



Connecting Researchers, Advancing Scholarship

## WFRN Winter Update 2017

The *Winter 2017 Edition of the WFRN Newsletter* includes:

- A **message** from outgoing WFRN President **Phyllis Moen**
- **Reports** from each of the WFRN **standing committees**
- **Updates** from thirteen of the **Special Interest Groups** (links to these updates can be found as part of the Communications Committee report)
- A call for members interested in serving in **leadership positions** for certain SIGs (i.e., on Aging, Connecting Research with Practice, and Parenting & Caregiving), and for a Communications Director for the Cross-Country Comparisons SIG.

Thanks to the committee chairs and the SIG coordinators for keeping the WFRN community informed.

### MESSAGE FROM PHYLLIS MOEN

*Dear WFRN Friends and Colleagues,*

*It has been a pleasure to serve as your President, and I thank all of you for your support over the past two years and for making the 2016 WFRN Conference such a great success! We are now already **counting down to our 2018 event, which will be held on June 20-23, 2018 at the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C.** Stay tuned for more details!*

*I know that this is a difficult time for an international community such as ours, given the new travel restrictions and other edicts from the Trump administration. **Please read more here about these issues and how you can help.***

*I also could **really use your help with reviewing submissions** for a special issue of the Community, Work, and Family journal that will feature papers presented at the 2016*

WFRN conference. Please send me an email at [phylmoen@umn.edu](mailto:phylmoen@umn.edu) with a couple of key words of your expertise if you can review one or more manuscripts.

Thank you again for all you do for the WFRN!  
With best wishes, Phyllis

## WFRN COMMITTEE UPDATES

### ***Committee to Connect Research, Policy, and Practice***

Co-Chairs: Heidi Hartmann, Institute for Women's Policy Research ([heidi@iwpr.org](mailto:heidi@iwpr.org)) and Jennifer Kohler, Google ([jkohler@google.com](mailto:jkohler@google.com))

The mission of the WFRN's Committee to Connect Research, Policy, and Practice is to facilitate dialogue and information exchange among academic researchers and broader audiences, all of whom benefit from having access to the most recent and relevant work and family research, policy and practice. One of the initiatives taken by the committee in 2013 was the creation of the **Research Spotlight series**. To further that initiative, Chair of the Committee to Connect Research, Policy, and Practice Heidi Hartmann and Committee Member Lisa Levey participated in the WFRN 2015-16 Early Career Fellows Teleconference to encourage researchers to write their own Research Spotlights or to interview each other and write them. A subcommittee will review these Research Spotlight drafts and work with the authors ahead of publication.

Upcoming in 2017, the committee plans to publish three spotlights on the theme ***“Weaving a Career Tapestry: Meaning, Gender, and Organizational Context.”*** The spotlights will feature Carrie Oelberger (University of Minnesota), whose research links definitions of meaning to career design; Marisa Young (McMaster University), whose research looks at the mental health consequences of work-family conflict and the role of community and neighborhood support to mitigate this conflict; and Christine Bataille (Ithaca College), whose research explores the role of gender for women in comparison to men as they broaden their professional identities to include parenthood. In 2016, the committee also undertook a review of the process of developing Research Spotlights. Members can click [here](#) for details about this approach and interview questions that may be helpful in thinking about how to package their research in a highly applied fashion. Questions about the Spotlight series can be directed to Lisa Levey at [l.levy@comcast.net](mailto:l.levy@comcast.net).

### ***Communications Committee***

Chair: Kathryn (Katy) Fonner, Oregon Health & Science University ([fonner@ohsu.edu](mailto:fonner@ohsu.edu))

The mission of the Communications Committee is to foster connections among members of the global work and family research community by developing and implementing a strategic communication plan across a variety of platforms, including the use of social media. In 2015, the Communications Committee was instrumental in leading the organization of fifteen **Special Interest Groups**. These groups provide a valuable

means for WFRN members to stay connected, share information and insights, and network with others who share similar areas of interest. At the June 2016 WFRN Conference, the Special Interest Groups met for the first time, and many presented workshops and research sessions at the conference. Please **click on the links below** for detailed updates on what these groups have been doing since that time:

