

# Theory Construction and Research Methodology



## (TCRM) Workshop 2021

The **Theory Construction and Research Methodology (TCRM) Workshop** is a longstanding tradition within NCFR. Working papers on family theory and research methodology are reviewed, discussed, and strengthened in this unique, interactive environment, which is held during the NCFR Annual Conference. **TCRM is made possible with the support of NCFR's *Journal of Family Theory & Review*.**

TCRM sessions run from Tuesday, Nov. 2 and into Wednesday, Nov. 3, at the **2021 NCFR Annual Conference**.

This year's TCRM co-chairs are **Kevin Shafer** and **Yan Wang**. Contact them at the **2021 TCRM email address**.

### Plans for a 2021 Virtual Conference

Due to challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, NCFR is planning for a virtual conference to take place in 2021 during the scheduled **conference days of Nov. 2–5, 2021**.

### TCRM Registration

**2021 TCRM Workshop is free with the 2021 NCFR conference registration.** Indicate if you will attend the TCRM preconference workshop when you register for the conference. Find more information about **all NCFR conference registration options** [here](#).

For assistance with registration, **email** [Susan Baker](#) or call her at 888-781-9331, ext. 2884.

### What Does a TCRM Session Look Like?

TCRM has a unique format. A TCRM paper session features work in progress instead of finished products. Before the session, TCRM solicited comments from scholars in the field who have agreed to be discussants. The TCRM paper session begins with a general overview of the paper followed by discussant comments on theoretical and methodological issues. The author then responds to the discussant comments. Following is an informal conversation in which the audience participates in the discussion raise any other questions or comments about the paper or theoretical or methodical issues.

TCRM sessions exude an atmosphere of collaboration and help to push forward the thinking of authors, discussants, and audience alike. In this intimate, receptive climate the feedback is invaluable. As a result, family methods and theories can evolve in a collegial and cooperative context.

Registrants receive copies of papers and comments online about a month before the preconference workshop. Attendees should read the papers and comments ahead of the TCRM Workshop to contribute to the collaborative discussion.

## Types of TCRM Sessions

**Working papers:** Special topics in theory, methodology, emerging ideas, or reconsideration of family frameworks.

**Paper symposium:** There are two types of paper symposiums.

- **Working paper session:** 2-4 papers discussing a particular topic associated with family theory, research methodology, or other foci of TCRM.
- **Dialogue session:** sessions focused on opposing or differing viewpoints on a specific topic. Presenters and the audience engage in a discussion around a common topic to examine conceptual similarities and differences.

**Methodology workshops:** Open format sessions focusing on specific methodological techniques, data sources, or topics related to the qualitative or quantitative study of families.

## Overview of the Program (Note: All times are listed in Central Time.)

### Tuesday, November 2

The program starts on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. with concurrent workshops and paper sessions. **Tuesday's program ends with a Business Meeting and Update of the new *Sourcebook* at 6:45-7:45 p.m.**

### Wednesday, November 3

Wednesday's TCRM activities begin with two paper sessions from 10-11:15 a.m., followed by the Special Session at 1:30-2:45 p.m. We hope that everyone will be able to come together for the Special Session: ***Integration of Diversity Into Family Theory and Research*** with panelists: **Bethany Letiecq, Ph.D.**, Department of Human Development and Family Science, George Mason University; **Richard M. Lee, Ph.D.**, Department of Psychology, University of Minnesota; **Melissa Alcaraz, Ph.D.**, Department of Sociology, Brigham Young University. The panel is moderated by **Todd Jensen, Ph.D.**, Department of Social Work, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

### Workshop 1, Tuesday, November 2, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Session #106)

#### ***Determine Power and Sample Size for the Mediation Actor-Partner Interdependence Model***

Presenters: **Thomas Ledermann, Myriam Rudaz, Tom Su, Ashley N. Cooper**

Presenter: **Xiaoran Sun**

This workshop demonstrates how relationship researchers can use Monte Carlo simulation for power estimation and sample size determination for the mediation Actor-Partner Interdependence Model (APIM). The solution we present asks for the correlations among the variables and allows the specification of skewness and kurtosis. Power estimates are provided for the direct, indirect, and the total effects. The illustration of the mediation APIM reveals that it is not uncommon that some of the simple indirect effects are significant but none of the total indirect effects and none of the total effects. Recommendations are made for studies with small sample sizes.

