
Naming the Family Field: Family Science, Family Studies, or Something Else?

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In this session, the history and current status of the naming issue within the family field will be reviewed, followed by a solution-focused participatory discussion intended to chart a course for resolving the naming issue.

Adapted from

Hans, J. D. (in press). Whither famology? Department name trends across four decades. *Family Relations*.

Famology

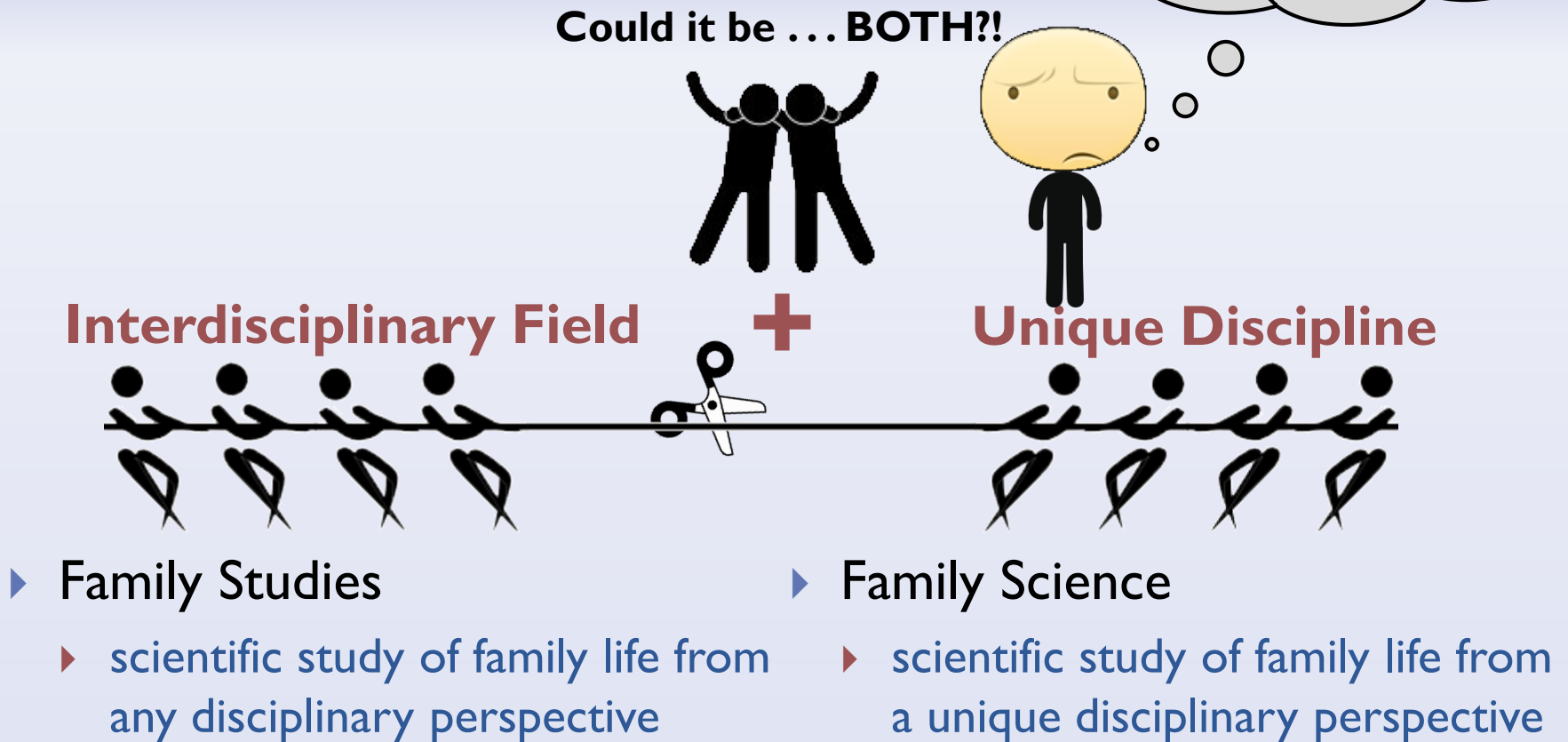
Naming the Family Field

Burr, W. R., & Leigh, G. K. (1983). Famology: A new discipline. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 45, 467-480.

