

2022 Theory Construction and Research Methodology (TCRM) Workshop CC

Tuesday, November 15, and Wednesday AM, November 16, 2022
Hilton Hotel Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN

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 on site at the NCFR Annual Conference.

TCRM sessions run from Tuesday, Nov. 15, through the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 16, at the [2022 NCFR Annual Conference](#).

This year's TCRM co-chairs are **Raymond Petren** and **Isaac Washburn**. Contact them at the [2022 TCRM email address \(tcrm@ncfr.org\)](#).

TCRM Registration

You may add the TCRM preconference to your full or single-day NCFR conference registration or register for and attend TCRM sessions only (without attending the rest of the NCFR conference). Find more information about [all NCFR conference registration options: www.ncfr.org/ncfr-2022/registration](#)

Pricing for TCRM Only:

Professions: \$50

Students: \$35

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

All individuals participating in the conference in any capacity must agree to abide by the [2022 NCFR Code of Conduct](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). You will confirm your agreement during the registration process.

What Does a TCRM Session Look Like?

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, again before the meetings. Authors' papers and extended abstracts are made available prior to TCRM so that attendees can provide their own feedback on each paper during the session. In the past, we have had presenters summarize their papers at the beginning of the session. This year, authors will not describe their papers during the TCRM session. Instead, we are asking authors to provide an extended abstract to participants to read before the TCRM session, if they cannot read the entire paper. This process will allow us to get to the discussion quicker. The extended abstract should be about 1000 words and represent what authors would have presented at the beginning of a session in previous years. Sessions will include discussant comments, author responses, and audience feedback. The goal of these sessions is to provide deep intellectual conversation and substantive feedback to authors.

Registrants receive copies of papers and abstracts online about a month before the preconference workshop.

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.

Types of TCRM Sessions

Working papers: Special topics in theory, methodology, novel uses, or reconsideration of family frameworks.

Paper symposium: There one type of paper symposia.

- **Working paper session:** 2-4 papers discussing a particular topic associated with family theory, research methodology, or other foci of TCRM.

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

Overview of the Program

Tuesday, November 15

The program starts on Tuesday at 9:00 am with concurrent workshops and paper sessions. **Tuesday's program ends with a Business Meeting and Reception at 5:45-7:30 pm.**

Wednesday, November 16

Wednesday's TCRM activities begin at 8:30 with a two-part special session.

Part one of the special session: **Critical Approaches to Masculinities in Families** with **Samuel Allen, Ph.D.**, Northwestern University; **Jenifer McGuire, Ph.D.**, University of Minnesota; **Kevin Shafer, Ph.D.**, Brigham Young University; **Kari Adamsons, Ph.D.**, University of Connecticut; and Moderator, **Kevin Roy, Ph.D.**, University of Maryland. This session will be live streamed through NCFR Bridge.

Part two of the special session: **Masculinities and Fathering in Families**, **Sonia Molloy, Ph.D.**, Pennsylvania State University York; **Samantha Tornello, Ph.D.**, Pennsylvania State University, **Kari Adamsons, Ph.D.**, University of Connecticut; and Moderator: **Kari Adamsons, Ph.D.**, University of Connecticut

We hope that everyone will be able to come together for both parts of the special session.

Program Schedule

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

9:00 a.m. - Noon Concurrent Methods Workshop Sessions

Session #007 (Conrad B Room) - **TCRM Methods Workshop 1 - Data Sources For Studying Families**

007-01 - Studying Families in Context With Population Data From IPUMS

IPUMS offers free, harmonized census and survey data from the U.S. and around the world. IPUMS individuals within family and community contexts. This workshop will provide an overview of IPUMS data relevant for studying families and specialty variables and tools to help researchers contextualize families in line with the conference theme of light and shadow. We will demonstrate how to use the IPUMS data access system and online analysis tools, provide guided hands-on exploration of the IPUMS data websites, and offer consultations to participants about research ideas using IPUMS data.

Presenters: Megan T. Schouweiler, Julia Rivera Drew, Sarah Flood all at IPUMS, University of Minnesota

[IPUMS](#) offers free harmonized census and survey data from the U.S. and around the world. IPUMS data streamline the research process, making it easier to explore change over time, conduct comparative research, and analyze individuals within family and community contexts. IPUMS is offering a limited number of [stipends for individuals who attend our TCRM workshop session \(Studying Families in Context With Population Data From IPUMS\) on Tuesday, November 15](#), held as part of the [2022 NCFR conference](#). Stipends will cover the cost of the TCRM registration; recipients must attend the *Studying Families in Context With Population Data From IPUMS* session. [Stipend request applications](#) must be received by **Wednesday, November 9**.