**Thomas Lederman, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor; **Myriam Rudaz, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor; **Tom Su**, Doctoral Student; **Ashley N. Cooper**, Doctoral Student, all from Florida State University

**Workshop 2, Tuesday, November 2, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Session #107)**  
***Deductive Qualitative Analysis: Evaluating, Expanding, and Refining Theory***  
Presenters: **Stephen Fife, Jacob Gossner**

Presider: **Nathalie Saltikoff**

The advancement of Family Science requires the examination of current theories and the re-examination of previously published findings, whether quantitative or qualitative. Until recently, qualitative researchers have lacked a systematic way to combine inductive and deductive analysis in exploring the applicability of previous findings and existing theory to new samples. Deductive qualitative analysis (DQA) is a qualitative methodology suited to theory testing and refinement that combines deduction and induction to examine evidence that supports, contradicts, expands, or refines theory. We explore two applications of this methodology and offer suggestions for maintaining rigor and trustworthiness of analysis.

*Stephen Fife, Ph.D., Professor, Texas Tech University; Jacob Gossner, Graduate Assistant, Texas Tech University.*

**Workshop 3, Tuesday, November 2, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Session #108)**  
***So You Want to Study Media Use in Families? Best Practices for Media Research***  
Presenters: **Brandon T. McDaniel, Benjamin Burke, Jessica A. Pater, I. Joyce Chang**

Presider: **Melissa M. Yang**

To better understand technology use as a critical component of individuals' and families' lives, researchers need to go beyond assessments of the amount of screen time and self-reports. In this workshop, we will explore practical considerations in designing studies to assess the complexity of media use and its meaning for individuals and families. The goals of this workshop are to (1) familiarize participants with methods for moving beyond self-reports of screen time and to (2) provide participants with the conceptual and methodological understanding they need to begin to design their own studies on media use.

*Brandon T. McDaniel, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Parkview Mirro Center for Research and Innovation; Benjamin Burke, Graduate Research Assistant, Auburn University; Jessica A. Pater, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Parkview Mirro Center for Research and Innovation; I. Joyce Chang, Ph.D., Professor, University of Central Missouri.*

**Workshop 4, Tuesday, November 2, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Session #109)**  
***Masculinity, #MeToo, Feminism, and Genderqueer:  
Theorizing Gender in a Gender Expansive World***  
Presenters: **Kari Adamsons, Shannon Weaver, Raymond Petren, Jennifer Randles**

Presider: **Kevin Shafer**

Extensive literature and entire theories have been devoted to the influence of gender on individuals' experiences and daily lives; however, much of it rests on and emphasizes a gender binary that, especially in recent years, has been called into question. Using a both/and approach, this workshop seeks to explore the ways in which theories such as identity theory, feminist theories, and queer theory (as well as others) can better reflect the increased complexity of the gender-expansive world in which individuals and families now function, and at the same time, recognize the continued influence of "traditional" gender binaries.

**Kari Adamsons, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, University of Connecticut; **Shannon Weaver, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, University of Connecticut; **Raymond Petren, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Penn State Scranton; **Jennifer Randles, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Fresno State University.

## **Paper Session 1, Tuesday, November 2, 1:30-2:45 p.m. (Session #117)** ***Antiracism and Families***

Discussants: **Aya Shigeto; Kevin Shafer**

Presider: **Kari Adamsons**

**(Session #117-01) *Anti-Racist Theorizing in the Study of Family Structure*, Caroline Sanner, Deadric T. Williams, Todd Jensen, Luke T. Russell, Sara Mitchell**

This paper provides a critical analysis of theoretical application in the study of family structure, examining the extent to which dominant approaches align with anti-racist principles. First, we examine the history of family-structure research and the ways in which its theoretical foundations have patriarchal and White supremacist influences. Second, we demonstrate how current family-structure theories remain focused on family-level explanations of family-structure effects, without addressing the ways in which racist policies and institutions have created family-level disparities. Third, we argue that advancing anti-racist theory in family-structure research will require a paradigmatic shift from structuralist and postpositivist perspectives to critical perspectives.

