

FSR

Family Science Review

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Family Science Review

A Quarterly Bulletin of the Family Discipline

Editorial Office:
Department of Family Relations and Human Development
315 Campbell Hall
The Ohio State University
1787 Neil Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210

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FAMILY SCIENCE REVIEW

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Vol. 1
No. 2

Purpose: *Family Science Review* publishes information that will improve family science as a field of scholarly inquiry and professional application. The main purposes of the *Review* are (a) publish articles, dialogues, debates, and reports about professional issues and developments in family science; (b) to publish reviews about conceptual, theoretical, methodological, and research topics; and (c) to publish original conceptual, theoretical, and methodological papers which contribute to the development of the family field.

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Manuscript Submission Guidelines: Manuscripts for the Articles section of *Family Science Review* should conform to manuscript specifications described by the *Publication Manual* of the American Psychological Association, 3rd Edition. A processing fee of \$15.00 must accompany each manuscript to help defray costs of processing. There is no processing fee for items submitted to the Forum and Reports sections of the *Review*. Prospective authors should submit four copies of their manuscripts along with a self-addressed stamped postcard. Only three copies are necessary for Forum and Report manuscripts. Send all submissions to: Geoffrey K. Leigh, Department of Family Relations & Human Development, 315 Campbell Hall, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210.

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Attempting To Create Clarity From Confusion

Geoffrey K. Leigh

With this second issue of *Family Science Review*, we proceed with the publication of a professional issues and review bulletin. There have been some changes, however, since we produced the first issue, and I want to try to clarify both our purpose and direction.

We originally intended to publish this bulletin under the sponsorship of the Family Discipline Section of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR). It was the membership of this section who conceived the idea and provided the leadership in establishing the publication. It also was believed at the time that we had permission to initiate publication, that it would be possible to produce a publication sponsored by this section, and that we would be able to distribute the bulletin to the membership at large or to others outside NCFR. Thus, we prematurely published the first issue as a sponsored publication of the section. Now, we are clear that there are details to be worked out and official permission to be obtained for *FSR* to become an NCFR sponsored publication. We do not know at this time whether this will happen or whether this publication will remain independent of NCFR. We do want to be clear, however, that at this time *FSR* is not officially sponsored by either the Family Discipline Section or NCFR.

We also were not as clear in the beginning about our goals and purposes, especially in our written materials. Part of what we gained by discussing the issues of sponsorship and competition with others has been greater clarity of what we want to do and the directions we want to take with this bulletin. In addition, most journals and bulletins tend to evolve rather than appear in completed and perfect form. In fact, even established journals continue to incorporate new ideas and changes to make them stronger. Although the developers of this publication had a vision, we are continuing to clarify that vision and intent with both our statement of purpose and the articles we publish. While we feel our mission has been clarified, the nature of the articles published will continue to emerge as we attract more of the kind of articles we want to include that are not being developed as readily or being published elsewhere. In the beginning, it also is difficult to have an abundance of articles in previously underpublished areas. The report by the *ad-hoc* Publications Committee of the Family Discipline Section in the Reports Section of this issue goes into more detail about the process and the vision or mission we are pursuing. We also have a revised statement of purpose which we hope is clearer to subscribers, potential authors, and family professionals in general.

Our first purpose is to publish articles and information about the family discipline. In particular, we are interested not only in information, but also analyses of the field in general or elements that help us understand more about the field. For example, we have published articles that try to define what is meant by "family science," and the process that occurred in the development of the disciplinary perspective and label. We also have included articles that compare academic departments in terms of research productivity, or perceived relative status

by family professionals. Finally, we have included an article in this issue which includes an analysis of the admissions process of a family therapy program to help us examine the way we admit students and determine which information appears to be most useful in relation to student performance in the program. There are many other topics that would be useful for the field; these are only a few. For example, it would be interesting to know how family professionals are doing outside the United States and what developments are occurring, what interests they have, and what similarities/differences they have with professionals in this country. In addition, it would be useful to know what jobs outside of academia are being pursued and what training seems most useful; what aspects of training programs seem most useful for students; how training programs compare in terms of requirements and emphases; the validity of methods used to evaluate program productivity and status; and ways professionals with different emphases, such as education, therapy, or research, might build on each others' strengths rather than have little connection. These are but a few topics that could be helpful to the field and appropriate for publication in *FSR*.

A second purpose of *FSR* is to publish review articles. One obvious type is a thorough review of the prior research work in an area, such as transitions to divorce or remarriage. As indicated in the report by the publications committee (this issue), we will try to avoid duplication with *JMF* and *FR* by not publishing "decade review" types of articles or application-oriented review articles, which those two journals already publish. We particularly would be interested in general review articles which would be of use to educators, therapists, or general professionals. Such articles would provide a review of the issues, a summary of what we know now, and where we may need to go from that point. These reviews would not be focused on a particular decade, and they would be published on a regular basis. Some of these reviews may be fairly brief and to the point, whereas others may go into more detail or have more information to cover on the topic. Besides research topics, reviews of conceptual, theoretical, and methodological ideas and issues also would be very appropriate. Some of these reviews may be of ideas or issues in the family field, whereas others may cut across disciplines in the review and translation of ideas. We still have much to learn from other disciplines, and have ideas to offer or apply to other fields as well. Such conceptual and methodological reviews would be a useful contribution to the field and appropriate to include in *FSR*.

