

2022 NCFR Men In Families Focus Group Meeting Minutes
Co-Chairs: Drs. Wendy McLean-Cooke and Matthew Rodriguez

Meeting Minutes are indicated in purple font.

- I. Introductions
 - a. Introduce ourselves to the group
- II. Awards
 - a. Review process:
 - i. Reviewed articles from 2021 to 2022
 - ii. 18 articles from *Family Relations*; 9 articles from *Journal of Marriage and Family*; 8 articles from *Journal of Family Theory and Review*
 - iii. The Men in Families Best New Professional Research Article Award is presented to the new professional author of the best research article related to men in families for the year prior to the award.
 - 1. Criteria:
 - 2. The Best New Professional Research Article Award is intended to honor peer-reviewed journal publications on men in families that are innovative and that advance the field.
 - 3. Contributions could be in the areas of substantive knowledge, methods, or theory about men in families.
 - 4. Examples of research could include applied, policy, meta-analyses, theoretical innovations, or basic research.
 - 5. At least one of the first three authors of the research article must be a member of NCFR.
 - iv. The Men in Families Best Research Article Award is presented to the author(s) of the best research article related to men in families for the year prior to the award.
 - 1. Criteria
 - 2. The Best Research Article Award is intended to honor peer-reviewed journal publications on men in families that are innovative and that advance the field
 - 3. Contributions could be in the areas of substantive knowledge, methods, or theory about men in families.
 - 4. Examples of research could include applied, policy, meta-analyses, theoretical innovations, or basic research.
 - 5. At least one author of the research article must be a member of NCFR.
 - v. The Diversity and Inclusion in Men in Families Research Article award, given by the Men in Families Focus Group, recognizes high-quality research on men in diverse families.
 - 1. Criteria
 - 2. To be considered for this award, an article must:
 - 3. be published in a peer-reviewed journal in the prior calendar year;
 - 4. focus on men in diverse families; and
 - 5. have an NCFR member as one of the first three authors.

- b. Best New Professional Research Article Award: Dr. Christina J. Cross, “Nonresident social fathering in African single-mother families” (2022)
 - i. Contributes to family science’s understanding of the different social and cultural dimensions of fathering
 - c. Best Research Article Award: Dr. Jin-Kyung Lee et al., “The Swedish Brief Coparenting Relationship Scale: Psychometrics and Concurrent Validity Among Primiparous and Multiparous Fathers” (2022)
 - i. Guided by traditional masculinity theory, the article provided a content analysis of narrative data focused on how having a child with autism impacts fathers’ navigation of work and family responsibilities
 - d. Diversity and Inclusion in Men in Families Research Article: Dr. Sonia Molloy, “¡Qué Padre! Measuring Latino Fathers' Involvement with Infants” (2021)
 - i. Takes the existing Paternal Involvement with Infants scale (PIWIS) and applied it to Latino fathers
- III. Leadership/Nomination for co-chair
- a. Recognition of Dr. Wendy McLean-Cooke
 - b. Nomination of new co-chair
 - i. Lauren Altenburger self-nominated for new co-chair and was confirmed.
- IV. 2022 Men in Families focus group work plan
- a. Continued to promote attention to diversity in fathering
 - i. Organized the symposium, “Light and Shadow: Perspectives on Men in Families”
 - ii. Matt Rodriguez asked if any focus group members have pursued initiatives focused on diversity in fathering?
 - 1. Several focus group members shared recent/current work focused on diversity. For example, Kari Adamsons described a collaborative effort with her PhD student to better understand gender role beliefs among families living in Turkey. Interesting findings emerged. Namely, fathers held different gender role expectations for their children compared to their romantic partner. Other members described efforts to better understand masculinities and fathering (i.e., Kevin Roy), interview WIC centers to better understand how fathers from underprivileged backgrounds could be incorporated, and implement a parenting intervention.
 - b. Continue to encourage inclusion of all men in families in research and practice
 - i. New Sourcebook on Family Theories and Methodologies
 - 1. Drs. Kari Adamsons, April Few-Demo, Christine Proulx, and Kevin Roy
 - a. Sourcebook was passed around and focus group members were invited to attend an evening event celebrating the sourcebook launch.
 - ii. Kari Adamsons shared a flyer promoting the Unique Groves Conference on the Pine Ridge Reservation, home of the Oglala Lakota People. Interested individuals should contact Kari Adamsons for more info at kari.adamsons@uconn.edu. Registration is limited and closes on December 1, 2022.

- iii. Sonia Molloy shared information about her recent book: *Handbook of the Psychology of Fathering*
 - iv. Sarah Schoppe-Sullivan shared that she is working on a qualitative study to understand fathering researchers.
 - v. Kevin Roy shared some of the difficulties of recruiting men for programs. Taking a community-focused approach can be useful (i.e., bringing in people from the community to train people in the community).
 - c. Promote awareness of the need to focus on men's mental health in both research and practice
- V. 2023 Men in Families focus group work plan
 - a. Suggestions for future goals/projects/aspirations
 - i. Matt Rodriguez asked members to share ideas for next year's conference (i.e., where do we go from here?).
 1. Members suggested recruiting researchers from other disciplines (i.e., social work) to pull together a session titled, "Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Father's Parenting". Sarah Schoppe-Sullivan volunteered to chair this session for the 2023 symposium.
 2. Sonia Molloy volunteered to assist with a second symposium focused on issues in aging that would bring together gerontologists to discuss challenges/difficulties fathers may face as they age (i.e., depression).
 3. Members expressed interest in focusing on fathers' identity role in families (i.e., how can we define and study fathers' identity). Kari Adamsons would be interested in joining these efforts.
 4. Members proposed pulling together a special issue focused on masculinity, identity development, and the division of labor.
 5. Sarah Schoppe-Sullivan recommended pulling together a website and/or TCRM workshop focused on measures designed to assess father involvement. There was interest in pulling together a website to post father involvement/parenting measures. Other members discussed that it may also be interesting to include info about datasets that include fathers. Nathan Robbins volunteered to build a website with this information. Sarah Schoppe-Sullivan encouraged members to submit recommendations and let her know if you are interested in joining these efforts.
 6. Members suggested also focusing on men and OTHER family relationships, rather than exclusively focusing on men as fathers/parents.
 7. There was a lot of interest in keeping the discussion going. Members suggested paying attention to the discussion boards in NCFR and making sure you are signed up to receive notifications.
- VI. Concluding remarks
 - a. Thank you to all of our 122 Men In Families focus group members