

Editorial: Context, Collaboration, and Care

The *Journal of Family Psychology* is a robust, well-respected journal and the premier outlet for family research. The intention of the new editorial team is to further solidify the journal's role in the field of family psychology and to ensure its ongoing influence and responsiveness to the breadth of topics and orientations that fall within its realm.

Family psychology, at its heart, is about context and the importance of relationships as the nexus for growth and development. Families are complex and diverse; they encompass the life span and interface with multiple systems that reciprocally influence well-being. These contexts can be understood as part of a collaborative web. Among key collaborations are those that encompass parent–child interaction, couple and family characteristics and patterns, the interface between families and other systems, and the bidirectional partnerships between research and practice necessary to integrate science and applied work. Also essential to strong family scholarship is care, in the broadest sense of contributing to the greater good, delivering effective interventions and prevention programs, assuring quality science, and translating knowledge into policy.

To realize this broad vision, I have slightly revised the mission statement of the journal to facilitate contributions that enhance context, collaboration, and care. From these overarching ideals, five general themes in family psychology have been extracted, which I hope will be reflected prominently in the journal over the next 6 years.

Health and Illness

Broadly speaking, the well-being of individuals is rooted in families. There is a large literature across the life span that pertains to the mental and physical health and well-being of family members, along with a more specific literature that evaluates the impact of mental and physical health concerns in a more targeted fashion.

Diversity and Culture

Our society is ethnically, culturally, and socioeconomically diverse. In addition, we are a highly pluralistic society in terms of family structure. It is crucial that family psychology reflect this diversity and promote an understanding of the heterogeneity of families.

Development and Transition

Families, like individuals, change and develop. An ongoing emphasis on major normative and unexpected contextual transitions across the life span, including marriage/couplehood, separation, divorce, remarriage, children, death, relocation, and employment, among others, is critical to comprehensively reflect the concerns of family psychology.

Intervention and Prevention

Documenting the mechanisms of change in family intervention is essential to the field and to the current and continuing emphasis on evidence-based treatments. The journal should be a major outlet for conceptual, empirical, and clinical advances in understanding the potency of family interventions and also must showcase prevention.

Practice and Professional Issues

Collaborative advances necessitate research and practice partnerships. Although such integration is a commonly voiced goal, unfortunately it is far less frequently realized. The journal can help reduce the gulf between researchers and clinicians by the inclusion of thoughtful articles on clinical practice, professional issues, education and training, and policy matters.

Journal Directions

The journal will continue to emphasize empirical reports. However, also encouraged is the submission of review papers, brief reports, and commentaries. The Instructions to Authors have been modified to provide guidance related to these types of submissions. With respect to style of manuscripts, a 25- to 30-page limit (inclusive of all sections) has been initiated. Manuscripts necessitating additional length should explain the rationale for this in the cover letter; however, we strongly encourage that all manuscripts be focused and succinct. Manuscripts will also be reviewed throughout with respect to their integration of research and practical applications. It is not expected that all manuscripts will have direct clinical relevance, but authors are strongly encouraged to consistently think in terms of the application of their findings to practice and policy as well as education and training.

The creation of each issue of a journal reflects tremendous sustained contributions from many individuals across the editorial system. It is truly a collaborative endeavor, beginning with the submission of authors' manuscripts, continuing throughout the review process with the energetic and thoughtful contributions of peer reviewers, and concluding with editorial integration and ultimately the assembly of articles into an issue. I look forward with enthusiasm and optimism to collaborating with authors and readers to accomplish this for the *Journal of Family Psychology* over the next 6 years. I count on the continued support of the journal by authors and readers and encourage dialogue with all interested parties about the journal and its role in the future of family psychology.

—Anne E. Kazak, Editor