families in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussion will (a) identify the structural and systemic inequalities inside and outside of health care that contribute to disparities, and (b) propose ideas for a broad approach to combating these inequalities with a focus on actionable steps.

Ndidiamaka N. Amutah-Onukagha, Ph.D. (Pronouns: She/Her/Hers), Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, Tufts University; Certified Health Education Specialist



Anis Ben Brik, Ph.D., M.P.A. (Pronouns: He/Him/His), College of Public Policy, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar; former director of the Family Policy Department at the Doha International Family Institute; principal investigator of COVID-19 Family Life Study



Rosario Esteinou, Ph.D. (Pronouns: She/Her/Hers), Center of Research and Higher Studies in Social Anthropology, Mexico City, Mexico

Friday Plenary

Focus: The manifestation of intersectional microaggressions in family contexts. There will be a focus on understanding types of microaggression and their impacts and on identifying effective intervention strategies for working with families of diverse backgrounds.

Kevin Nadal, Ph.D. (Pronouns: He/Him/His), Department of Psychology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York; National Trustee, Filipino American National Historical Society; cofounder, LGBTQ Scholars of Color Network; creator, *Out Talk* and *#ThisIsWhatAProfessorLooksLike* ✨



President's Report continued from page 3

with loved ones in our lives, as well as those we have not made contact with in years, speaks to the most basic need we have for human connection in the face of uncertainty. And the inability to hug or touch loved ones we do not live with poignantly reminds us of the precious, sustaining powers of human touch. Relationships are also imperative on so many levels for building an antiracist society. It almost goes without saying that it is impossible to do this work alone. However, to dig down a little deeper, there are at least two ways in which relationships are critical to this work. First, White people must hold one another accountable. We must do the

work to educate ourselves and we must call one another out when our words or actions perpetuate a racist ideology. Conversely, we must be willing to listen when someone is trying to help us see our blind spots. Second, we must have authentic interracial relationships. I believe as an organization, we have nurtured many friendships and working partnerships among scholars and practitioners of diverse races, ethnicities, and backgrounds. But I wonder how often those of us who are White have ever sat down and said, "What do I not understand?" I quickly want to point out that it is not minoritized colleagues' job to educate us. Instead, we must establish the kind of relationships in

which this type of honest dialogue is part and parcel of how we connect to one another.

I hold firmly to the belief that members of NCFR are people who believe in the importance of relationship, fairness, and justice. I also recognize that I, and others, have glaring blind spots in our understanding of challenges faced by racial minoritized individuals and families. I sincerely hope that we can move forward to empower one another as we work to flourish during the new reality we are facing due to the pandemic and to overcome—finally—the horrific legacy of racism that plagues us all. ✨

Welcome to the Newest Members of NCFR

Please join us in welcoming these members who joined between April 1 and June 30, 2020.

Bruno Ache Akua	Hannah Rose Cragun	Elizabeth Blair Harison	Caitlyn Leigh Mayer
Layne Amerikaner	John Francisco Crownover	Josh Harris	Rod E. McCall
Sedreka Symone Anderson	Mary David	Darah May Henley	Sara Ashton McGee
Sara Axtell	Crystal D. Davidson	Sydney McKay Herman	Stacey R. Merlin
Beth Beaver	Brittany Davis	James Benjamin Hinnant	Allegra Midgette
Chance A. Bell	Mary Dawson	Abigail L. Horton	Amanda Mitby
Stacy Elizabeth Bergman	Traci Day	Yasumitsu Jikihara	Meghan Pope Montemurro
Janelle Torri Billingsley	Rui Ding	Aledrian Kemp	Robyn T. Moore
Vida Nana Ama Bonney	Shaun Eide	Sonia Kevnick	Leslie Kirsten Moorman
Felicia Boyd	Andrea S. Fanta	Cassidy Eve Kopke	Yasmin Morales-Alexander
Taylor Nycol Brown	Laura Ellen Findley	Ashley Kuske	Lisa Thi Nguyen
Shawn Maurice Bryant	Wendy Fuller	Thai H. Le	Lauren D. Pangcocg
Cami J. Cho	Beverly Gillen	Shaylie Ledbetter	JoEllen G. Pederson
Elyse Christian	Aariyana Green	Kristen Michelle Maple	Natasha Lina Peterson
Mitchell Douglas Cochran	Megan Guthrie	Alecia Jenell Martin	QueenElla R. Pringle
Keisha Cornelius	Yolonda Hairston	Siti Masudah	Edlyn Quintero
			Amy Elise Raposa
			Brian Reeves
			Brenda Rodriguez
			Tiffany Tinette Ross
			Belem Sanchez
			LaRonda Kay Savoy
			Olivia Ann Scheeler
			JinSol Seo
			Lindsay Seymour
			Sheila Sjolseth
			Coral C. Slavin
			Helen Spear
			Ellen Taner
			Erin Ann Thompson
			KaSondra D. Toney
			Kelsey Regina Van Selous
			Jessica Veitch
			Azucena Verdin
			Rayann Williams
			Alesia Woszidlo
			Emma Zang
			Mersades L. Zupan

Congratulations To NCFR's Honors Graduates for Summer 2020

NCFR awarded honors to three university students who completed their academic programs in summer 2020. Thank you to our members who reviewed applications!