- ▶ Asserted that a new family discipline had emerged
- ▶ Examined potential solutions to the field's "identity problem"
 - ▶ **Family Studies**
 - ▶ comfortable and effective
 - ▶ cannot be used as one's professional identity (e.g., "Family Studiest")
 - ▶ **Family Science**
 - ▶ the best of existing terms
 - ▶ substantial short-term utility
 - ▶ **Famology**
 - ▶ best potential new term based on linguistic analysis
 - ▶ superior for the discipline's long-term benefit
- ▶ Transition to famology
 - ▶ Laid out a 4-stage process, beginning with renaming departments, courses, programs, and degrees to famology

Nature of the Field

Naming the Family Field

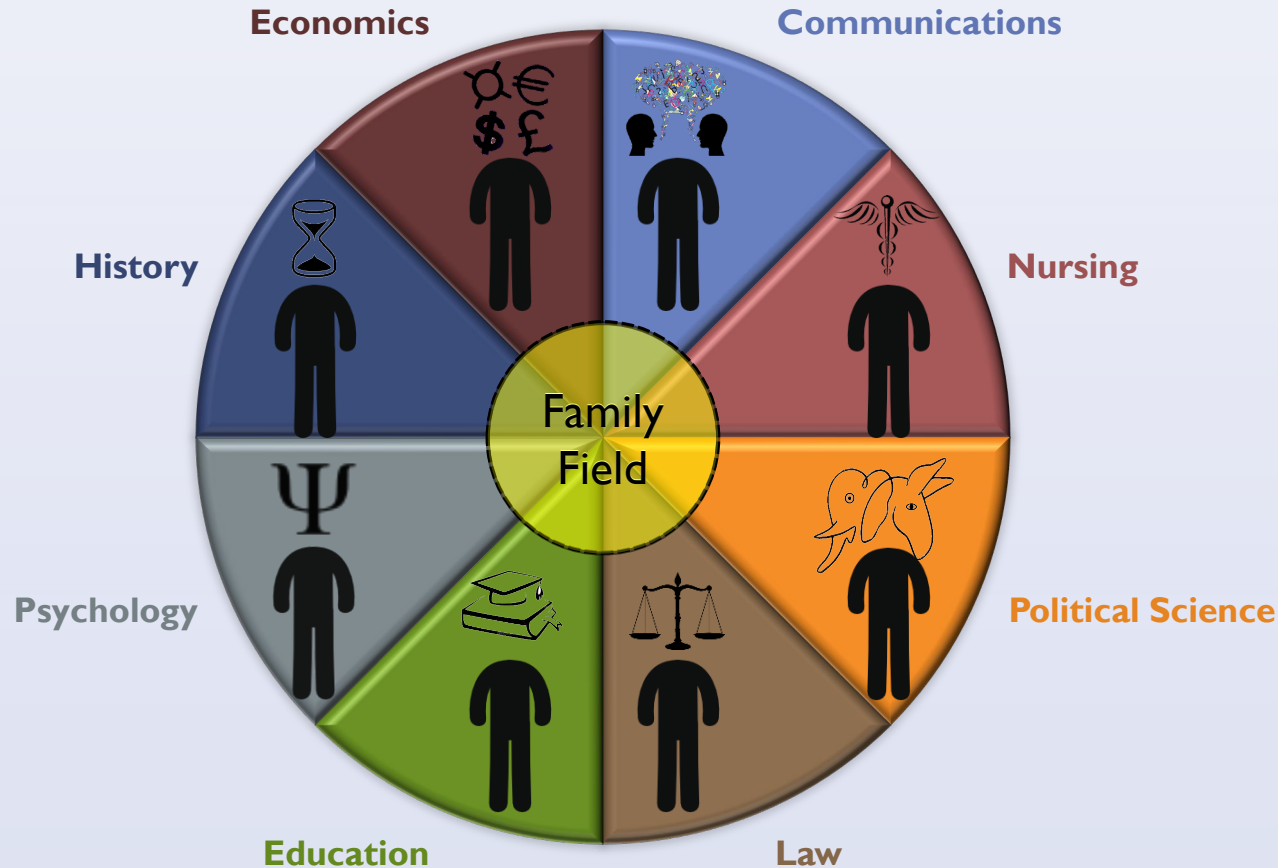


Nature of the Field

Naming the Family Field

Multidisciplinary Field

Non-integrative mixture of disciplines. Each discipline retains its methodologies and assumptions without change or development from the other disciplines within the multidisciplinary relationship.