007-02 - Family Process Archive: What's Next?

This archive contains data from a 40-year research project studying families with adolescents in the U.S. and Japan. Included are video tapes of marital and family discussions during home interviews and copies of a family projective exercise. There are also data from telephone interviews when the original adolescents reached midlife, focusing on their well-being and questions about the relationship between elder parents and adult children. Also interviews with parents who abused their children. The goals for the workshop are to brainstorm future qualitative and quantitative research possibilities for these data and to find others who might use these data.

Presenter: Linda Bell, University of Houston – Clear Lake, and Indiana University

9:00 - 10:15 a.m. TCRM Paper Session 1

Session #008 (Conrad C Room) - **Theorizing Student Adjustment in the Family Context**

Discussants: David C. Bell and Robin Yaure

Presenter: Isaac Washburn

008-01 - To Understand First Generation College Students' Adjustment With an Acculturation Perspective

Given the diverse class-based cultural systems common across institutions of higher education, first-generation students usually have the task of navigating a culture different from where they originated. We propose a model that uses an acculturation perspective to understand first generation college student's adjustment. Primarily based on research on immigration, acculturation literature has developed a nuanced picture looking at the contexts of acculturation, acculturation orientations, risks, cultural assets, intergenerational acculturation discrepancies, and reverse socialization at home.

Presenters: Yan Wang, Justin Bowen, both at Endicott College, **Daniel Puhlman**, University of Maine

008-02 - Applying a Family Model to First Generation College Students and Family Support

This paper is designed to address gaps in the first-generation college student (FGCS) literature by centering the family as the main theoretical and methodological consideration. By integrating the Family Fundamental Interpersonal Relations Orientation (FIRO) Model, I aim to understand FGCSs experiences of family support both during and after college, and the implications of that support for well-being. Understanding who FGCS are turning to for support, the topics they are seeking support on, and the methods by which they obtain that support has implications for improving the FGCS experience, and ultimately student success and well-being.

Presenters: Samantha LeBouef, Jodi Dworkin, both at the University of Minnesota

008-03 - Chinese Academic-Related Parenting and Child Outcomes

Most studies examine specifically Chinese mothers' academic expectations, learning-related behaviors, and child perceived parental acceptance-rejection, and child outcomes on their own. However, little empirical research directly links these aspects and explores how these are gradually translated and transmitted, and how cultural beliefs, socio-economic and political ecologies influence this process. In this paper, a mid-range model is proposed by integrating the Parental Ethnotheories Model and Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Theory (IPARTheory). This model aims to disentangle and contextualize the translation process among these aspects and explore the moderating/mediating roles of explicit Chinese cultural beliefs and China's socio-economic and political ecologies.

Presenter: Yanzhen Kuang, University of Connecticut

10:30 - 11:45 a.m. - TCRM Paper Session 2

Session #009 (Conrad D Room) - **New Directions in Attachment Theory**

Discussant: Kari Adamsons

Presider: Raymond Petren

009-01 - A Mid-Range Model Explaining How Homelessness Impacts Attachment Style

In this paper, I create a mid-range model that explains how homelessness can affect a child's attachment style. To do so, I will first discuss the core elements of attachment theory and its relevance in the homeless context. Then I will introduce the mid-range model. I will then discuss the factors that contribute to and perpetuate homelessness in the United States. From that, I will describe each aspect of the model, and provide empirical evidence to support it. Finally, I will address the limitations of the model, areas for further research, and future directions for the model itself.

Presenter: Nathaniel Stekler, University of Connecticut

009-02 - Five Crossroads of Attachment Theory

In the historical trajectory of attachment theory, there were crossroads where choices were made to take one theoretical path rather than another. At each of these crossroads I will explore an alternate path to enlarge the scope of attachment theory. In following these different paths, I will (a) choose to distinguish "connection" as the combination of attachment plus caregiving rather than using "attachment" to refer to both; (b) consider enlarging the motivations in addition to fear that instigate attachment; (c) examine emotional motivations that seem to activate attachment and caregiving; and (d) reconceptualize the concept of level of attachment.

Presenter: David C. Bell, Indiana University/Purdue University

12:30 - 3:30 p.m. - TCRM Methods Workshop 2

Session #009A (Conrad A Room)- TCRM Methods Workshop 2 - Incorporating Sleep, Actigraphy, and Heart Rate Variability Into Family Science

This workshop will provide an introduction to how (and why) family scientists could better incorporate the use of actigraphy and heart rate variability into the study of interpersonal and family relationships. Specifically, we will provide a brief overview of emerging evidence that sleep quality, engagement in active (and sedentary) behavior, and heart rate variability are associated with various interpersonal and family processes. We will then provide a hands-on with exemplar equipment and software used to capture these constructs. Discussion of practical challenges, limitations, and trade-offs across devices and ways of assessing these constructs will occur throughout the session.