- Shelby Marie Astle, Kansas State University
- Jared T. King, Texas Woman's University
- Dana R. Poynter, Western Kentucky University

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

Graduating this fall? The deadline to **apply for honors** for fall 2020 graduates is Oct. 1, 2020. ✨

Writing Wednesdays Builds Community and Collaboration Among NCFR Colleagues

Jordan A. Arellanes, Ph.D., and Jennifer L. Doty, Ph.D., CFLE

Writing Wednesdays was created to serve the NCFR Students and New Professionals (SNP) group during a summer marred by separation from school and work and increased difficulties associated with COVID-19. This program created a sense of community, increased productivity, drew on peer accountability, and presented the opportunity to gain feedback on manuscripts, outreach efforts, or theses and dissertations.

In spring 2019, SNP representatives met and discussed the need to provide NCFR members with the opportunity for additional resources and to create a sense of community during the pandemic. SNP recognized that going online affected the academic development of many of our members. There was a need to create initiatives that better supported the progress of students, researchers, and practitioners alike. Three initiatives were agreed on, one of which was Writing Wednesdays. NCFR staff worked quickly to establish a safe and secure Zoom profile for NCFR members to hold meetings virtually. SNP reps shared recruitment materials across NCFR discussion boards to encourage NCFR members to participate in the program. Additionally, SNP reps shared information across associated university emails, which enabled Writing Wednesdays to become a recruitment opportunity for new potential members to learn about services provided by NCFR.

To date, 36 individuals have registered for Writing Wednesdays. In total, 25 SNP have participated across meetings, and on average, 11 SNP have participated per meeting. Each Wednesday, members join the meeting, welcome one another, and share the progress that they have made on their writing over the previous week. Two 45-minute sessions, with a short break in between, provide dedicated writing time. Individuals are instructed to keep their webcams on; in this way, accountability

to peers limits distractions. During the final 15 minutes, individuals share what they completed during the sessions and what they want to accomplish by the following week. In addition, guest speakers have shared more information to help members become more productive in their work, including NCFR member services.

We're Moving to Mondays This Fall – Join Us!

**Mondays, Sept. 21 - Nov. 2
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. CT**

**Register at:
bit.ly/WritingMondays**

There has been no formal study of this program, but there have been a series of shared sentiments about its effectiveness. For example, having a dedicated time each week with colleagues has made it much easier to maintain a stable writing schedule during the summer. Participants have noted that it is much easier to remain dedicated to a project when you know that your peers are helping keep you accountable for getting your work done.

Seeing the progress of others in the program has been reassuring and invokes a sense of accomplishment in getting work done. Members congratulate one another when someone overcomes a challenging task—and it can be rare for researchers to get positive feedback on completing difficult daily tasks. Often, we move from manuscript to manuscript with little recognition of our efforts. Working side by side with others, as we have in Writing Wednesdays, enables us to support the continued progress of members. In weekly meetings, many of us have shared the challenges of completing research. Hearing

about the struggles and accomplishments of others is reassuring as we each work toward accomplishing our own goals—beyond a line on our curriculum vitae. It appears that building a sense of community may help diminish stress as SNP make progress.

Furthermore, Writing Wednesdays has become a source of collaboration among members. We have discussed potential collaborations and informally shared job and postdoc opportunities. In the wake of George Floyd's death, we created a safe space to talk about some of the challenges of systemic racism. We anticipate that these collaborations will extend long past the summer.

From SNP comments and the Writing Wednesdays experience, we recommend that NCFR create and develop similar continued programming throughout the year. Doing so would further support NCFR's mission to further develop a sense of community and collaboration. The positive effects of Writing Wednesdays could be replicated in additional programs and potentially lead to increased membership and recognition of members' research. Further work could focus on implementation of measures to improve NCFR's efforts to support ethnic and sexual diversity and first-generation students within membership and also create exposure for students who come from teaching-oriented universities.