**Caroline Sanner, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Virginia Tech; **Deadric T. Williams, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; **Todd Jensen, Ph.D.**, Research Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; **Luke T. Russell, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Illinois State University; **Sarah Mitchell, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, University of Nevada, Reno

**(Session #117-02) *Anti-Racist Methods in the Study of Family Structure*, Todd Jensen, Deadric T. Williams, Luke T. Russell, Caroline Sanner, Sara Mitchell**

There remain valuable opportunities for family-structure researchers to apply anti-racist principles to their research methods. First, we suggest researchers build their capacity to effectively approach the study of family structure from an anti-racist perspective by cultivating a set of prerequisite skills and competencies. Second, we highlight how an anti-racist perspective can be foregrounded in various stages of family-structure research. Third, we argue the application of anti-racist methods in the study of family structure does not end when studies conclude but reflects a general approach and commitment to academic activities aimed at promoting positive change—a process of becoming a scholar-activist.

**Todd Jensen, Ph.D.**, Research Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; **Deadric T. Williams, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; **Luke T. Russell, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Illinois State University; **Caroline Sanner, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Virginia Tech; **Sarah Mitchell, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, University of Nevada, Reno

**(Session #117-03) *Income Heterogeneity Among Black Families: Behavioral Explanations Versus Racialized Space*, Deadric T. Williams, Regina S. Baker**

Family structure and education remain dominant and enduring explanations for understanding racial income inequality. We present racial stratification as an alternative perspective to emphasize the social construction of race and the impact of racialized space to unequally distribute resources. We integrate tenets from Critical Race Theory with concepts from racialized space theory to understand racial income inequality. Our results show racialized space, rather than family structure and education, better characterizes income inequality among Black families. Additionally, white married families with higher levels of education living in predominately white spaces have incomes \$20,000 higher than Black families with the same characteristics.

*Deadric T. Williams, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Regina S. Baker, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of Pennsylvania*

**Dialogue Session, Tuesday, November 2, 3:15-4:30 p.m. (Session #126)**  
***Using Family Theories to Navigate Conversations on Race and Power in Academic Settings***  
**Presenters: April Few-Demo, Jody Russon, Jenene Case Pease, Katherine R. Allen**

Presider: **Caroline Sanner**

Conversations related to race, racism, anti-Blackness, and experiences of oppression have expanded over the past years in response to the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and many others. We believe dialogue is one place in which change can occur. This Dialogue Session is an exercise in critical reflectivity among four colleagues who have diverse histories, roles, and accountability in creating spaces for difficult conversations about identity, power, and praxis. The aim of our dialogue is to engage critical perspectives to anchor creative strategies for re-envisioning departmental policies, curriculum, and professional relationships while ameliorating white supremacy from our institutional practices.

*April Few-Demo, Ph.D., Professor and Head; Jody Russon, Ph.D., Assistant Professor; Jenene Case Pease, Ph.D., Clinical Assistant Professor; Katherine R. Allen, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, all at Virginia Tech*

**Paper Session 2, Tuesday, November 2, 5-6:15 p.m. (Session #134)**  
***Cultural Variability in Marriage and Family***

Discussants: **Spencer James, Catherine Solheim**

Presider: **Brad van Eeden-Moorefield**

**(Session #134-01) *Bicultural Identity Negotiation and Shame Resilience in Chinese-Americans*, Natalie Hsieh, Bryan Cafferky, Jackie Williams-Reade, Kevin Ing, Jessica ChenFeng, Zephon Lister**

Anti-Asian racism is part of historical anti-Asian undercurrents in America, but shame is frequently a barrier for Asian Americans seeking help for mental health needs. AAPI clients may not resonate with clinical strategies unattuned to the complexities of bicultural identity or social location. Using interview data from 30 second and 1.5-generation Chinese\* Americans, a theoretical model of Bicultural Identity Negotiation and Shame Resilience for Chinese\* Americans is proposed. Findings indicate that social location strongly influences the meaning and experience of identity-based shame, and that identity resilience is facilitated by “third space” processes of critical consciousness, community, and creative agency.