A third purpose of *FSR* is to publish original conceptual, theoretical, and methodological papers which contribute to the development of the family field. In this case, the papers would focus on a) new ways to conceptualize families or b) problems with the way we approach issues in the field, such as presented in two of the articles and the response in the forum section of this issue. Articles which synthesize or integrate theoretical work and ideas about families also are appropriate, such as the article on family coping in the first issue of this volume. In addition, we would be interested in methodological papers which focus on application or integration of methods for research, therapy, or education. Articles which facilitate sophistication in statistical utilization and computer application also would be important and useful. These articles might cover such topics as the further application of LISREL in family research, or the use of proportional hazards in clinical research. In addition, integrative papers on methods, or the elaboration or application of particular issues, such as single case research designs for use in

clinical work, could be theoretical and conceptual papers, some of them in different disciplines.

Our intent with "family" journals, such as *Journal of Family Psychology*. These journals have contributed to the field more than to duplicate or overlap lines in certain areas. The existing *Journal of Family Science Review* will focus on the field and its unique contribution.

Further, we have seen the existence of two journals independently of each other. Communication between part of our work, which is useful for all professional researchers and as well as elements which are helpful. These journals, while the other journals, developments, as they

Finally, we are interested in and interactions not only. Again, some of the journals as well as the interaction, especially in areas, there seems to be an increase may be useful.

We also will be interested in progress. Starting with information. We also will continue to have guest editors and a "special issue" as other journals. Articles along with the field try to continue our work there, but will continue to discover what is most needed changes to the field. Suggestions, please let us know.

Most of all, we

clinical work, could be very useful. There also would be interest in other theoretical and conceptual articles from a variety of approaches. Like the review papers, some of this work may cut across disciplines, or may integrate ideas from different disciplines.

Our intent with this bulletin is not to duplicate what is being done in other "family" journals, such as *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, *Family Relations*, *Journal of Family Issues*, *Family Process*, or *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*. These journals have a sustained history of publishing high quality work which contributes to the family field. Our interest is to complement what is there rather than to duplicate or compete with these journals. There will always be some fuzzy lines in certain areas, but on the whole our basic purposes seem to be unique from the existing family journals. In addition, we believe the existence of *Family Science Review* will stimulate further family scholarship, especially in areas which focus on the field as an area of analysis, and will add another dimension and a unique contribution of its own.

Further, we hope to begin to bridge some of the gap that seems to exist between family research and family therapy emphases, especially noted by the existence of two major professional organizations which seem to exist rather independently of each other. The independence is not a problem by itself, but little communication between these areas can be problematic. We are hopeful that as a part of our work, we can help to weave a unifying web of identity that will be useful for all professionals in the family field. Much of the web must come from our research and application contributions, but a clearer analysis of the field, as well as elements which will contribute to our research and theory, also will be helpful. These latter threads are the unique contributions we believe we can add, while the other journals continue to publish the high quality research and therapy developments, as they have in the past.

Finally, we are hopeful that *FSR* will be a tool which will facilitate exchanges and interactions not only within the family field, but between this field and others. Again, some of this already occurs through other journals, both family oriented journals as well as those in other disciplines. We hope to add to this exchange and interaction, especially in terms of professional issues and reviews. In these two areas, there seems to be less of an exchange occurring, and we believe that an increase may be useful to our field as well as an increasing contribution to others.

We also will be adding some new elements to *FSR* as we continue to grow and progress. Starting with the August issue, Suzanne Steinmetz will begin a new section with information about graduate programs and graduate studies in the field. We also will continue with our special topics section, but will expand it to include guest editors and a wider variety of topics. We will not go to a complete "special issue" as other journals have done, but we will continue to publish a few general articles along with the special topic section in one or two issues a year. We will try to continue our "Tongue in Cheek Section" as we have good examples to print there, but will continue each issue with the Forum and Reports sections. As we discover what is most useful or ways we can improve *FSR*, we also will make the needed changes to continue to grow and develop. If you have ideas and suggestions, please let me know what you think.

Most of all, we hope you will find *FSR* valuable for you and a good place to

submit appropriate manuscripts, dialogue responses, or reports. If you have ideas for an article but are not sure whether it would be appropriate for *FSR*, please send me a brief description of your idea. I will react in terms of appropriateness of your idea and direction for development of your manuscript. I also would be interested in suggestions of articles or ideas to include, along with people who might be interested in developing them. Send all ideas, manuscripts, and suggestions to me at the editorial office. I will try to respond as quickly as possible.

If you like what you see, please share this with your friends, colleagues, and libraries. Subscriptions and change of addresses also should be submitted to the editorial office. We could use your support to continue our growth.

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ABUSE OF THE ELDERLY

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The beginning of the 20th century is identified as the beginning of the family in the Schmemmick (1977).

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Key Words: Family studies