The collegiality of NCFR has been a long-standing strength of the organization and development of future programs outside the annual meeting has never been more important, as in-person meetings have been curtailed during the pandemic. Our annual meeting always leads to good times, shared opportunities, and reconnecting with friends and colleagues. We hope that Writing Wednesdays has provided the same collegiality and opportunity for collaboration that NCFR is known for. ✨

IDC Special Session Highlights a Negative Space in Family Science: Environmental Justice

The most basic requirements of human existence are being violated in the country that's supposed to be the most powerful industrial democracy in the world. —Dr. Angela Davis

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.

The 2017 session asked us to think about the social locations of others, and how social location has an impact on daily life. The 2018 session asked us to think about our own social locations and how they have

an impact on our life and work as family scholars. Last year, the 2019 session asked us to think about how we can apply social justice principles in our work. The theme for the 2020 IDC session is environmental justice. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice as "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." This year, the IDC

is encouraging us to think about our own and others' connections to the land, to the environment. But beyond that, we are challenging NCFR membership to make real changes in support of environmental justice.

Why Environmental Justice?

The environmental justice movement is informed by the civil rights movement (Skelton & Miller, 2016), and focused on the disproportionate burden of environmental hazards (e.g., toxic waste, air pollution) that is borne by communities of color. Thus, the IDC's special session (Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2:30–3:45 p.m. CT) addresses issues of racial injustice that have been highlighted in previous IDC special sessions, as well as in the broader NCFR 2020 program.

Environmental justice involves identifying and acknowledging community suffering and works to eradicate, or at the very least, reduce, that suffering through inquiry and action. The IDC recognizes the indispensable work of grassroots organizers in environmental justice (Bullard & Johnson, 2000), and we are inspired by the work of St. Louis based activists and organizations that are fighting against environmental racism in their community (Goodwin, 2019).

We are taking our cue from the legendary scholar and activist Dr. Angela Davis, who argues that environmental injustice is the foundation of all other injustice (Rubio, 2017). The overarching question posed in the 2020 IDC Special Session is, "How can we, as family scholars, support environmental justice in our research, teaching, and practice?"

How to Participate

The IDC is honored to collaborate with experts from the following community organizations based in St. Louis for this year's special session panel: Dutchtown South Community Corporation (dutchtownsouth.org), Great Rivers Environmental Law

Land Acknowledgment

One way to support environmental justice is with land acknowledgments. According to the nonprofit LSPiRG, land acknowledgment is commonly understood as "a formal statement that recognizes the unique and enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories" (lspirg.org/knowtheland).

For example, NCFR headquarters resides on the traditional territories of the Wahpeketu, Anishinabewaki ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ, and Očeti Šakówinj (Sioux) peoples (See native-land.ca). To learn more about the importance of land acknowledgments, and how to use them, IDC encourages members to visit the website of Native Land, a Canadian nonprofit organization.

When the IDC Section first started planning our special session for the 2020 NCFR Annual Conference in St. Louis, which resides on the traditional territories of the Kiiikaapoi, Osage, Miami, and Očeti Šakówinj peoples (See native-land.ca), no one on the IDC could have possibly imagined how quickly and intensely the world would change before the annual conference. Breonna Taylor and George Floyd were still alive. There was no global pandemic. Crisp winter weather had yet to fade into the warmth of spring. Now, we have seen communities all over the United States and the world take to the streets to demand justice—justice for those who have died, for those who still live, and for future generations. Actions like mutual aid and ideas like police abolition have bubbled up into public discussion (Adereth, 2020). The ongoing fight for racial justice is deeply connected to the fight for environmental justice (Sengupta, 2020). As Hop Hopkins, director of strategic partnerships at for the Sierra Club, has argued in *Sierra* magazine, environmental injustice is fueled by wWhite supremacy: "... We will never survive the climate crisis without ending white supremacy. Here's why: You can't have climate change without sacrifice zones, and you can't have sacrifice zones without disposable people, and you can't have disposable people without racism" (Hopkins, 2020). ✨

Family Policy Section Update



Morgan Cooley, Ph.D., LCSW, Anthony Ferraro, Ph.D., CFLE, Jordan Arellanes, Ph.D., Susan Meyerle, Ph.D., section officers

Hello, section members and colleagues! We hope that you are staying healthy and well during these uncertain times. We wanted to highlight a few of the virtual conference offerings hosted by the Family Policy Section in November and encourage you to register.

