

2023 Theory Construction and Research Methodology (TCRM) Workshop

Tuesday, November 7, and Wednesday AM, November 8, 2023
Rosen Centre – Orlando, FL

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. 7, through the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 8, at the **2023 NCFR Annual Conference**.

This year's TCRM co-chairs are **Bethany Willis** and **Nikki DiGregorio**. Contact them at the **TCRM [email address \(tcrm@ncfr.org\)](mailto: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-2023/registration

Pricing for TCRM Only:

Professions: \$50

Students: \$35

For assistance with registration, email Jane Reilly (janereilly@ncfr.org) or call her at 888-781-9331.

All individuals participating in the conference in any capacity must agree to abide by the **2023 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. Presenters will briefly summarize their papers at the beginning of the session followed by the discussant remarks. Presenters will then respond to the discussant's remarks after which an open discussion with the audience will ensue. 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 symposia: There are two types of paper symposia.

- **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 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.

Overview of the Program

Tuesday, November 7

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 7:30 – 8:45 pm.**

Wednesday, November 8

Wednesday's TCRM activities begin at **8:30 am.**

TCRM special session, *Latinx LGBTQ People and Their Families: Advancing Culturally Centered Theories and Research Methodologies*, Roberto Abreu, Ph.D., Univ. of Florida, is scheduled on **Wednesday, November 8, 10:15-11:30 am.**

Program Schedule

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

9:00 a.m. – Noon – Methods Workshop Session #008 | Salon 1

#008 - TCRM Methods Workshop 1 - *Integrating Quantitative Criticalism in the Family Sciences*

Since their inception, the social sciences have been used as tools of oppression by scholars and science consumers. Whether purposefully or unknowingly, family science literature has been used to perpetuate harmful stereotypes and beliefs concerning many marginalized communities, including racial/ethnic minorities, gender minorities, and recent immigrants. These distressing patterns have not occurred without challenge. Feminist family scientists and queer informed family scientists have long suggested that the field needs to critically analyze how gender and sexuality are used to further marginalize cisgender women and gender and sexual minorities (Allen et al., 2009; Oswald et al., 2009). In addition, others have applied critical race theory and critical Whiteness studies to the field to challenging the prevailing White supremacist logic (Few-Demo, 2014; Walsdorf et al., 2021). Despite critical family scientists' persistent efforts, the manufacturing of scientific products that reproduce oppressive narratives persist.

Presenters: Joshua L. Boe, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Nova Southeastern Univ.; **Michael G. Curtis, Ph.D.,** Postdoctoral Fellow, Emory Univ.

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 am – TCRM Paper Symposium 1
Constructing a Theory of Resilient Communication
Session #009 | Salon 3

Discussants/Presiders: Spencer Olmstead; Erin Lavender-Stott

009-01 – Resilient Commitment: A Theory for Understanding the Development of Commitment in Emerging Adults

Based on grounded theory results over several completed studies, we propose a theoretical framework for expanding current theories of commitment development in romantic relationships to include a resilient pathway that may explain how some emerging adults who have witnessed multiple negative examples of commitment are able to believe that establishing a committed relationship is worthwhile and establish stable committed relationships. Developing a theory of resilient commitment offers testable propositions to further research on mechanisms for interrupting intergeneration instability that can be incorporated into interventions with emerging adults who have observed and experienced conflictual and unstable examples of romantic relationships.

Presenters: D. Scott Sibley, Professor and Associate Chair, Northern Illinois Univ.; **Amber V. Vennum, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Kansas State Univ.; **Jaimee L. Hartenstein**, Associate Professor, Univ. of Central Missouri

009-02 - Voluntary and Involuntary Singlehood: Salience of Concepts from Four Theories

This paper will describe linkages among voluntary/involuntary singlehood and concepts from four theories (social exchange, symbolic interactionism, family development, chaos). Voluntary individuals have chosen to be marriage-free. Involuntary individuals wish to be married but have been unable to do so. These theories were chosen because they are commonly addressed in family sciences teaching/scholarship. They are used to guide relational/familial research (Anders Goodcase, Yazedjian & Toews, 2020; Cook & Douglas, 1998; Miller, Yorgason, Sandberg & White, 2003). Yet, there has been little attention paid to their potential linkages to singledom. This paper highlights how four traditional theories can be bridged with diverse components of singlehood experiences.