Presenters: Luke T. Russell, Christine A. Anangwe, Olivia Heinzeroth, Meara Schaefer, Claire Cray Farnsworth, all from the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign

Please note: This workshop was previously scheduled at 9:00 am on Tuesday, November 15.

1:00 - 2:15 p.m. - TCRM Paper Session 3

Session #012 (Conrad B Room) - Modified Methods For Studying Families

Discussants: Spencer James and Caroline Sanner

Presider: Isaac Washburn

012-01 - Seeing the Unseen: Data Harmonization as the Family Science Data Underdog

This work is both a gentle guide for harmonizing data and compendium of techniques to do this often-unseen work. Few sources exist that specifically articulate of what it means combine data or go beyond admonishments not to do this. Yet often in our real-world settings there are great needs for this work. Four data case studies are used to illustrate ways that data can be combined and considered in family science. These data case studies—including a HDFS student datasets and national data sets—and are used to demonstrate both the techniques and the longstanding links to developmental theory.

Presenters: Elise Murowchick, Seattle University; Jacqueline Schwab, Robin Yaure, both at Penn State University-Mont Alto

012-02 - A Novel Way of Assessing Adult Attachment

In a study that investigates the influence of positive family of origin experiences during childhood (satisfaction and support) on current romantic relationship satisfaction as mediated by attachment dimensions among emerging adults in the U.S. and China, I propose a different use of Bartholomew's Relationship Questionnaire from most that include Adult Attachment as a single variable with four categories. Each of these categories is assessed separately for every respondent as four separate variables (Secure, Fearful, Preoccupied, Dismissing) in the analyses. The findings illustrate that different adult attachment dimensions have different influencing pathways, which could not be tested if the Relationship Questionnaire is not used in this novel way.

Presenter: Tong Shen, Shannon Weaver, both at the University of Connecticut

012-03 - A Relationship-Based Approach to Developmental Disability Research

Research in the field of developmental disabilities largely overshadows the voices of adults with developmental disabilities by relying on families, caregivers, professionals and researchers to create their realities, further placing these adults on the margins of society. Storying coupled with intimate inquiry is a relationship-based, novel and innovative approach to research with historically marginalized populations. The current study employs this relationship-based approach to understand lived experiences among adults with developmental disabilities with purposes of shedding light on and giving voice to their stories. The current study identifies storying and intimate inquiry as valid methods for research among adults with developmental disabilities.

Presenters: Tia Waldrop, Larisa Callaway-Cole, both at Oklahoma State University

2:30 - 3:45 p.m. - TCRM Paper Session 4

Session #013 (Conrad B Room) – **Theorizing Individual and Relational Adjustment**

Discussants: Daniel Puhlman and TeKisha Rice

Presider: Raymond Petren

013-01 - **Utilizing Self-Compassion For Bereaved Families Affected by Parent or Sibling Death: A Conceptual Framework**

We discuss self-compassion as a promising tool for such purpose, as mindfulness, self-kindness, and common humanity as three elements of self-compassion may facilitate coping with loss- and restoration-oriented stressors. We review the extant literature and propose a framework to facilitate research in this area. This framework focuses on pathways through which surviving parent's self-compassion may decrease maladaptive grief reactions and mental health problems and increase adaptation in bereaved families. We illustrate the utility of the framework by giving an example of a real-world bereavement program that utilized self-compassion. Future directions are proposed.

Presenters: Na Zhang, University of Connecticut; **Irwin Sandler, Sharlene Wolchick, Karey O'Hara, and Kara Thieleman**, all at Arizona State University

013-02 - **The Relational Equity Model: Introducing a New Integrative Framework for Black Couples Coping with Racism-Related Stress**

Relational therapists have historically depended on White, upper-middle-class colorblind models of marriage in their therapeutic work with Black couples that do not account for the socioemotional and historical effects of racism on couple's outcomes. No framework alone has yet described the vulnerable, yet resilient, process of how Black couples work to remain connected in their relationship while experiencing daily disconnections from experiences with racism. A new relationship model is introduced based on the integration of Critical Race Theory, Contextual Therapy, and Relational-Cultural Theory to describe how Black couples cope within the context of their relationships with racism-related stress.