NCFR Annual Conference Invited Workshop

We are excited to announce that we are hosting an invited presenter workshop at the 2020 NCFR Annual Conference titled

Translating Your Work to a Broader

Audience: A Workshop for Researchers

Whose Work is of Practical and Policy

Significance (Session #200, Thursday, Nov. 12, 10–11:15 a.m. CT). This workshop is organized by the Family Policy Section and will be hosted by current and former editors of the *Journal of Child & Family Studies* and *Family Relations*. This session is intended to help participants conceptualize and plan how to elicit the translational (policy and practice) significance of their work and

develop a plan for disseminating their work to a larger audience. We will share further details in the coming months for those who plan to attend and provide some parameters for what to prepare before the workshop.

Interactive Paper Session (Session #216, Thursday, Nov. 12, 11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m. CT): Community and Place as Context, featuring the following papers:

- Dads Uplifting Dads: A Community-Based Initiative to Support Father Involvement

Family Policy continued on page 14

Center (greatriverslaw.org), and Washington University in St. Louis's Environmental Justice Initiative (<https://sustainability.wustl.edu/collaborations/washu-environmental-justice-initiative/>). The panel discussion will include a brief history and overview of environmental justice and its connection to Family Science; information about our community partners' past and ongoing work in the St. Louis region; and time for audience questions and discussion with presenters. The IDC Special Session (Session #123) will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 11, from 2:30 pm to 3:45 pm Central Time.

Conversation and Listening Session

In addition to the special session on environmental justice, IDC is also hosting an active conversation and listening session on Friday, Nov. 13 (11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m. CT). The listening session is titled "I Can't Believe What You Say Because I See What You Do" (James Baldwin): Aligning Words and Actions in Social Justice," and will be moderated by Dr. Anthony James. This session will not only hear member concerns within NCFR but also strategize action steps to address these concerns. At least one member of the NCFR Board of Directors will be in attendance, and all NCFR members are encouraged to attend and make your voices heard. We can't do this important work without you.

In solidarity,
Shawn Mendez, IDC Students & New Professionals representative, smendez@unca.edu
Chalandra M. Bryant, IDC chair, cmrbryant@umn.edu
Jocelyn R. Smith Lee, Jrsmithl@uncg.edu
Tiffany L. Brown, drbutterfly2005@gmail.com
Adrienne M. Duke, amd0046@auburn.edu
Daphne Hernandez, chair-elect, daphne.hernandez@uth.tmc.edu
Kristy Y. Shih, kristy.shih@csulb.edu
Bethany Letiecq (Board of Directors liaison), bletiecq@gmu.edu

References

Adereth, M. (2020). The United States Has a Long History of Mutual Aid Organizing. *Jacobin*. Retrieved from <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2020/06/mutual-aid-united-states-unions>

Bullard, R.D., & Johnson, G.S. (2000). Environmentalism and Public Policy: Environmental Justice: Grassroots Activism and Its Impact on Public Policy Decision Making. *Journal of Social Issues*, 56(3), 555-578. doi:10.1111/0022-4537.00184

Environmental Protection Agency. (2020). *Environmental Justice*. Retrieved from <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>

Goodwin, J.B. (2019). Report Outlines 'Environmental Racism' In St. Louis. St. Louis Public Radio. Retrieved from <https://news.stlpublicradio.org/health-science-environment/2019-08-31/report-outlines-environmental-racism-in-st-louis>

Hopkins, H. (2020). Racism Is Killing the Planet. *Sierra*. Retrieved from <https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/racism-killing-planet>

Rubio, C. (2017). Angela Davis' fight for social justice continues. *The Southwestern College Sun*. <https://www.theswcsun.com/angela-davis-fight-for-social-justice-continues/>

Sengupta, S. (2020). Black Environmentalists Talk About Climate and Anti-Racism. *New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://nyti.ms/301Diyd>

Skelton, R. & Miller, V. (2016). The Environmental Justice Movement. *Natural Resources Defense Council*. Retrieved from <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/environmental-justice-movement>

Ta, L. (2016). Angela Davis: 'The earth is being poisoned for generations to come'. *Des Moines Register*. Retrieved from <https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2016/09/29/angela-davis-earth-being-poisoned-generations-come/91271554/> *



Families and Health Section Update

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

The Families and Health (FH) Section has several exciting events planned for the virtual 2020 NCFR Annual Conference. I hope you can join us!

2020 Annual Conference Special Events

- **Special Session: Promoting Family and Community Health and Resilience: Expanding Our Understanding of Diversity to Include Individuals With Intellectual and Developmental**

Disabilities (Session #102, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 10–11:15 a.m. CT). Co-organized with the Family Therapy Section.

- **Three invited-paper symposia:**

- o **The Mosaic of Family Gerontology: A Decade Review of Research, Theory, and Methodology** (Session #125, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2:30–3:45 p.m. Central Time). Co-organized with the Research and Theory Section.