*Natalie Hsieh, Ph.D. Candidate; Bryan Cafferky, Ph.D., Assistant Professor; Jackie Williams-Reade, Ph.D., Associate Professor, all at Loma Linda University; Kevin Ing, M.D., UC Irvine Psychiatry Resident, University of California Irvine; Jessica ChenFeng, Ph.D., Associate Director of Physician Vitality, Loma Linda University School of Medicine; Zephon Lister, Ph.D., Director and Associate Professor, Loma Linda University*

**(Session #134-02) *Theorizing Arranged Marriage Among Muslim Immigrants in “Love Marriage” Societies*, Gregory Wurm**

In my paper, I draw upon the empirical literatures on arranged marriages among Muslim immigrants in the U.S. and U.K. to provide a multidimensional model of the marital formation process that 1) challenges the binary between arranged and love marriage and 2) proposes how trust operates as a general mechanism to explain both micro-level personal, interpersonal, and institutional negotiations around different marriage models as well as macro-level shifts in marital practices over time.

*Gregory Worm, Ph.D. Student, University of Notre Dame*

**(Session #134-03) *Approaching the Effects of Culture Over Family: Legacies of Historical Family Systems on Current Changes in Family Dynamics*, Inés Gil-Torrez**

The goal of this study consists in linking 3 different literatures, the theory of Change of Values (Inglehart and Welzel, 2005) the Second Demographic transition theory (Lesthaeghe and Van de Kaa, 1986), and the legacies of historical family systems. The current demographic changes, that originated the theory of second demographic transition, have been mainly explained by alluding at the ideational change, centered their attention in the loosening of the grip of tradition and increasing the importance of individual autonomy and self-expression. But these theories present problems when attempting to explain the differences in trajectories of countries. I propose to approach this problem by using the theories about the pre-industrial family in Europe of Hajnal (1982) and Todd (1995). I will conduct a longitudinal multilevel analysis to test if the historical family traits can explain the different patterns of development of changes of family dynamics (cohabitation prior marriage) and values.

*Inés Gil-Torras, Ph.D., Researcher, European University Institute*

**Paper Session 3, Tuesday, November 2, 5-6:15 p.m. (Session #135)  
*Diversity and Parenting***

Discussants: **Daniel Puhlman, Mary Kay Keller**

Presider: **Junsheng Liu**

**(Session #135-01) *The TransParent Adjustment Model: Examining Parents' Process of Accepting a Gender Diverse Child*, Julia Bernards, Quintin Hunt**

Among the vulnerable populations in our society, transgender individuals often have among the poorest outcomes, with high rates of suicide, mental health concerns, substance abuse, relational issues and victimizations. A key moderator of these outcomes is family acceptance and support. Unfortunately, many transgender individuals, particularly those in conservative Christian religions, do not receive the acceptance and support that could make such a difference. Using interviews with parents affiliated with a conservative Christian religion who have transgender children, this grounded-theory study was conducted to understand the factors that affect parents' responses to a transgender child. The model and theory that emerged provides a framework for understanding parents' processes in adapting to and determining their level of acceptance and support of their transgender child.

*Julia Bernards, M.S., Research Assistant; Quintin Hunt, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Brigham Young University*

**(Session #135-02) Why Parental Discipline Research Doesn't Improve Parent-Implemented Therapy, Robert E. Larzelere, Marjorie Lindner Gunnoe, Carla Adkison-Johnson, Christopher J. Ferguson, Hua Lin, Ronald B. Cox, Jr.**

Despite decades of research on parental discipline, parent-implemented psychotherapies for children's conduct problems are half as effective as 50 years ago, according to a recent meta-analysis. To diagnose the problem, this paper identifies five methodological fallacies that are pervasive in most parental discipline research: the correlational, trumping, lumping, extrapolation, and myopia fallacies. Together these fallacies make disciplinary consequences look more harmful than they actually are. This explains why parental discipline research is dominated by evidence against non-preferred disciplinary tactics using methods that cannot identify effective alternative tactics to replace them in similar disciplinary contexts.

*Robert E. Larzelere, Ph.D., Professor, Oklahoma State University; Marjorie Gunnoe, Ph.D., Professor, Calvin University; Carla Adkison-Johnson, Ph.D., Professor, University of Western Michigan; Christopher J. Ferguson, Ph.D., Professor, Stetson University; Hua Lin, Ph.D., Post-Doctoral Fellow, Oklahoma State University; Ronald B. Cox, Jr., Ph.D., Professor, Oklahoma State University*

### **Paper Session 4, Wednesday, November 3, 10-11:15 a.m. (Session #200)** **Technology in Families**

Discussants: **Todd Martin, Jodi Dworkin**

Presider: **Yan Xia**

**(Session #200-01) Methodological Considerations for Research on Family Group Chats, Jessica Resor, Erika L. Grafsky**

Family group chats (FGCs) are a recently popular form of technology mediated family communication. Little research has been done on FGCs and even less research has examined primary data— actual FGC threads. In this methodological paper, we address considerations specific to the ethical and efficient collection of FGCs. We draw from our multi-method qualitative study on family processes within FGCs in which we conducted group family interviews and collected one-month's worth of texts from participants' FGC threads in SMS text or iMessage. This paper aims to establish precedence for how to collect and study FGCs as a primary data source.