Presenter: Melinda Murdock, Marriage and Family Therapist Associates

013-03 - **The Makings of Multicultural Identity and Expression**

Multi-cultural individuals, which may also encompass race and ethnicity, undergo a more complex cultural socialization than monoracial individuals. An overlooked aspect of multicultural identity is parental cultural socialization which is derivative of the parents' respective cultural beliefs. Two frameworks, identity theory along with the developmental niche, are integrated to emphasize the importance of parental cultural socialization beliefs transmitted to their child. A mid-range model is proposed to identify parental cultural socialization along with the other factors influencing the identity and expression of multi-cultural individuals.

Presenter: Darlis Juvino, University of Connecticut

4:00 - 5:15 p.m. - TCRM Paper Session 5

Session #015 (Conrad B Room) - **Reconsidering Family Structure and Relationship Status**

Discussants: Luke Russell and Bradley van Eeden-Moorefield

Presider: Adam Galovan

015-01 - **Leveraging MFDT to Overcome Persistent Concerns in Family-Structure Research**

In this working paper, we seek to reconsider long-held practices and ideas applied to the study of family structure over time in the family sciences. Specifically, we aim to guide and support advancements in research methodology as it relates to the study of family structure through the application of a recently developed theoretical perspective: multidimensional family development theory (MFDT). MFDT provides clear, developmentally centered theoretical grounding for the study of family structure, and provides insight to

sampling, measurement, and analytic approaches that embrace the richness of diverse family structures, dignify previously marginalized family structures, and avoid a deficit-comparison approach.

Presenters: **J. Scott Crapo**, Utah State University, **Todd M. Jensen**, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill; **Caroline Sanner**, Virginia Tech

015-02 - **External and Internalized Relationship Status Stigma**

There are more adults in the U.S. and globally who are currently and will remain legally single (i.e., not married) than previously. However, through much of relationship and family science, as well as general society, marriage is upheld as the ideal, aiding in external relationship status stigma. People who do not match the ideal in their relationship structure(s) may internalize relationship status stigma. Understanding relationship status stigma both externally and internalized, can be important for individuals as they develop understanding of their place, their relationship status, which in turn can influence one's relationships, hope, health, and well-being throughout adulthood.

Presenter: **Erin Lavender-Stott**, South Dakota State University

4:00 - 5:15 p.m. - **TCRM Session 6 – Symposium**

Session #016 (Conrad A Room)- **Reflexive Family Voices: Narrating the Personal, Professional, and Political**

Although family scholars study intimate details of human interaction, connection, and behavior, we rarely identify how we, as family members, are embedded in our own research and theorizing. Intersectional feminists, however, advocate for transparency in revealing how individual lives are connected to broader social systems of power and stratification (Allen, 2022). In this symposium, the authors go beyond simply identifying demographic, positional, and social locations by critically analyzing the invisible personal motivations and experiences that guide our professional work. We use feminist autoethnography to illuminate the personal, professional, and political implications of our work that highlight our social justice intentions. We bring into the open the underside of family scholarship by explicitly featuring the personal and family histories, secrets, and silences that are rarely examined components of the scholarly process. The narrators of these four papers are all intersectional feminist family scholars and have accepted the organizer's invitation to expand upon how family science can become increasingly conscious of our motivations and commitments in doing the work we do. The authors accomplish this invitation by going deeper into their scholarly process. They question, challenge, and wonder about how their private experiences intersect with their academic and professional interests. By doing so, these four papers offer a forum for making known what is often hidden. Bringing sources of knowledge that are often marginalized and unheard out into the open allows us to challenge some of our most cherished positions and assumptions, including who is in and out of our families, whose interests are served by what is said and unsaid, and how we can protect and champion the most vulnerable and marginalized among us.

Discussants: **Sarah Allen**, Southern Utah University; and **Katherine R. Allen**, Virginia Tech

Symposium Chair: **Katherine R. Allen**, Virginia Tech

016-01 - **From Seeking Safety in Silence to Speaking Up For LGBTQ Families: A Reflection on the Personal, Professional, and Political Through a Feminist Lens**

One of the most valuable aspects of a feminist perspective is that it prompts us to incorporate elements of reflexivity into our work, considering how our personal, professional, and political lives are intertwined (Allen, 2022). We are asked to consider: What do we want to do with our personal experience? (How) do we want it to galvanize us to engage with the world, to seek justice, and to commit ourselves to using our scholarship—and, inherently, our privilege—to better the lives of those around us? In this paper, I employ a feminist perspective in “connecting the dots” across my personal, professional, and political activities. Instead of smoothing out the inconsistencies and difficult spots, I engage with them and consider them as points of entry to deeper knowledge and understanding.