- o **Social Determinants of Health and Obesity Across the Lifespan** (Session #201, Thursday, Nov. 12, 10–11:15 a.m. CT)

- o **Well-being and Mental Health in Grandfamilies: Development, Diversity, and Intersectionality** (Session #311, Friday, Nov. 13, 11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m. CT)

- **Families and Health Section Meeting** (Session #242, Thursday, Nov. 12, 5:15–6:15 p.m. CT). We will honor our award recipients, review accomplishments and future directions, and welcome incoming members of the FH board.

Note: A 1-year free FH Section membership will be offered to all NCFR members who attend our section meeting and are not currently FH Section members. Join us!

Note: A 1-year free FH Section membership will be offered to all NCFR members who attend our section meeting and are not currently FH Section members. Join us!

Awards! There Is Still Time to Apply for a Poster Award

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 Families and Health Section? Consider submitting your poster to the NCFR Families and Health Section Outstanding Student and New Professional Poster Award.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW . . .

WHO CAN APPLY: Any student or new professional (SNP) who is a current member of the Families and Health Section and the first author on an accepted poster is invited to apply. One award will potentially be presented in each of two categories: (a) undergrad and masters students and (b) doctoral students or new professionals.

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

HOW TO APPLY: Submit the following to the FH Section's SNP representative Carolyn

Sutter (csutter@uchicago.edu) no later than Oct. 3, 2020:

- A PDF of your finished poster
- Your current status: undergraduate, master's, or Ph.D. student, or new professional
- Information on your designated poster session and time during the NCFR Annual Conference (if applicable)

PRIZE: The winner will receive a \$100 prize, a certificate, and ribbon for your poster. During the NCFR conference, you will be recognized during the Families and Health Section meeting. This award will also look great on your CV and can help offset your conference costs! You will be notified via email of your award status prior to the conference.

FIND OUT MORE: Visit ncfr.org/awards/section-awards/families-health for more information. ✨

Family Policy continued from page 13

- Family Child Care Providers in Low-Income Areas: A Qualitative Study With Policy Implications
- Minority Capacity in Rural Communities: Stakeholder Perceptions of Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM) Individuals and Families and Housing Instability
- The Effect of CRE on Fathers' Parenting and Children's Socio-Emotional Skills: The Role of Neighborhood Disadvantage
- Perceptions of Neighborhood Safety and Social Status as Predictors of Early Head Start Families Parenting Stress

Symposia:

- **Contouring Negative Spaces: Attending to Underrepresented Topics in Research on Foster and**

Adoptive Families (Session #106, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 10–11:15 a.m. CT)

- **The Fight at Home: Understanding the Contexts of Stressful Experiences for Military Families** (Session #308, Friday, Nov. 13, 10–11:15 a.m. CT)

- **Linking Healthy Relationships Research and Practice—Findings From the Marriage Strengthening Research and Dissemination Center** (Session #327, Friday, Nov. 13, 2:30–3:45 p.m. CT)

Families Policy Section Meeting (Session #243, Thursday, Nov. 12, 5:15–6:15 p.m. CT).

In addition to these sessions, we have a wonderful selection of posters. We are excited about the program and hope you will consider attending! ✨



Bill Allen

Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Families Section Update

Anthony G. James Jr., Ph.D., CLFE, Section Chair-elect, anthony.g.james@miamioh.edu; and Yolanda T. Mitchell, Ph.D., Section Chair, yolanda.mitchell@unt.edu

Part of the role of NCFR sections is to provide members with an opportunity to connect socially with individuals who not only understand their research but also “get” or understand them. That understanding creates a place of safety and comfort that provides, even for a moment, much-needed relief from a perniciously unjust world. This particular function of the Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Families (REDF) Section, we have learned, is particularly salient to section members because of the history and experiences of minority communities in the U.S., namely the experiences of racism. The ecological conditions that have resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic in conjunction with the public airing of George Floyd’s killing at the hands of law enforcement, just after law enforcement states away had killed Breonna Taylor, created a powder keg of race-based frustrations that exploded and resulted in civil unrest, both domestically and internationally. These events also triggered trauma, pain, disbelief, and hopefulness for many who feel the continual sting of racial injustice. That hopelessness, while understandable, can be corrosive and debilitating. For this reason, we wanted to share a perspective by one of our members, NCFR Past President William “Bill” Allen, Ph.D., LMFT, who reminds us of the need to connect during these difficult times.

Dear Fellow Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Families Section Members:

These are certainly troubling times. It seems inescapable that our nation is at a turning point in its history. Not the least of the serious questions facing us is: “Are we finally ready to get real and honest about the systemic racism embedded in our nation?” The fact that we must address this in the midst of a pandemic (and the health and economic consequences it is causing) only highlights the seriousness of this moment.