*Jessica Resor, M.S., Ph.D. Candidate, Graduate Research Assistant; Erika L. Grafsky, Ph.D., Associate Professor, both at Virginia Tech.*

**(Session #200-02) Typology of Research on Families and Technology: A Systematic Review, Xiaoran Sun, Yunqi Wang**

This study conducted a systematic review to synthesize studies involving families and technology. A search in 7 databases resulted in 1,002 articles since 2000, and we identified four types of research focuses: (1) the role of technology in family life, (2) family interactions about technology, (3) family interactions through technology, and (4) the role of family in technology use. Research in different types treats technology differently, investigates family dynamics in different contexts, and uses different measures and data sources. This finding adds to the current theory about families and technology and helps with definitions of research questions in future work.

*Xiaoran Sun, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Scholar, Stanford University; Yunqi Wang, Graduate Student, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.*

## Paper Session 5, Wednesday, November 3, 10-11:15 a.m. (Session #201)

### *Generational Families*

Discussants: **Raymond Petren, Barbara H. Settles**

Presenter: **Adam Galovan**

**(Session #201-01) *Using Genograms as a Methodology For Understanding Family Dynamics*, Daniel J. Puhlman, Aya Shigeto, Gustavo A. Murillo-Borjas, Rakesh Kumar Maurya, Virginia Vincenti**

Genograms are an important tool used by clinicians and therapists working with families, however; the use of genograms in research has not reached its full potential. In this working paper, we propose a methodology for using genograms as a research instrument. We propose a three step process which includes: 1) qualitative coding of transcripts, 2) superimposing of concepts on genograms, and 3) genogram comparison across families. Following this method of analysis, genograms can be used to identify common dynamics across families and illustrate how various family interactions lead to a variety of phenomena such as Elder Family Financial Exploitation (EFFE).

**Daniel J. Puhlman, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, University of Maine; **Aya Shigeto, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Nova Southeastern University; **Gustavo A. Murillo-Borjas**, Doctoral Candidate, California Southern University; **Rakesh Kumar Maurya, Ph.D.**, University of Wyoming; **Virginia Vincenti, Ph.D.**, Professor Emeritus, University of Wyoming

**(Session #201-02) *Cultivating Children or Adult Partnerships? Contemporary Family Functions*, Edythe M. Krampe**

This article draws from structural functionalism, a controversial theory in family sociology, to analyze whether early 21<sup>st</sup> century families continue to have the two functions identified by Parsons (1955): the socialization of children, and the stabilization of adult personality through marriage. Analysis of current family patterns suggests that most families sustain Parsons's two functions, although more today than in the past exhibit primarily one function. Research findings suggest that marriage may benefit both the socialization of children and stabilizing adult personality.

**Edythe M. Krampe, Ph.D.**, Emeritus Lecturer, California State University Fullerton

## Special Session, Wednesday, November 3, 1:30-2:45 p.m. (Session #213)

### *Integration of Diversity Into Family Theory and Research*

Presenters: **Bethany Letiecq, Richard M. Lee, Melissa Alcaraz**

Moderator: **Todd Jensen**

Panelists will discuss how to think about our research and theory works with BIPOC populations, LGBTQ+ populations, and across diverse family structures. Should we reconsider our theory and methods to better integrate family diversity?

**Bethany Letiecq, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, George Mason University; **Richard M. Lee, Ph.D.**, Distinguished McKnight University Professor, Morse-Alumni Distinguished University Teaching Professor, University of Minnesota; **Melissa Alcaraz, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Brigham University

Welcome from the Conference Sponsor: **Mark L. Fine, Ph.D.**, Editor, *Journal of Family Theory & Review*

**This session is Organized by and Made Possible With the Support of NCFR's *Journal of Family Theory & Review***