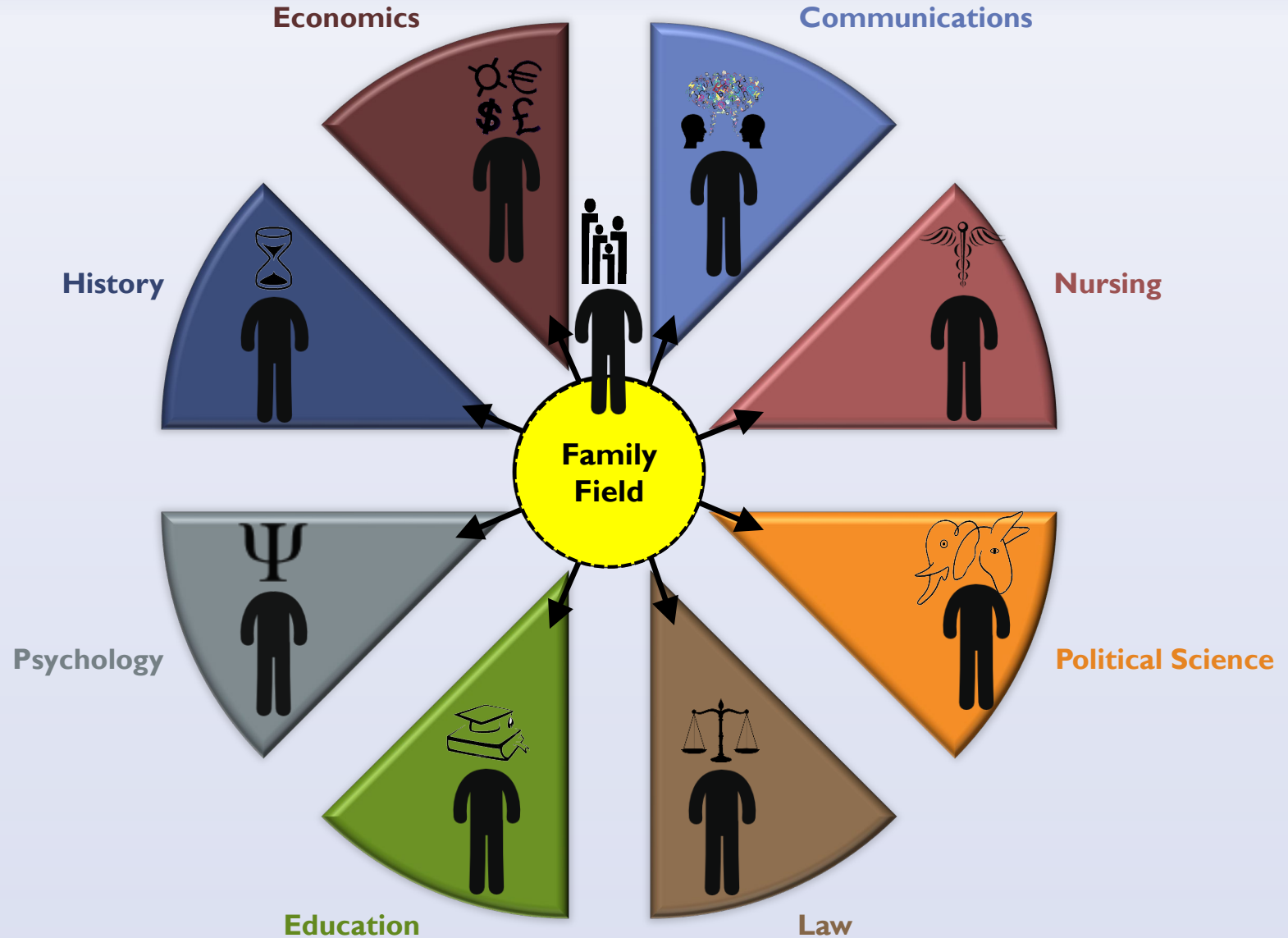
Interdisciplinary Field

Field of study that crosses traditional boundaries between academic disciplines or schools of thought as new needs emerge.