Ask each of you to consider reaching out to at least two other section members: someone you know, and someone you may not know well.

As I sat at my computer today, I suddenly felt overwhelmed with a mixture of anger, frustration, and sadness that quite frankly moved me to tears. I’m a bit embarrassed to admit that the strength of the despair that washed over me was momentarily frightening, and yet it should not have been. I had felt it long before the murder of George Floyd on Memorial Day. I had felt it when hearing about other Black men brutalized or murdered by police and vigilantes in recent memory. I had also felt it witnessing Charlottesville or children separated from their parents at the border. But what really frightened me was this sudden realization: “What if George Floyd’s death had not been captured on video? Who would know, or care?” It caused me to feel even more hopeless . . .

Then, my cell phone rang, and it was my friend and colleague from Atlanta. He had reached out to check in with me and return

my earlier text to him. We spoke for only about 20 minutes, but afterward my mood was brighter and more hopeful. I felt like I could go on with my work and, later, I even found time for a long bike ride. That call got me thinking about how important it is especially during these troubling times to stay connected with one another.

The members of this section really need one another in ways we may never have in the past. The fact that we may not have the chance to physically meet in November makes it imperative that we not lose our connection to one another. Time and distance (as well as the demands of family and career) will certainly present challenges for many of us. But as I found out, a simple call or short email can make a real difference.

So, I would like to ask each of us to consider reaching out to at least two other members of the section in the next few days and over the course of the summer. In addition to contacting someone you know, I’d suggest that you consider contacting someone you may not know well, for example, a student or new professional at another institution, or a new colleague you met at last year’s conference. I can tell you from personal experience that your call, email, or text can make a real difference. It might even turn someone’s day from anger to motivation, or from discouragement to hope.

Stay healthy, and stay strong . . .

Bill Allen

We hope that Bill’s suggestion will serve as a reminder of the humanistic function of REDF membership. Let’s not forget to connect and to be a source of support for one another as we fight against the continuous stings of racial injustice. See you at #ncfr20. ✨

Advancing Family Science Section Update

Jennifer S. Reinke, Ph.D., LAMFT, CFLE, AFS Section Chair, jennifer.reinke@colostate.edu

The Advancing Family Science Section is recognizing distinguished students, scholars, mentors, teachers, and administrators through bestowing six awards, two of which are new for 2020.

In this update, we would like to congratulate the recipients of one of the inaugural awards, the Advancing Family Science Emerging Mentor/Teacher Award: **Anthony J. Ferraro, Ph.D., CFLE**, assistant



Anthony J. Ferraro

professor, Department of Applied Human Sciences, Kansas State University.

Dr. Ferraro was selected as the recipient for his demonstrated excellence in teaching and mentorship practices. Congratulations,

Dr. Ferraro! We look forward to celebrating our other award recipients at the Advancing Family Science Section meeting in November.

The Advancing Family Science Section is looking forward to finding creative ways to connect with and learn from one another at this year's virtual conference. In addition to showcasing outstanding posters, roundtables, and symposia, many presenters have responded to Dr. Brad van Eeden-Moorefield's call for highly interactive sessions, and we are excited to announce that we will be offering five interactive workshops throughout the conference. These include the following:

- **Preparing Students for a Changing World: Reimagining HDFS Curricula to Attract, Support, and Prepare Undergraduate Students** (Session #103, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 10–11:15 a.m. CT) Presenters: Shannon Corkery, Jennifer Zosh, Michael Sturm, Janet Melnick, Robin Yaure, and Hobart Cleveland

- **Leading Undergraduate Programs: Challenges and Resources—An Interactive Workshop** (Session #113, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m. CT). Presenters: Lawrence G. Shelton, Adrienne L. Edwards, Dee Hill-Zuganelli, and Jacqueline K. Wilkins
- **Building Resiliency Through a Trauma-Informed Classroom** (Session #114, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m. CT). Presenters: Julia Bernard, Audrey Besch, and Lisa Dunkley
- **Teaching Undergraduate and Graduate Students to Think Like Family Scientists: Fostering Critical Thinking and Scientific Reasoning** (Session #203, Thursday, Nov. 12, 10–11:15 a.m. CT). Presenters: Robert Hughes Jr., Jennifer L. Hardesty, Brian G. Ogolsky, Aaron T. Ebata, TeKisha M. Rice, and Brianna L. Anderson
- **Critical Reflections on Teaching “Diversity” From the Margins: Graduate Teaching Associates’ Experiences and Perspectives** (Session #226, Thursday, Nov. 12, 2:30–3:45 p.m. CT). Presenters: Amanda Capannola, Jasmine M. Routon, Samuel Allen, TeKisha M. Rice, Jacob Goffnet, and Kristy Y. Shih