Presenter: Abbie E. Goldberg, Clark University

016-02 - Messy Truths: Naming the Invisible in Complex Families

As a family researcher, I am drawn to the invisible topics that exist in the most intimate spaces; my work engages the delicate practice of unearthing family secrets. As family scientists, we are generally socialized to keep secret the private motivations that guide our work, but feminist family scholars emphasize the necessity of exploring and understanding the histories and values we bring to our scholarship. In this paper, I use reflexive feminist autoethnography to locate myself in the heart of my research. I argue that embracing this approach will create paths toward deeper understandings of ourselves, each other, and the families we serve.

Presenter: Caroline Sanner, Virginia Tech

016-03 - Faith, Race, and Heterosexism: Unveiling Motivations Behind a Research Program on Diverse Romantic Relationships

Guided by Allen's (2022) call for developing a critical consciousness this paper applies feminist reflexive practice to uncover the personal curiosities and contradictions that have motivated my research program on diverse romantic relationships. Specifically, I examine faith, race, and heterosexism as the root of an unresolved collision of privilege and oppression. I begin by reviewing my own positionality before sharing how my personal experiences with family and identity collided with my profession. Finally, I discuss how the personal and professional have motivated praxis, or the leveraging of research as a pathway towards social justice.

Presenter: TeKisha Rice, Virginia Tech

016-04 - Figuring Out How to Participate in the System: Using Reflexive Feminist Autoethnography to Explore Intersectional Experiences in the Professional and Political Spheres of Academia

The use of reflexive autoethnography can allow family researchers to critically examine the bidirectional relationship between their own positionality and their scholarship. This practice of connecting one's personal experiences and beliefs to the professional and political can be a challenging and often invisible process; yet one that deserves to be unpacked and uncovered. In this paper, I detail my intersectional experiences as a Black, bisexual woman and how those experiences relate to my research, academic life, and concerns. I highlight my struggles to find my place in academia, as I work to better understand and serve diverse individuals and families.

Presenter: Sarah N. Mitchell, University of Nevada-Reno

5:45 - 7:30 p.m. - TCRM Business Meeting and Reception

Session #018 (Conrad C/D Room) – Presiders: **Raymond Petren**, Penn State University-Scranton, and **Isaac Washburn**, Oklahoma State University, TCRM Workshop Co-Chairs

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

8:30 - 9:45 a.m. – Special Session Part 1

Session #107 (Salon D Room) - Critical Approaches to Masculinities in Families

Moderator: Kevin Roy, Ph.D., University of Maryland

Samuel Allen, Ph.D., Northwestern University; **Jenifer McGuire, Ph.D.**, University of Minnesota; **Kevin Shafer, Ph.D.**, Brigham Young University; **Kari Adamsons, Ph.D.**, University of Connecticut

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. – Special Session Part 2

Session #114 (Orchestra Ballroom A/B) - Masculinities and Fathering in Families

Moderator: Kari Adamsons, Ph.D., University of Connecticut

Sonia Molloy, Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University York; **Jen Randles, Ph.D.**, California State University, Fresno; **Samantha Tornello, Ph.D.**, Pennsylvania State University; **Kari Adamsons, Ph.D.**, University of Connecticut

TCRM Special Session Part 1 (#107) and Part 2 (#114) Abstract

Since the 1970s, father involvement research has transformed our understanding and conceptualization of men's roles in families. Many fatherhood scholars have found professional homes at NCFR, and specifically in the Men in Families focus group. However, much of this research is rooted in assumptions about sex role identity (Roy & Allen, 2022), including a cisnormative and binary assumptions about gender and essentialist notions of masculinity and femininity. In recent years, a critical gender paradigm has also emerged, a paradigm that challenges such assumptions and offers new ways of understanding men in families, and families more broadly. Feminist scholars who have been at the forefront of some of the most innovative theorizing on gender and families have also found professional homes at NCFR, and specifically in the Feminism and Family Science section. This workshop will build on a similar workshop on gender theorization (*Masculinity, #MeToo, Feminism, and Genderqueer: Theorizing Gender in a Gender Expansive World*) from the 2021 TCRM preconference workshop.

The workshop has four goals:

1. Develop an intersectional and feminist approach to conceptualize men's experiences in families.
2. Equip the concept of masculinities to be utilized in family science.
3. Bridge the gaps between scholarly communities within family science, specifically, the Men in Families focus group and the Feminism and Family Science section, through direct dialogue and exchange; and
4. Develop related scientific, programmatic, and policy goals.