

Theory Construction & Research Methodology (TCRM) Workshop

Robin Yaure and Kelly Munly, 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 moving forward cutting-edge work in family theory and research methods. The TCRM preconference workshop is 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 preconference 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 2024 NCFR Conference on November 19-20, in Bellevue, Washington. This year we plan to offer a specific session to highlight the work of students and new professionals 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, *Building Resilience Among Individuals, Families, and Communities*, which will provide an opportunity for TCRM attendees to explore the foundations of prevention and recovery mechanisms in stress and crisis contexts, whether individual, familial, or community. We welcome submissions that seek to broaden our theoretical and methodological frameworks for thinking about how individual, familial, and community experiences of stress and crisis intersect with social and political changes. These changes require critical examination and reconceptualization of issues that, while may have long histories, are being experienced in novel and different ways in these challenging times.

TCRM has a unique purpose and format, in that it is designed to promote discussion and provide a forum for feedback that moves working papers and ideas forward, rather than being a place to simply present finished products. Authors submit their papers in advance of the preconference workshop with the intent that attendees can read the papers before attending the preconference workshop. Discussants also read and provide detailed reviews of papers in advance of the preconference workshop. Rather than being presentations of the submitted papers, TCRM sessions instead comprise informed discussions of theoretical and methodological issues raised by the papers, discussants, authors, and workshop attendees. Because it is assumed that attendees have already read the papers, discussions can center on the ideas raised by each paper and on the integration of different papers in a session. Additionally, since discussants also have provided their comments to the authors in advance, authors also get a chance to respond to these comments in an atmosphere of collaboration, pushing forward the thinking of authors, discussants, and audience alike. The focus in this intimate, receptive climate is on constructive feedback and collaborative discussion, providing a collegial and cooperative context for family methods and theories to evolve. For papers eventually intended for submission to the [*Journal of Family Theory & Review*](#), this forum can provide valuable feedback that authors can use to strengthen the manuscript's contents prior to submission.

In sum, TCRM is especially designed for those who want to participate in or attend an active intellectual exchange. Works-in-progress are especially invited. Papers submitted to TCRM should not have been previously submitted for presentation or publication elsewhere, nor should they be submitted elsewhere prior to the workshop, so that the feedback and discussion that takes place at the workshop is meaningful.

In addition to the authors' papers, extended abstracts are made available to attendees prior to TCRM. The extended abstract should be about 1,000 words and is provided in lieu of a formal presentation by the author at the beginning of the session. Sessions begin with discussant comments, followed by author responses and audience feedback. 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:

1. **Working papers:** special topics in theory, methodology, novel uses, or reconsideration of family frameworks. Paper proposals are submitted individually.
2. **Paper symposium:** This may include a working paper session which includes 2-4 papers discussing a particular topic associated with family theory, research methodology, or other foci of TCRM. Symposium proposals should be submitted according to NCFR symposium guidelines. See page 4 of the full [2024 NCFR Call for Proposals](#).
3. **Dialogue session:** 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.
4. **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 in PDF format and include:

1. the working 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; and
4. two or three suggestions for discussants.

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- background, context, and significance of the topic proposal;
- connections to the conference theme;
- relationship to one or more of the four TCRM goals listed at the beginning;
- a description of how the paper, symposium, workshop or dialogue addresses innovative, novel, and/or important issues in theory, methodology, or the empirical study of families; and
- a brief discussion of the paper, symposium, workshop or dialogue's implications for research and/or practice.

The deadline for TCRM submission is **March 15, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. PST**. TCRM submissions are not submitted through the NCFR online submission system. Instead, TCRM submitters should fill out the TCRM application form and attach the proposal as a PDF. All proposals should be submitted via e-mail to TCRM co-chairs **Robin Yaure**, Penn State Mont Alto, and **Kelly Munly**, Penn State Altoona, at tcrm@ncfr.org.

Authors of accepted papers will be required to submit a full version of their paper, up to 35 pages (all inclusive), by **August 19, 2024**, with extended abstracts and discussant reviews due by **October 4, 2024**.

Please contact the TCRM co-chairs with any questions, inquiries, or volunteer requests: **Robin Yaure**, Penn State Mont Alto, and **Kelly Munly**, Penn State Altoona; **email: tcrm@ncfr.org**