[Aging, Work and Family](#)  
[Connecting Research and Practice](#)  
[Cross-Country Comparisons](#)  
[Disability, Work, Family and Care](#)  
[Early Career Network](#)  
[Economics and Public Policy](#)  
[Gender and Work-Family](#)  
[Global Work-Family Issues in Emerging Economies](#)  
[Organizational Work-Life Policy](#)  
[Parenting and Caregiving](#)  
[Technology, Work and Family](#)  
[Work-Life in the Academy](#)  
[Work-Life Issues Among Entrepreneurs](#)

**SIG Leaders Needed:** Several Special Interest Groups are looking for interested members to serve as Chairs/Co-Chairs or other positions within the groups. Specifically, the SIGs on Aging, Connecting Research with Practice, and Parenting & Caregiving are seeking new leaders for the groups, and the Cross-Country Comparisons SIG seeks a Communications Director. Please use the links above to contact the appropriate coordinators if you are interested in filling one of these leadership roles.

### ***International Committee***

Chair: Suzan Lewis, Middlesex University, UK ([s.lewis@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:s.lewis@mdx.ac.uk))

The International Committee's core mission is to encourage, support, and promote the advancement of international contributions to global work and family research. In order to facilitate cultural awareness, knowledge exchange, and comparative research, members of the Committee provide brief reports on new developments in policy, research and good practices over the past year in countries that they represent. These reports also include lists of publications, websites, and other resources. **Current reports (2014 report and a 2016 update) are available for ten countries:** Brazil, Canada-Québec, China, Greece, Korea, Malta, Nigeria, Portugal, UK, and the United States. Committee members from Ireland, India, and South Africa are in the process of producing reports on these countries. The country reports were first produced for the 2014 WFRN conference and most are updated each year, for the alternating WFRN and Community, Work and Family (CWF) conferences. The next update will be for the CWF 2017 conference in Milan.

Members of the committee are also joining with the Special Interest Group on Global Work and Family Issues in Emerging Economies to organize a symposium on "Hidden

Voices in Community, Work and Family Research and the UN Sustainable Development Goals” at the CWF Milan conference. They will also run a workshop there on publishing in English language journals for non-first language English speakers and will consider repeating this at the 2018 WFRN conference.

### ***Membership Committee***

Chair: Krista Lynn Minnotte, University of North Dakota ([krista.minnotte@und.edu](mailto:krista.minnotte@und.edu))

The mission of the Membership Committee is to maintain a strong membership base for the WFRN. The Membership Committee is excited to welcome two new members to the committee. The first new member is Katherine (Kathy) Y. Linn, a post-doctoral researcher at the Center for Demography and Health and Aging at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Julie Wellman, a doctoral student at the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota, is also joining the committee.

This fall we wrapped up a project of inviting scholars who have recently published work-family research to join WFRN. The Membership Committee also organized very successful “networking dinners” at the 2016 WFRN Conference in Washington, D.C. More than 75 people participated, a big increase from the previous conference. **You can also help build the membership of WFRN!** Two easy ideas are providing a link to the network on your webpage and promoting WFRN to new hires, graduate students, and post-docs.

### ***Repository Committee***

Chair: Noelle Chesley, University of Milwaukee-Wisconsin ([chesley@uwm.edu](mailto:chesley@uwm.edu))

The mission of the Repository Committee is to encourage the membership to contribute scholarly writings (e.g., working, conference, and published research papers) to the **Work and Family Commons** (WFC), and to facilitate the dissemination of the WFRN content within and outside of the organization. With a growing number of other social network sites for academic researchers, the committee faces a challenge in strengthening and growing the WFC and is engaged in clarifying its role for the future. Any members interested in joining this effort are encouraged to contact Noelle.

For more information about WFRN and its many resources, please [visit our website](#). And if you have any questions, please contact us at [workandfamily@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:workandfamily@sas.upenn.edu).

With best wishes,

Jerry A. Jacobs  
Executive Officer