Presenter: Jacki Fitzpatrick, Ph.D., Professor, Texas Tech Univ.

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – TCRM Paper Symposium 2
Session #010 | Salon 3

Discussants/Presiders: Karen Doneker; Daniel Puhlman

010-01 - A Symbolic Interactionist Model for White Adolescents' Digital Critical Action

Symbolic interactionism is useful for examining how various socialization contexts (e.g., family and media) inform adolescents' identity construction and role making. Some research supports the theory's application in understanding White adolescents' racial socialization and identity development. However, symbolic interactionism does not address how critical competencies (e.g., critical reflection and action) develop as a result of socialization. Therefore, in this paper we propose a model to understand White adolescents' racial identity in response to racial socialization, and how that relationship manifests in social media contexts. We discuss how racial and social media literacies interact with family socialization and identity-related experiences to promote White adolescents' critical consciousness and introduce two novel constructs: digital critical racial literacy and digital critical action. The model advances symbolic interactionism by incorporating a critical lens; it can inform interventions aimed to educate parents, White youth, and social-media developers on anti-racist development.

Presenters: Sydney Klein, Doctoral Student, Univ. of Connecticut; **Annamaria Csizmadia, Ph.D.**, Univ. of Connecticut

010-02 - Development of a Critical Identity Theory

This theory paper will review how family beliefs on racial inequality can mediate the effect of critical consciousness, ethnic identity, and anti-racist action. The current body of literature has focused on, but did not integrate fully on these propositions: 1) Family beliefs influence racial-ethnic socialization, 2) interpersonal anti-racist action (i.e., speaking up about a racial issue) relates to the development of ethnic identity, 3) critical consciousness reflection (i.e., awareness of inequality) leads to anti-racist action, 4) critical consciousness is linked to ethnic identity development, and 5) the relation to ethnic identity relates to anti-racist action. The proposed model highlights how family beliefs about racial inequality influence racial-ethnic socialization, ethnic identity, critical consciousness, and anti-racist action. Recognizing how the theory of symbolic interactionism influence these processes may frame future anti-racist action family theories, promote a greater understanding of interpersonal anti-racist action among families, and lead to more policies that support family engagement in anti-racist action (Sumerau & Holway, 2022; Umaña-Taylor et al., 2020; Yip et al., 2019).

Presenters: Kari L. Adamsons, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Univ. of Connecticut; **Raymond Petren, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Penn State Univ. Scranton

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – TCRM Paper Symposium 3 Session #014 | Salon 3

Discussants/Presiders: Kari L. Adamsons; Matthew A. Ogan

014-01 - The Tripartite Connection Framework: Situating Attachment Between Autonomous Action and Caregiving
Over one's life, one achieves one's goals using one's own resources or by asking the support of another. John Bowlby developed a theory about attachment and caregiving systems as an attempt to understand children's desire for support. He saw the attachment system as activated by fear and the caregiving system as activated by attachment behaviors. In this paper I shift attention from activation of systems to the motivations and decisions within each system. Bowlby made a number of theoretical choices that have since funneled theorizing about attachment and caregiving. My analysis suggests that these choices may have been unduly limiting. This paper situates attachment as a potential but not required mediator between autonomous action and caregiving processes. This analysis suggests that caregiving might deserve a more central place than attachment in understanding attachment-caregiving relationships.

Presenter: David C. Bell, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor, IUPUI

014-02 - Parallel Parenting as a Precursor to the Development of an Effective Coparental Relationship in High Conflict Divorce/Separation

This paper examines parallel parenting as an intermediary strategy to coparenting for parents that are unable to collaborate effectively in raising their children post-divorce. Rather than a process where parents are parenting separately, we argue that parallel parenting should be an intentional strategy taught to families. The paper will examine the literature on coparenting and argue that current models of coparenting intervention do not attend to families that may be unready or unable to coparent together. The paper will articulate considerations for parallel parenting programs and discuss benefits and advantages to taking a best interest of the family approach when families divorce or separate. Goals are provided to guide parallel parenting models and considerations for moving this innovative approach to parallel parenting are suggested.