Nature of the Field

Naming the Family Field

Discipline & Interdisciplinary Field



Defining a Discipline

Naming the Family Field



Academic Discipline

Unique subject matter

Body of theory & research

Unique methodology

Supporting paraphernalia

Utility of work/application

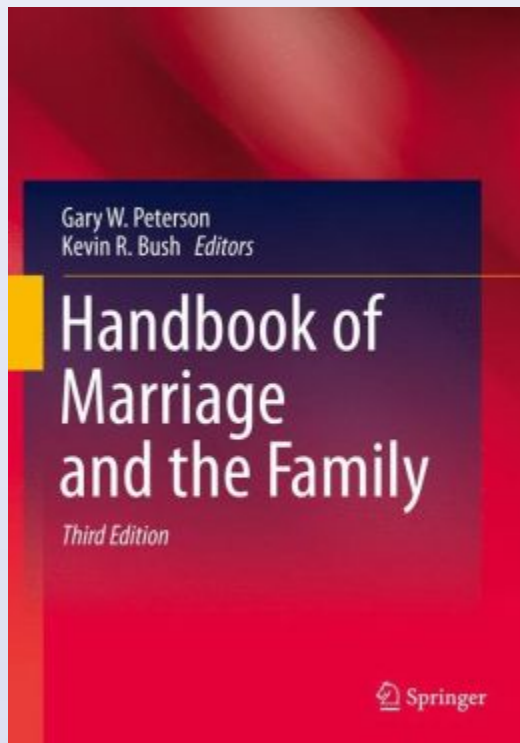
Ability to train scholars

Belief discipline exists

Defining a Discipline

Naming the Family Field

- ▶ Bailey, S. J., & Gentry, D. B. (2013). Teaching about family science as a discipline. In G. W. Peterson & K. R. Bush (Eds.), *Handbook of marriage and the family* (3rd ed., pp. 861-883). New York: Springer.



