

Focus Group End of Year Report for 2023

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

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

Chair/Co-chairs email jensen@unc.edu, csanner@vt.edu

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

Members of the focus group have been successful in receiving accepted paper, poster, and workshop presentations for the upcoming NCFR annual conference, focusing on content highly relevant to the aims and mission of the focus group. For instance, building on work from previous conferences, members of the focus group organized a presentation for the upcoming conference entitled “Prioritizing the Pressing Issues in Family-Structure Research,” which has the following objectives: (a) to congregate and unify researchers, practitioners, and educators who possess substantive expertise on the topic of diverse family structures; (b) to collectively prioritize identified change ideas intended to improve family-structure research; (c) to captured detailed notes and observations to inform the development of an explicit roadmap for future family-structure research. Thus, one major activity of the focus group over this past year has been continued progress in the development of an explicit and promising research agenda for family-structure research.

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 critical theorizing and methods to enrich and reimagine the study of family structure. These foci are prominent in ongoing work being developed by focus group members, including a manuscript nearing completion entitled “Reimagining a stagnant discipline: Advancing a critical theoretical agenda for research on family structure,” to be submitted for review at the *Journal of Family Theory and Review*. Another article is currently being revised and resubmitted at the *Journal of Marriage and Family* for the mid-decade special issue on theory and methods entitled, “What is QuantCrit doing in a nice field like family science?” This work aligns with NCFR’s initiative to advance inclusion and diversity, particularly in terms of prioritizing important voices that should be included in the advancement of 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. As of October 2023, our focus group has 158 members with diverse backgrounds and research foci pertaining to family structure diversity.

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

N/A