Presenters: Daniel J. Puhlman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Family Studies, Univ. of Maine; **Timothy E. Robbins, Esq.**, Kids First Center for Coparent Education and Family Resilience; **Shelley Cohen Konrad, Ph.D.**, LCSW, FNAP, Professor, Univ. of New England

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – TCRM Paper Symposium 4

Session #015 | Salon 2

Discussants/Presiders: Amanda Rich; Laura Evans

015-01 - **Emotional Labor as Children's Contributions: Recognizing Children's Social-Emotional Learning in Family Settings as Emotional Labor**

Families encompass a variety of footholds in society, but they are connected by shared space and practices for the family unit's functioning. However, studies have primarily conceptualized members' contributions along two axes: provider/dependent and adult/child. Dominant discourse tells us that adults work for pay to provide for children who depend on their caregivers, leaving children's contributions out of the picture. This paper proposes a reconsideration of children's learning and contributions in families and community settings to advance theoretical construction of emotional labor by using a child-centered approach.

Presenter: Karina Ruiz, Doctoral Candidate, UC Santa Cruz

015-02 - **Examining Equifinality: Variable Patterns of Youth Developmental Assets and Health**

Early General Systems Theorists proposed a key difference between living and physical systems was the widespread presence of equifinality and multifinality among living organisms. That is, in living systems there are often variable pathways to the same outcomes (equifinality), or the same starting conditions can lead to disparate outcomes (multifinality). Family scientists, however, frequently use methods (adapted from the physical sciences) that fail to reflect these characteristics. In this paper, we propose and provide a preliminary "proof-of-concept" of how an outcome-partitioned set of person-centered analyses might be used to develop alternative models that more comprehensively capture equifinality in living systems.

Presenters: Luke T. Russell, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Illinois State Univ.; **Todd M. Jensen, Ph.D.**, Research Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; **Jonathon J. Beckmeyer, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, West Virginia Univ.; **Chang Su-Russell, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Illinois State Univ.

2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. – TCRM Paper Symposium 5

Session #017 | Salon 2

Discussant/Presider: Jeremy Yorgason

017-01 - **Stress and Romantic Partner Support: A Critical Review**

Romantic partner support is a critical protective factor against the negative effects of stress. However, for support to occur, it must be able to withstand the presence of stress. This review synthesizes research on the direct effects of stress on romantic partner support to clarify the circumstances in which support is likely to occur and to identify factors that influence the perception and enactment of support. Results suggest that stress can prompt or inhibit romantic partner support depending on characteristics of the stressor, and that support is influenced by various individual and relational factors.

Presenter: Matthew A. Ogan, M.S., Doctoral Candidate, Univ. of Missouri

017-02 - **Intergenerational Solidarity and Transfer as the Central Means of Family Resilience to Optimize Population Well-Being**

Intergenerational solidarity is a multidimensional process aiding families to survive and succeed. Global adversity stimulated us to synthesize family science, social science, and criminal justice literature to optimize population well-being. We propose a transdisciplinary multicultural model of intergenerational solidarity and transfer as the central means of family resilience to help prevent depression, violence, and racism. Possible

mechanisms include social bonds, informal control and self-control, and socialization (e.g., gender egalitarianism, racial literacy). Family routines, including meals and digital communication, are stable venues to promote intergenerational solidarity and transfer. We discussed the model's application and future research among disadvantaged populations including immigrants, sexual minority populations, older adults, individuals at suicide risk, and parents of perpetrators, highlighting preventive functions of intergenerational solidarity and transfer. We discussed the public health implications for human prosperity and population strategies (e.g., routine color brave conversations) to optimize population well-being and promote effective prevention of depression, violence, and racism.

