

Focus Group End of Year Report for 2022

Name of Focus Group: [Diverse Family Structures](#)

Chair/Co-chairs: [Todd Jensen & Caroline Sanner](#)

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1. What were your focus groups major activities or accomplishments this year?

Members of the focus group organized the submission of numerous abstracts for the 2022 NCFR conference, resulting in many accepted paper and poster presentations. Focus group members also collaborated on several TCRM papers to be presented at the upcoming 2022 NCFR conference. One such paper articulates approaches for applying an emergent theory (Multidimensional Family Development Theory) to the study of diverse family structures.

Focus group members also organized a collaborative workshop for the upcoming conference focused on “Delineating the Pressing Issues in Family-Structure Research.” The purpose of this collaborative workshop is to (a) convene all interested researchers, practitioners, and educators who possess substantive expertise on the topic of diverse family structures and—together—(b) delineate the most pressing issues facing the study of diverse family structures. Attendees will be invited to participate in facilitated discussion, following a brief presentation of recently articulated ideas related to advancing the study of family structure. Detailed notes from the collaborative workshop will be compiled and prepared for in-depth synthesis, analysis, and dissemination to inform future family-structure research.

Members of the focus group also organized a special issue in the *Journal of Family Nursing* focused on “Supporting Structurally Diverse Families,” with numerous article submissions from focus group members.

2. What has your focus group done during the past year to further NCFR’s inclusion and diversity initiatives?

The focus group has continued to center attention on anti-racist theorizing and methods in the study of family structure. These foci are prominent in ongoing work being developed by focus group members, including a recent book chapter entitled “Racism, Family Structure, and Black Families” to be published in the new edition of *Families as They Really Are* text. Work on this front also includes ongoing development of a manuscript being prepared for the mid-decade special issue on theory and methods in the *Journal of Family Theory and Review*; the manuscript focuses on the application of critical theorizing in family-structure research.

We also continue to advertise the focus group to potential new members, with particular attention to promoting the inclusion of diverse perspectives and backgrounds among the focus group membership.

3. Please list any concerns, questions, or suggestions.

N/A

Return by **Friday, October 14, 2022** to membership@ncfr.org