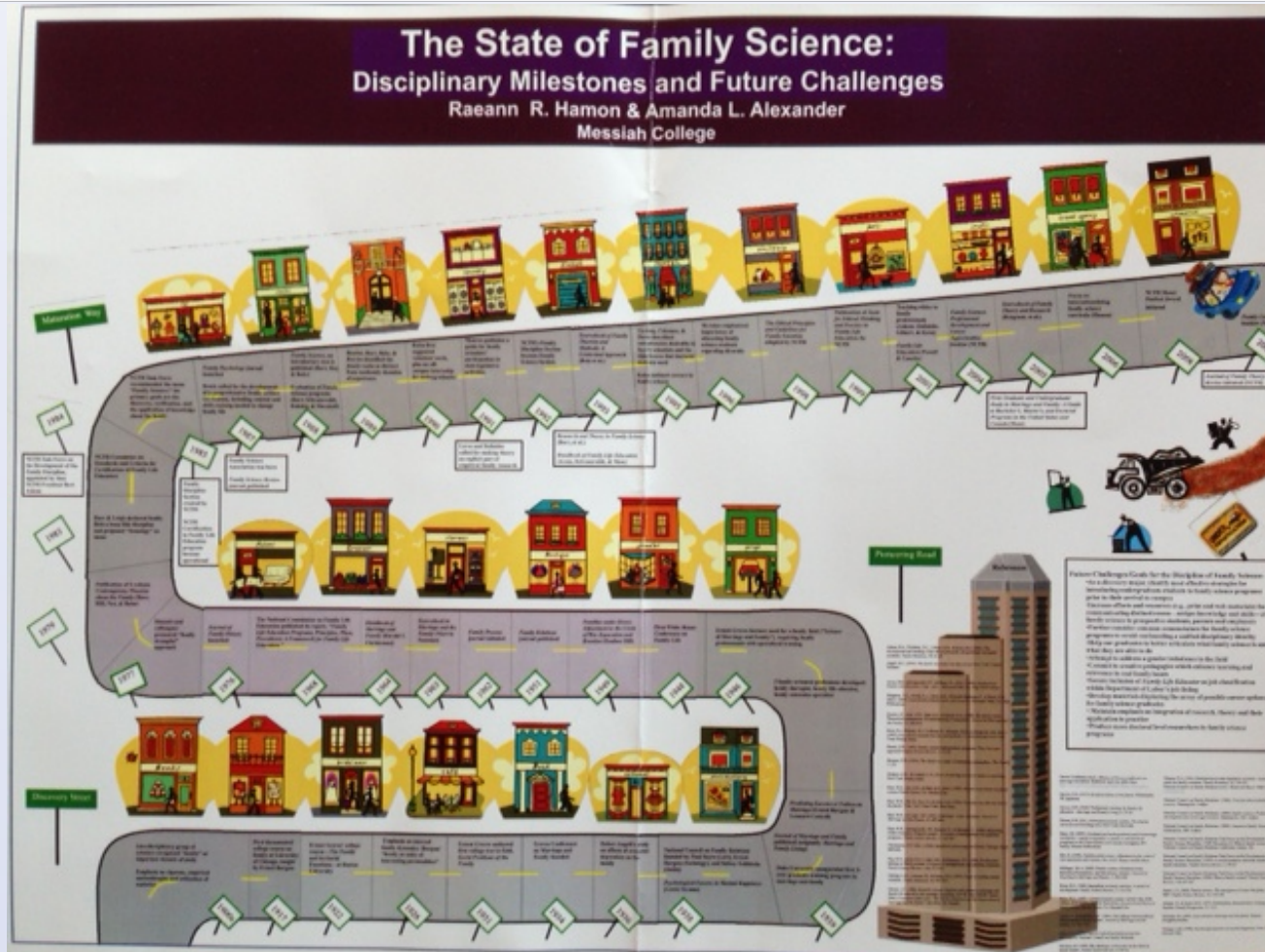
Defining a Discipline

Naming the Family Field



Academic Discipline

Accumulating history



Defining a Discipline

Naming the Family Field



Academic Discipline

Accumulating History

Stages of Development (Schvanevelt, 1971; NCFR Task Force on the Development of the Family Discipline, 1988)

- Discovery (1922 to 1939)
 - Pioneering (1949 to 1982)
 - Maturing (1983 to perhaps 2005)
 - 2005ish onward:
 - Evaluation and Innovation (Hamon & Smith, 2010)
- OR
- Entrenchment (Lewis-Rowley, Brasher, Moss, Duncan & Stiles, 1993)
 - Coalescence
 - Emergence
 - Crystallization
 - Expansion
 - Entrenchment

Accumulating history

Defining a Discipline

Naming the Family Field



Academic Discipline

Unique subject matter

Unique Subject Matter

Core Components and Competencies at Undergraduate and Graduate Levels of Study

- Those outlined by Brock (1987)
- Those outlined by Ganong, Coleman, & Demo (1995)
 - Boyer (1990)
- Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) designation (1985 onward)
- CFLE Academic Program Review

Defining a Discipline

Naming the Family Field



Academic Discipline

Unique subject matter

Unique Subject Matter

- The “family-realm” perspective (Buetler, Burr, Bahr, & Herrin, 1989)
Provides emphasis on the effects of generational, emotional, altruistic, polychromic, qualitative, and nurturing aspects of the human experience in ways other social sciences do not.
- Early “family science” textbook (Burr, Day, & Bahr, 1993)

Family science is the discipline devoted to the study of the unique realm of the family. Its primary concentration focuses on the inner workings of family behavior and centers on family processes such as emotions in families, love, boundaries, rituals, paradigms, rules, routines, decision-making, and management of resources. When the family is studied from a family science perspective, researchers, practitioners, and clinicians treat information from other related disciplines (i.e., sociology, psychology, and anthropology) as vital background information. The foreground emphasis, however, is on the family system and its intimate workings.

Defining a Discipline

Naming the Family Field



Academic Discipline

Body of theory & research

Body of Theory and Research

Theories have been and continue to be varied; they are often borrowed, then adapted and refined.