Presenters: Qing Li, M.D., Dr.PH., Adjunct Clinician Scientist, Univ. of Mississippi Medical Ctr.; **Hannah B. Mudrick, Ph.D.**, Assistant Teaching Professor, Penn State Harrisburg; **Tom YiLe Su, Ph.D.**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Univ. of Colorado at Denver; **Lei Zhang**, Univ. of Mississippi Medical Ctr.

2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. – TCRM Paper Symposium 6 Session #018 | Salon 3

Discussant/Presider: Pamela B. Payne

#018 - **Introducing the State of Families Project**

Family scientists have called for novel developments in practice and research, to raise the relevance of family science and promote family well-being. This session introduces emerging State of Families reports project, which concentrates on contextual and local information about families and offers local stakeholders' cutting-edge family-related content. Researchers from three states who have each written a report for their state will discuss their experiences and the ways in which their different local programs have advanced family science by bridging research and practice. A discussion on the possibility of advancing family science through the State of Families reporting initiative.

018-01 - **Marriage and Family Review Team**

Presenters: Anthony G. James, Ph.D., Professor, Miami University; **Chiquita Hughes**, Univ. of New England; **Tiffany Brown, Ph.D.**, California State Univ.-Long Beach; **Roudi Roy, Ph.D.**, California State Univ.-Long Beach; **Yolanda T. Mitchell, Ph.D.**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Univ. of North Texas; **Lauren E. Spencer, Ph.D.**, Doctoral Candidate, Univ. of North Texas

018-02 - **North Carolina Team**

Presenters: Yuliana Rodriguez, Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; **Adriana Jimenez-Guzmn**, Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

018-03 - **Utah State Team**

Presenters: Joshua Turner, Utah State Univ.; **Brian Higginbotham**, Utah State Univ.

016-04 - **Ohio State Team**

Presenters: Jacqueline J. Kirby Wilkins, Ph.D., Ohio State Univ.; **James S. Bates**, Ohio State Univ.; **Michael R. Betz**, Ohio State Univ.; **David Civittolo**, Ohio State Univ.; **Julie Fox**, Ohio State Univ.; **Lauren E. Jones**, Ohio State Univ.; **Erik J. Porfeli**, Ohio State Univ.; **Patrice K. Powers-Barker**, Ohio State Univ.; **Heather L. Reister**, Ohio State Univ.; **Daniel T. Remley**, Ohio State Univ.

4:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. – Methods Workshop 2

Session #020 | Salon 1

#020 - **TCRM Methods Workshop 2 - Predicting Uncertainty in Classification by Mixture Models**

Mixture modeling is a person-focused approach that seeks to classify the sample into a latent categorical variable. A set of models are run with an increasing number of classes and compared for best fit. Once the number of classes is chosen, researchers often want to understand who was classified where. I will show the current gold standard ways of predicting class membership in a variety of mixture models (e.g. LCA, LPA, GMM), both simultaneously and using stepped methods. Finally, I will show how to use fractional logit regression to predict who is difficult to classify.

Presenter: Isaac Washburn, Ph.D., Biobehavioral Health Science Chair and Professor, Univ. of Oklahoma Health Sciences Univ.

4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m. – TCRM Paper Symposium 7

Session #021 | Salon 2

Discussants/Presiders: Debra L. Berke; Elizabeth A. Sharp

021-01 - **Double Take: Examining Higher Education Students Success from a Social Justice Initiative and Alumni Philanthropy**

It is projected that a transformative student experience with social justice components, may foster alumni philanthropy. This study explores the influence of social justice initiatives on student success and alumni philanthropy at higher education institutions. Using secondary sources, this paper examines social justice and philanthropy theoretical frameworks and uses concepts from a critical social justice theory to understand its intended outcomes. The findings have important implications to develop best policy practices for higher education institutions to provide social justice initiatives that continue to help students successfully navigate college life and increase alumni philanthropy.

Presenters: Yanira B. Amadeo, Montclair State Univ.; **Nadine Vera**, Montclair State Univ.