The Advancing Family Science section is also supporting a special session, **A Town Hall: Creating a Common Canon for HDFS Graduate Studies**, by Bahira Sherif Trask and Joseph G. Grzywacz (Session #323, Friday, Nov. 13, 2:30–3:45 p.m. CT), as well as an invited presenter symposium, **Exploring the Benefits, Challenges, and Opportunities Inherent to Non-Tenure-Track Labor in Family Science** (Session #225, Thursday, Nov. 12, 2:30–3:45 p.m. CT) presented by Family Science scholars across the country.

Finally, please mark your calendar for the **Advancing Family Science Section Member Meeting** (Session #135, Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 4 p.m. CT). We will discuss our accomplishments this year, new and continuing goals, and transition to our new leadership team. Hope to see you there! ✨

Advertise in NCFR Report

Looking to promote your university's programs to potential students or faculty candidates? Want to advertise an event or workshop you're organizing?

Get the message to your NCFR colleagues by advertising in NCFR Report, NCFR's quarterly member magazine.

Each issue of Report — which includes organizational news and the popular “Family Focus” section made up of translational, research-based articles — goes out to the entire NCFR membership.

Space is available for advertising in every issue of Report. Rates start at \$350 for a quarter-page ad (with volume discounts available).

Interested? Find more details about rates, deadlines, and specs at nconf.org/advertise-nconf-report

In Memoriam

Ann Ellwood

NCFR member Ann Ellwood died Feb. 27 in Bedford, Massachusetts, from advanced dementia. She was 92.

Ellwood served as treasurer for the NCFR Board of Directors in 1986. She is best known as the founding executive director of Minnesota Early Learning Design (MELD),



Ann Ellwood

a parenting group network that she began with funding from a Lilly Endowment grant. The idea of parenting groups was innovative at the time, as most programs focused solely on children. She was encouraged to work on the project by Walter Mondale, the future U.S. vice president, who was a U.S. senator from Minnesota at the time.

The MELD program was so successful that it was replicated in states across the U.S. and

other countries. Over the years, MELD helped tens of thousands of parents navigate issues such as children's health, nutrition, discipline, safe toys, and other concerns.

"She got a national movement going and I think she made a real difference in America," Mondale said of Ellwood, as quoted in the *Star Tribune*.

"Our philosophy is simple," Ellwood once said in an interview. "We believe that if you can empower parents to deal with their own problems, you can change the whole family."

Shirley Zimmerman

NCFR member Shirley L. Zimmerman, Ph.D., died on March 31, 2020, at the age of 95. She was a member of NCFR for 40 years.

Dr. Zimmerman was an esteemed scholar of family policy and practiced social work in the area of child welfare. She was a chair of the NCFR Family Policy Section and vice president of NCFR. While vice president, she served as the program chair of the 1996 NCFR Annual Conference.

Dr. Zimmerman had a storied academic career at the University of Minnesota that

spanned five decades. She earned her bachelor of arts and, after raising four children, returned to complete her master's and doctoral degrees in social work.



Shirley Zimmerman

While working toward her advanced degrees, she worked for the University of Minnesota as a social welfare researcher and lecturer in social work. Following appointments as assistant director, instructor, and assistant professor in social work, Zimmerman joined the Department of Family Social Science in 1982 and retired as professor emeritus in 2000.

Dr. Zimmerman's research focused on how state policies affected individual and family well-being. She wrote four books on family policy theory, authored numerous journal articles, gave many presentations at local and state national conferences, and was principal investigator on research projects that explored the link between state expenditures and policies in health, education, and public welfare and family well-being.

Dr. Zimmerman also worked as a caseworker and consultant for county and statewide health-related organizations, including as chair of the Minnesota Governor's Council on Family and Children. ✨

Eulogies for Ms. Ellwood and Dr. Zimmerman will be given at the 2020 NCFR Annual Conference as part of the memorial service held each year.

During this service, the names of any NCFR members who have recently died are read aloud. Members who have served as an NCFR board member, journal editor, or are conferred NCFR Fellow status are given a eulogy.

If you learn of an NCFR member who has passed away, please email tripsullivan@ncfr.org.

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.

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, 2020.
Provisional unless otherwise noted.

