

2025 NCFR Annual Conference

Wed.–Sat., Nov. 19–22, 2025

Preconference workshops: Tues., Nov. 18

Baltimore, Maryland | Marriott Waterfront

Proposal Deadline:

March 3, 2025, 11:59 p.m.

Pacific Standard Time

2025 CONFERENCE THEME

Power, Privilege, and Difference: Lived Experiences of Changing Families and Societies

PROGRAM CHAIR

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The United States has a deep-seated history of systemic oppression and disparities in power and privilege. Power, in this social context, refers specifically to the ability to control

access to resources and opportunities. Society often characterizes groups with less power or privilege are often characterized as marginalized, oppressed, or disadvantaged and face systematic disenfranchisement, invisibility, dehumanization, and exploitation. In contrast, groups with greater power and privilege are viewed as dominant or advantaged, granting them disproportionate access to resources. This difference raises a fundamental question: how can genuine equality be achieved when one group is inherently positioned as superior to others?

Societal structures are continuously shaped by various factors, reinforcing divisions between those who hold power and privilege and those who are marginalized. These divisions have been historically

maintained through stratification based on wealth, education, land ownership, race, ethnicity, language, religion, culture, and their past. Despite notable advancements within the United States, systemic bias, prejudice, and discriminatory practices against individuals who diverge from dominant social norms remain entrenched within society. These distinctions now span a broader spectrum, extending beyond race and ethnicity to religion, political ideology, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, language, and other social markers. Consequently, the contemporary social milieu continues to perpetuate critical injustices, including racial profiling, police brutality, mass incarceration, social incivility, and the inhumane treatment of immigrant families, among other egregious violations of human rights.

Amidst these systemic issues, the 2025 NCFR Annual Conference theme aspires to elucidate often-overlooked issues within a secure and constructive framework, fostering rigorous discourse among scholars and practitioners. This conference serves as a critical platform for examining the implications of these dialogues for both practical applications and policy formulation. Each plenary session will comprehensively analyze the intersections

among race, economy, and education, and explore the ramifications for power relations, privilege, and social differences.

The conference theme encompasses a wide range of topics, including access, disparities, equality, incivility, inequality, power, privilege, and tolerance within the context of families (for further information, please visit ncfr.org). Conference submissions are encouraged to include substantive insights to inform practice and policy in these complex and interconnected areas, ultimately advancing the field's understanding of these critical issues.

The conference aspires to create opportunities for researchers, theorists, and practitioners in the family field to enhance their understanding and effectiveness in fostering meaningful change within their communities. I hope participants engage in critical analyses of the lived experiences of families, highlighting the significance of social differences and historical disparities. Together, we will thoroughly examine evidence-based strategies to address systemic barriers and promote social equity.

Conference Goals

- To engage in a comprehensive analysis of the differences experienced by individuals, families, and societies both in historical and contemporary contexts
- To examine the lived experiences of families across differences in race, ethnicity, language, education, income, occupation, family structure and composition, physical ability, physical and mental health, immigration status, and religious or political views
- To promote conversations on the intersecting effects of historical and social determinants and future directions to minimize adverse effects
- To share research interventions, and systemic solutions to barriers, thus creating a more equitable society
- To develop approaches that alleviate the impact of continued oppression and disadvantage on families
- To highlight the roles and responsibilities of Family Scientists, Family Life Educators, practitioners, couple, marriage, and family therapists, and policymakers in unmasking and fighting differences that deepen the divide

Conference Goals (continued)

- To foster a continuous collaborative dialogue leading to the creation of social policies and laws that are impartial, inclusive, and equitable

Criteria for Proposals

The proposal describes work that meets BOTH of the following criteria:

- (a) The work is sufficiently developed.
- (b) Regardless of focus (e.g., research, practice), brings an appropriate, rigorous approach is used.

The proposal is written clearly, logically organized, and includes references.

Proposals can be based on qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods; literature reviews; or analyses of a theoretical, pedagogical, or policy nature, and must include:

- (a) A strong connection to existing research
- (b) A strong connection to theory
- (c) The potential to stimulate new knowledge and/or innovative practices

Submission Questions

May I submit a previously published/presented paper?

No. Papers that have been published or previously presented are not accepted.

When will I know if my proposal has been accepted?

You will be notified by June 1, 2025.

If my proposal is accepted, what is expected of me?

At least one author of accepted proposals must attend the conference, register, and pay the registration fee to present.

Upload your PowerPoint slides being used during your presentation before the conference begins.

If your presentation is accepted as a paper, symposium, or lightning paper, a copy of your presentation must be sent to the session facilitator/discussant by Oct. 16, 2025.

2025 Conference Program Committee

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