021-02 - **A Guide to Conducting Intersectional Phenomenological Research in Family Science**

There is increasing interest in the incorporation of diversity and equity within family science research and methodology through a greater focus on “nontraditional” families, communities, and individuals. Now more than ever, family science is aligning itself with intersectional theorizing to problematize individual biases and power positions. The goal of this paper is to provide methodological considerations and suggested guidelines for conducting intersectional phenomenological research in family science. We seek to draw from works that have initially conceptualized intersectionality and phenomenology and more recent pieces being released by family science scholars that challenge traditional orientations of the family.

Presenters: Jaclyn Keenoy, M.S., Montclair State Univ.; **Romi Paldi**, Montclair State Univ.; **Yasmine Perry**, Montclair State Univ.; **Melissa R. Screven, M.E.**, Instructor of American Sign Language, Rowan Univ.; **Brad van Eeden-Moorefield, Ph.D.**, Professor, Montclair State Univ.

7:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. – TCRM Business Meeting and Reception

Session #023 | Salon 4

Presiders: Bethany N. Willis, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Towson Univ.; **Nikki DiGregorio, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Towson Univ.

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. – Paper Symposium 8
Session #104 | Salon 9

Discussant/Presider: Katherine R. Allen, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor, Virginia Tech

104-01 - Listening to the Silence in Our Family Stories: Unsettling the Colonial Settler Narrative

I am a musician who understands the art of the rest. Composers from Debussy to Davis talk about the spaces between musical notes as being just as important as the notes themselves (Fonseca-Wollheim, 2019). Ironically, performing music often means being quiet, not playing, and listening to the place where the music happens within the liminal space of silence and sound. Like a musical score, our family theorizing has many silent spaces that have gone unlistened to. Family theorist and artist, Kerry Daly first drew our attention to this 20 years ago using the metaphor of positive and negative spaces within the visual arts. He invited us to pay closer attention to what is poorly represented in our theorizing about families including beliefs, intuition, emotions, religion, consumption, time, and space (2003). All of these elements figure prominently in this paper as I use embodied critical family history and intersectional reflexive feminist autoethnography to listen to the silences within my own family stories of coming to this land in order to better understand my positionality as a non-Indigenous scholar working in partnership with Indigenous communities. This paper is an experiment in meta-listening and takes seriously the question: What happens when our listening listens to itself?

Presenter: Sarah Allen, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Southern Utah Univ.

10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – Special Session
Session #113 | Grand Ballroom C

Presiders: Bethany N. Willis, Ph.D., Towson Univ. and **Nikki DiGregorio, Ph.D.**, Towson Univ., TCRM Co-Chairs

SPECIAL SESSION:

Latinx LGBTQ People and Their Families: Advancing Culturally Centered Theories and Research Methodologies

Family support is one of the most important protective factors of emotional and physical health and resilience for LGBTQ people. However, there is paucity of research about family dynamics, support, and acceptance within communities of color. Specific to Latinx families, cultural values, beliefs, and traditions both facilitate and challenge support of Latinx LGBTQ people. This session will discuss support for Latinx LGBTQ within Latinx families with specific emphasis on cultural values and beliefs (familismo), gender norms (machismo, caballerismo, marianismo), and religion and spirituality. Recommendations for advancing theory and research methodologies that seek to understand the relationship between Latinx LGBTQ people and their families as the result of cultural traditions and messages, as well as the racist, xenophobic, cissexist, and heterosexist contexts that both Latinx LGBTQ people and their families navigate, will be discussed. Finally, strength-based, culturally appropriate approaches for working with Latinx LGBTQ people and their families will be discussed.

Presenter: Roberto Abreu, Ph.D., Univ. of Florida

Dr. Roberto L. Abreu, Ph.D., NCC (he/him/his/ él), is an assistant professor of Counseling Psychology in the Department of Psychology at the University of Florida (UF) in Gainesville, and an affiliate faculty at the Center for Latin American Studies and the Center for Gender, Sexualities and Women's Studies Research at UF. Dr. Abreu completed his Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky and an APA accredited pre-doctoral internship at the Federal Medical Center in Lexington. He earned a Master's degree in Counselor Education with a Clinical Mental Health track from Florida International University.