Alabama

Heather A. Love

Arizona

Shannon M. Warren

California

Gabrielle Yleana Espinosa
Nia Ladelia Jones
Stephanie Melendez
Moreen Meng
Hana Gabriella Mukadam
Katya Vanessa Ruiz

Colorado

Katherine Nicole Gerst FULL

Delaware

LaRonda Kay Savoy
Thowana Weeks

Florida

Ingrid Fernandez Arguelles
Cicely W. Brantley FULL
Michaley Grace Deleon
Peter Ndiang'ui FULL

Georgia

Elizabeth Blair Harison
Kesan Gilana Clara Samuel
Jennifer Zorotovich FULL

Hawaii

Katie F. Laubender

Iowa

Elyse Christian
Savannah Findley
Diana Lynn Lang FULL

Illinois

Jamye Hunter
Marisa Pollastrini

Indiana

Shantel Hickerson
Shaylie Ledbetter
Amanda Rachel Meserve

Kansas

Kaylee Nicole Goss

Louisiana

Courtney Rebekah Cangelosi
Jasmine Briane Evans
Paris Hillard
Caitlyn Leigh Mayer
Kiara Thomas

Massachusetts

Aarifah Reeana Hosein

Maryland

Kendall Leigh Graves

Michigan

Stephanie Davis
Sarah Marie Gebert
Sonia Kevnick
Jessica Renee Lusky
Kelly A. Spehar
Mackenzie Vilmont

Minnesota

Amanda Mitby
Rebecca Avital Silberfarb

Mississippi

Khyla Aimee Barnes
Miranda Brister
Joy Rodriguez FULL
Courtney Laine Reed
KaSondra D. Toney

Missouri

Jennifer Neal
Muhammad Hassan Raza
FULL

Nevada

Tanisha Butler
Cristina Lopez
Kendra Ann Warthan

New Jersey

Sheila Bonner
Kianah Pena FULL

North Carolina

Lindsey Louise Almond
FULL
Sedreka Symone Anderson
Michaela Benoit
Anna Elizabeth Colby
Katherine Alexis Parrish
Samantha Lauryn Reed
Sydney Suzanne Stimmel
Vash'Ti Walker

New York

Lynn M. Gilbert FULL

Ohio

Courtney Renee Cooper
Tiffany Michelle Fairbairn
Allison Rose Knepley FULL
Khayla Michelle Law
Kaitlyn M. Old
Kristen M. Winger

Oklahoma

Ashley A. Brand FULL
Lyndsy Chave
Destiny Nijay Henry

Pennsylvania

Abigail Mae Schmalz

Texas

Caisha Darthard-Dawodu
FULL
LaDrena M. DeCuir
Gretchen Leann Mills
Kaitlynn Ivie Skinner
Robin Machelles Watts FULL
Kelsey Christine Zellner

Tennessee

Virginia Mardell Clark
Shauntia Lashay Cook
Haleigh Brooke Dotson
Kwangman Ko

Utah

Traci Day
Kirsten Marie Jensen FULL
Jenna Mae Lawlor
Kayla Moon Maxfield
Rachel Beth Nordfelt
Annalise Katherine Dyer
Steele
Laura L. Tesch FULL

Washington

Brittany Aguilar FULL
Caroline Noel Pipes
Elise Benson Randall



Human Development and Family Science

University of Missouri

PROUD SPONSOR OF THE 2020 NCFR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ON-CAMPUS GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- PhD in Human Development and Family Science
- MA/MS in Human Development and Family Science

ONLINE GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Youth Development (MA)
- Family and Community Services (MA)
- Gerontology (MA)
- Youth Development Specialist (Certificate)
- Youth Program Management and Evaluation (Certificate)
- Gerontology (Certificate)

REASONS TO CHOOSE MIZZOU HDFS

- * Annual financial packages worth \$55,000 (includes support for tuition, health insurance, and stipends)
- * More than \$100,000 disbursed annually in scholarships and fellowships
- * Award-winning mentorship by nationally-recognized faculty members
- * Built-in research and teaching opportunities
- * Collegial and supportive culture
- * Individualized plan of study
- * Professional development opportunities
- * 100% placement rate post-graduation



“ I feel fully supported on conducting research and writing papers because of the mentorship from faculty. This is the kind of environment that I think all graduate students should be in.

*Fatin Asnan, PhD student
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

/HDFSMIZZOU

@MIZZOUHDFS



LEARN MORE

hdfs.missouri.edu



661 LaSalle Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55114
www.ncfr.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rochester, MN
Permit No. 289

in this issue:

Contouring Family
Science's Negative Spaces

Our 2020 Conference Host invites you to the

2020 NCFR Annual Conference

Nov. 11-13

We are thankful for the generous support of



Human Development
and Family Science
University of Missouri

Register today at ncfr.org/conference