No one theory is adequate to explain family dynamics; nor should the field attempt to identify a single theory (Burr, 1995). The plurality of family requires the investigation of family through various lenses (Walker, 2000; Allen, 2000).

- Life course / family development
- Systems
- Ecological
- Social exchange / rational choice
- Conflict
- Family stress and resilience
- Symbolic interaction
- Attachment and identity
- Feminist

Defining a Discipline

Naming the Family Field



Academic Discipline

Unique Methodology

Method Categories

- Quantitative
- Qualitative
- Mixed

Unique methodology

The interdisciplinary nature of family science has resulted in methods (just like theories) being borrowed, adapted, and refined.

Over time, methods have become more varied and complex.

Choosing a method depends upon the aspect of family dynamics to be studied, the research questions being asked, the family members involved, etc.

Defining a Discipline

Naming the Family Field



Academic Discipline

Supporting Paraphernalia

Professional organizations

- NCFR
- Groves Conference
- Family Science Association
- AAMFT
- Others with divisions or sections focusing on families and family processes

Scholarly journals

(95 with “family” in title)

- JMF
- FR
- JFTR
- Family Science Review
- Others (6)

Supporting paraphernalia

Discussion lists

- FAMLYSCI (U of Kentucky)
- NCFR sections, particularly
 - Education & Enrichment
 - Family Science
 - Family Therapy

Listings/Analyses of academic programs and their names

- 1976 to present
- 1982: 95 graduate programs at 71 institutions (Love, 1982)
- 2008: 300 undergraduate and graduate programs at 277 institutions (Hans, 2008)

Defining a Discipline

Naming the Family Field



Academic Discipline

Utility of Work/Application

Contribute to the formation and maintenance of a profession

- **Family Life Education**
East's (1980) framework for measuring progress toward status as a profession: Seen as an occupation, core curriculum and competencies, consensus on identity/role, public acceptance, certification or licensure, and ethical code of conduct.
- **Marriage and Family Therapy**
- **Family Mediation**

Utility of work/application

Profession:

“The whole body of persons engaged in a principal calling, vocation, or employment requiring specialized knowledge and often long and intensive academic preparation”
(Merriam-Webster, 2010).

Defining a Discipline

Naming the Family Field



Academic Discipline

Ability to Train Scholars (+ educators and practitioners)

- Academic programs
 - core components (knowledge)
 - competencies (skills)
- Conferences and workshops
- Training offerings
- Journals, books, and other media
- Networking and mentoring
- Ethical principles and guidelines

Ability to train scholars

Defining a Discipline

Naming the Family Field



Academic Discipline

Belief that a Discipline Exists

- The strength, as well as the vulnerability, of family science is its interdisciplinary nature.
- To what degree should our history and the issues related to “discipline” and “identity” be included in the content taught in academic programs?
- Is a facet of Content Area 9 – Professional Ethics and Practice
 - a) addressing of the discipline/profession’s history, and
 - b) helping students articulate a disciplinary/professional identity?

Belief discipline exists

Defining a Discipline

Naming the Family Field



Academic Discipline

Accumulating history

Unique subject matter

Body of theory & research

Unique methodology

Supporting paraphernalia

Utility of work/application

Ability to train scholars

Belief discipline exists

Defining a Discipline

Naming the Family Field

At the present time, the family field does not fit into either of the “pure” types. It is a combination of a [primary] and secondary discipline with the potential to become a more [primary] field. . . . And this should be considered in deciding what [name to use].

~Wesley Burr, 1985

My opinion is that we have a secondary field. . . . For family science to break into the primary grouping [of core social sciences: psychology, sociology, economics, anthropology, and history], I believe either these core disciplines would need to “reassign” the domain of the family to the new primary discipline (very unlikely) or that the study of family would require theories, concepts, and methods so unique to itself that the other disciplines would become increasingly independent (also unlikely).

