

## Theory Construction & Research Methodology (TCRM) Workshop Bethany Willis and Nikki DiGregorio, 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 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 TCRM Workshop offers a unique opportunity for scholars to discuss working papers that emphasize four goals: (1) family theory; (2) research methodology; (3) emerging/novel 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 2023 NCFR Conference on November 7-8, in Orlando, Florida. This year we plan to offer a specific session to highlight the work of students and assistant professors related to the four goals above.

We invite scholars to submit proposals that would be of interest to a wide range of scholars, including applied researchers. Preference will be given to papers that focus on this year's NCFR theme, *The Way We Are Now: Families and Communities at the Center of the Syndemic*, which encourages participants to recognize the confluence of factors impacting family formation and functioning, as well as the causes and consequences of intersecting individual, family, and social issues. We welcome submissions that seek to broaden our theoretical and methodological frameworks for thinking about intersecting pandemic, social justice, and political movements. Such social shifts may require critical examination and reconceptualization of issues that, while may have long histories, are being experienced in novel and different ways in the new millennium. Submissions with the potential to advance Family Science toward theoretical and methodological practices that are inclusive of major social issues of the day and grounded in family processes will be given priority.

TCRM sessions are unique from other NCFR sessions. Authors submit their papers before meeting and leaders in the field serve as discussants, providing detailed reviews of papers, again before the meeting in November. Authors' papers and extended abstracts are made available to attendees prior to TCRM so that they 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.

Generally speaking, TCRM papers should focus on theory and/or methodology, but empirical papers highlighting emerging/novel uses of theory and/or methodology are also invited. TCRM is sponsored by NCFR's *Journal of Family Theory & Review* (JFTR) which 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, novel uses, or reconsideration of family frameworks. Paper proposals are submitted individually.
- **Paper symposium:** There are two types of paper symposia. For both types of paper symposia, proposals should be submitted according to NCFR symposium guidelines (see page 4 of the full **2023 NCFR Conference Call for Proposals** at <https://www.ncfr.org/ncfr-2023/call-for-proposals>).
  - **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 will engage in a discussion around a common topic to examine conceptual similarities and differences.
- **Methodology or theory workshops:** open format sessions focusing on specific methodological techniques, data sources, or theories related to the qualitative or quantitative study of families. Theory workshops could focus on theory building or application.

TCRM proposals should be submitted via the [TCRM Proposal Google Form](#) and include:

1. the full paper, symposium, workshop title, or dialogue session name;
2. a short abstract (approximately 100 words, for publicity);
3. a proposal of 1,750 words or less (excluding any tables, figures, or references) for peer review saved as a PDF;
4. a minimum of two suggestions for discussants.

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- background, context, and significance of the topic proposal; connections to the theme are welcomed
- relationship to one or more of the four TCRM goals listed at the beginning;
- 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 15, 2023**, at 11:59 p.m. PST. Authors of accepted papers will be required to submit a full version of their paper, up to 35 pages (all inclusive) and extended abstracts (1,000 words), by **August 16th, 2023**, and discussant reviews due by **October 6th, 2023**.

TCRM submissions are not submitted through the NCFR online submission system. TCRM submitters should complete the [TCRM Proposal Google Form](#) to submit their TCRM proposal. Please contact the TCRM co-chairs, Bethany Willis (Towson University) and Nikki DiGregorio (Georgia Southern University), with any questions, inquiries, or volunteer requests at [tcrm@ncfr.org](mailto:tcrm@ncfr.org).

If you are unable to access Google Forms, you may email your proposal to [tcrm@ncfr.org](mailto:tcrm@ncfr.org).