

Theory Construction & Research Methodology (TCRM) Workshop

Kevin Shafer and Yan Wang, 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 & Research Methodology (TCRM) Workshop offers a unique opportunity for scholars to discuss working papers that emphasize: (1) family theory; (2) research methodology; (3) emerging ideas in the study of families; and/or (4) reconsideration of long-held practices and ideas in Family Sciences. The TCRM workshop is scheduled to take place immediately prior to the 2021 NCFR Conference on November 2 & 3, 2021. We invite scholars to submit proposals that would be of interest to a wide range of scholars, including applied researchers.

TCRM sessions are unique from other NCFR sessions. Authors submit their papers before the meetings and leaders in the field serve as discussants, providing detailed reviews of papers. Authors' papers are made available prior to TCRM so that attendees can provide their own feedback on each paper. Sessions include a brief presentation of the paper, followed by discussant comments, author responses, and audience feedback. The goal of these sessions is to provide deep intellectual conversation and substantive feedback to authors.

Generally speaking, TCRM papers should focus on theory and/or methodology, but empirical papers considering these issues are also invited. TCRM is sponsored by NCFR's *Journal of Family Theory & Review (JFTR)* who encourages the submission and publication of TCRM papers in the journal.

We will accept proposals for four types of sessions:

- **Working papers:** special topics in theory, methodology, emerging ideas, or reconsideration of family frameworks. Paper proposals are submitted individually.
- **Paper symposium:** There are two types of paper symposiums.
 - a. **Working paper session:** 2-4 papers discussing a particular topic associated with family theory, research methodology, or other foci of TCRM.
 - b. **Dialogue session:** sessions focused on opposing or differing viewpoints on a specific topic. Presenters and the audience will engage in a discussion around a common topic to examine conceptual similarities and differences.

- c. For both types of paper symposia, proposals should be submitted according to NCFR symposium guidelines (see page 3 of the [2021 Conference Call for Proposals](#)).
- Methodology workshops: open format sessions focusing on specific methodological techniques, data sources, or topics related to the qualitative or quantitative study of families.

TCRM proposals should be submitted in PDF format and include:

1. **the full paper, symposium, workshop title, or dialogue session name;**
2. **a running page header** appropriate to the topic;
3. **a short abstract** (approximately 100 words, for publicity);
4. **a proposal** of 1,500 words or less (excluding any tables, figures, or references) for peer review; and
5. **2 to 3 suggestions for discussants.**

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- background, context, and significance of the topic proposal;
- relationship to one or more of the four TCRM goals listed above;
- a description of how the paper, session, or workshop addresses innovative, novel, and/or important issues in theory, methodology, or the empirical study of families.
- a brief discussion of the paper, session, or workshop's implications for research and/or practice. Evidence of work already underway is welcomed and encouraged.

The deadline for TCRM submission is March 22, 2021 at 11:59pm PST. Authors of accepted papers will be required to submit a full version of their paper, up to 35 pages (all inclusive), **by September 3, 2021.**

TCRM submissions are not submitted through the NCFR online submission system.

TCRM submitters should fill out the TCRM application form and attach the proposals in PDF format. All proposals should be submitted via e-mail to TCRM co-chairs Kevin Shafer and Yan Wang at tcrm@ncfr.org.

Please contact the TCRM co-chairs with any questions, inquiries, or volunteer requests at the same email address.

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