~Graham Spanier, 1985



Typology of Disciplines

Davis, 1985

Primary

- self-contained
- self-sustained
- *-ology* suffix

Examples:

- biology
- geology

Secondary

- more dependent
- term + “science(s)”

Examples:

- health sciences
- political science

Tertiary

- entirely dependent
- term + “studies”

Examples:

- gender studies
- religious studies

Framed discussion of family fields' name in mid-1980s

Defining a Discipline

Naming the Family Field

Acarology	Criminology	Glaciology	Neurology	Phytopathology	Topology
Actinobiology	Cryology	Gynecology	Neuropathology	Phytosociology	Toxicology
Actinology	Cynology	Hematology	Neurophysiology	Planetology	Traumatology
Aerobiology	Cytology	Heliology	Nosology	Planktology	Tribology
Aerology	Cytomorphology	Helioseismology	Oceanology	Pomology	Trichology
Aetiology	Cytopathology	Helminthology	Odonatology	Posology	Typology
Agrobiology	Dendrochronology	Hepatology	Odontology	Primatology	Urology
Agrology	Dendrology	Herbology	Oncology	Proctology	Vaccinology
Agrostology	Dermatology	Herpetology	Oology	Psychobiology	Virology
Algology	Dermatopathology	Heteroptology	Ophthalmology	Psychology	Volcanology
Allergology	Desmology	Hippology	Ornithology	Psychopathology	Xenobiology
Andrology	Diabetology	Histology	Orology	Psychopharmacology	Xylogy
Anesthesiology	Dipterology	Histopathology	Orthopterology	Psychophysiology	Zoarchaeology
Angiology	Ecohydrology	Hydrogeology	Osteology	Pulmonology	Zoology
Anthropology	Ecology	Hydrology	Otolaryngology	Radiology	Zoopathology
Apiology	Ecophysiology	Ichnology	Otology	Reflexology	Zoopsychology
Arachnology	Edaphology	Ichthyology	Otorhinolaryngology	Rheology	Zymology
Archaeology	Electrophysiology	Immunology	Paleoanthropology	Rheumatology	
Archaeozoology	Embryology	Karyology	Paleobiology	Rhinology	
Areology	Endocrinology	Kinesiology	Paleobotany	Sarcology	
Astacology	Entomology	Kymatology	Paleoclimatology	Scatology	
Astrobiology	Enzymology	Laryngology	Paleoecology	Sedimentology	
Astrogeology	Epidemiology	Lepidopterology	Paleontology	Seismology	
Audiology	Ethology	Limnology	Paleophytology	Selenology	
Autecology	Exobiology	Lithology	Paleozoology	Serology	
Bacteriology	Exogeology	Lymphology	Palynology	Sexology	
Bioecology	Felinology	Malacology	Parapsychology	Sitiology	
Biology	Fetology	Mammalogy	Parasitology	Sociobiology	
Bromatology	Formicology	Meteorology	Pathology	Sociology	
Cardiology	Gastrology or	Methodology	Petrology	Somatology	
Cariology	Gastroenterology	Metrology	Pharmacology	Somnology	
Cetology	Gemology	Microbiology			
Climatology	Geobiology	Micrology			
Coleopterology	Geochronology	Mineralogy			
Conchology	Geology	Mycology			
Coniology	Geomorphology	Myology			
Craniology	Gerontology	Myrmecology			

If persons involved in the study of suicide can be suicidologists, and if the study of victims can be called victimology, then surely those of us involved in the study of the family in all of its ramifications can be called famologists or familiologists [regardless of whether we are a primary or secondary discipline, in Davis' typology].

~Shirley Zimmerman, 1985



The difference in [-ology versus science] may ... lie in the historical period in which [a discipline] was 'created' rather than the level of the discipline per se."

~Task Group 5, 1985

The Family Field Gets Named

Naming the Family Field

- ▶ NCFR Task Force on the Development of the Family Discipline
 - ▶ 1983-1985: numerous meetings and discussions
 - ▶ Ultimately focused on “Familiology” versus “Family Science”
- ▶ 1985 NCFR Conference:
 - ▶ Open meeting attended by 89 people

“Is it to be pronounced “fam’-i-li-ology” or “fa-mi-li-ology”? The answer is not immediately evident from the spelling.”

