



Connecting Researchers, Advancing Scholarship

Message from WFRN President Phyllis Moen on 2016 Conference

Dear WFRN Members and Friends of the WFRN Community,

We are pleased with the high quality of submissions and the variety of topics of the papers accepted for our June 23-25, 2016 WFRN conference in Washington, D.C. The preliminary program is now available, and links to the program, conference registration, hotel information, and other conference details are available on the [WFRN website](#).

This is going to be a terrific, exciting conference, right in the nation's capital, right at the height of the presidential election season. I told the program committee early on that I had four goals for this conference - that it should be ***Informative, Interesting, and Interactive, as well as Fun!*** We have worked hard to achieve these goals developing, with the help of the program committee, several new initiatives.

First, on the day BEFORE the conference (Wednesday, June 22) is **[Congressional Education and Policy Day on Capitol Hill](#)**. This will include letting your legislators know about your research and why it matters, as well as learning how to best do so, organized by our partners at the National Partnership for Women and Families and the Center for Equitable Growth. It will also showcase the first of hopefully many WFRN-sponsored Congressional briefings, this one organized by Heidi Hartmann and her committee and her colleagues at the Institute for Women's Policy Research. The day culminates with a reception on Capitol Hill, including a multi-media photography exhibit sponsored by the Working Assumptions Foundation.

The FIRST day of the conference (Thursday, June 23) will feature **[Practitioner Day](#)**, a program within the program of particular interest to practitioners as well as researchers interested in engaging with practitioners. Our goal is to have practitioners and researchers actually talk to one another, conversations that can have lots of salutary consequences for

both groups! Thanks to program committee member Kathy Kacher for making this happen.

On Friday, we are setting aside time for **Special Interest Group (SIGs) tables** to convene. These are networks on particular substantive areas members have generated from the bottom up. This will be the first time that the newly formed WFRN SIGs will meet face to face and talk about common interests.

Plus in an effort to be more interactive and to not have so many competing sessions (which members complained about!), we have two trial balloons. First are **Discussion Forums**, where small groups of people can discuss their papers, joined by those who are interested. Second are **Posters and Coffee/Tea**, giving all of us a chance to roam the room and visit with researchers whose work is on posters. (Note in particular I have added the word "tea." Too often we tea drinkers are discriminated against!)

Back by popular demand are several workshops, including but not limited to the **Early Career Fellowship Program** organized by Stephen Sweet, a **Mentoring Workshop** organized by Orfeu Buxton, and **Idea Incubators** organized by Maureen Perry-Jenkins. New this year are workshops by Lotte Bailyn and Joyce Fletcher; Alyssa Friede Westring, Monique Valcour, and Spela Trefalt; and Yvonne Montoya and Nicole Grider.

Thanks to the Program Committee for contributing so many excellent ideas and thanks especially to the program co-chairs, Suzan Lewis and Hanna van Solinge, who made sure we continue to be both interdisciplinary and international in focus. Thanks as well to the third co-chair, Anne Kaduk, who literally put the program together. I also want to especially acknowledge the work of Jerry Jacobs, Kay Dowgun, Nancy Permsap, and Brad Smith who have made all this happen.

We need your help! Please look at the program closely and let us know of any errors, such as missing or incorrect affiliations, and grammatical or other errors. Email us with any program corrections at workandfamily@sas.upenn.edu. ***We will need such feedback ASAP and by April 1 at the latest;*** after that, no changes can be made in the final program.

And consider joining us, even if you are not presenting this year. Together we can make this conference informative, interesting, interactive . . . and fun!

Sincerely,

Phyllis Moen, WFRN President
Message sent March 15 2016