Task Force Recommendations

1. The term, “family science” be used to refer to the field of study where the primary goals are the discovery, verification, and application of knowledge about the family.
2. Students, faculty, and administrators in departments that use one of the names, such as “family development,” “family studies,” “family ecology,” “family relations,” etc., should give first priority to changing the names of the appropriate courses, majors, and programs, to “family science.”
3. Students, faculty, and administrators in the family-oriented departments should give second priority to changing the names of the departments to include the term, “family science.”

The Vote: ✓ **Yay: 89** ✗ **Nay: 0**

- ▶ **Unanimous endorsement of Task Force’s recommendations**

Department Names

- ▶ *Graduate Study in Psychology* (American Psychological Association, 2011)
 - ▶ 60% of departments named “Department of Psychology”
 - ▶ 100% of department names refer to the field as “psychology” (or a derivative, such as “psychological”)
- ▶ *Graduate and Undergraduate Study in Marriage and Family* (Hans, 2013)
 - ▶ 11% of departments named: “Human Development and Family Studies”
 - ▶ Numerous names used to referred to the field/discipline
 - ▶ family development
 - ▶ family ecology
 - ▶ family education
 - ▶ family life
 - ▶ family relations
 - ▶ family science
 - ▶ family social science
 - ▶ family studies
 - ▶ family therapy

Department Names – Now

► Variation in “family” department names (Hans, 2013)

- 1) 300 family-related programs (some housed within units that did not have a family emphasis, such as family programs within psychology and sociology departments)
- 2) Selected only those that included “family” in the department name or listed family as the primary emphasis of the department ($n = 217$).
- 3) 103 *different* department names among the 217 department (or school) names that met these criteria (by comparison Burr and Leigh identified 53 different names)

“Family” Department Names in 2013 (N = 217)

Allied Health Sciences	Family Studies & Interior Design
Applied Health Science, Human Dev. & Family Studies	Family Studies & Social Work
Applied Human Sciences (2)	Family Studies (3)
Applied Psychology	Family Therapy
Behavioral Sciences & Family Studies	Family, Consumer & Nutrition Sciences
Behavioral Sciences (3)	Family, Consumer, & Human Development
Behavioral Studies	Family, Nutrition, & Exercise Sciences
Child & Family Development (3)	Family, Youth & Community
Child & Family Education	Family, Youth & Community Sciences
Child & Family Studies (6)	Graduate & Professional Studies
Child Development & Family Relations	Graduate Psychology (2)
Child Development & Family Studies	Health & Human Development
Child, Adolescent, & Family Studies	Health Promotion & Human Development
Child, Youth & Family Studies	Human & Community Development
Community, Family, and Addiction Services	Human Development & Environmental Studies
Consumer & Family Studies/Dietetics	Human Development & Family Science (5)
Counseling & Educational Development	Human Development & Family Sciences (3)
Counseling & Family Sciences	Human Development & Family Studies (26)
Counseling & Family Therapy (2)	Human Development (4)
Counseling & School Psychology (2)	Human Ecology (4)
Counseling & Special Education	Human Environmental Sciences
Counseling & Student Affairs	Human Environmental Studies
Counseling (4)	Human Relations
Counseling and Human Development (2)	Human Sciences (2)
Counseling and Marriage & Family Therapy (2)	Human Services (3)
Counseling Psychology & Human Services	Individual, Family & Community Education
Counseling Psychology (2)	Marital & Family Therapy (2)
Counseling, Psychology & Special Education	Marriage & Family
Counselor Education & Counseling Psychology	Marriage & Family Counseling
Counselor Education (5)	Marriage & Family Studies (2)
Couple & Family Therapy	Marriage & Family Therapy (9)
Education Psychology & Special Education	Professional Psychology
Educational & Psychological Studies	Professional Psychology & Family Therapy
Educational Psychology	Psychiatry & Behavioral Science
Educational Psychology & Counseling	Psychology & Child Development
Educational Studies	Psychology & Counseling (4)
Family & Child Development	Psychology & Family Studies
Family & Child Sciences	Psychology & Theology
Family & Child Studies	Psychology (7)
Family & Consumer Science	Psychology, Sociology, & Family Science
Family & Consumer Sciences (21)	Social & Family Dynamics
Family & Consumer Studies	Social & Public Health
Family Life Ministry	Social Science
Family Life	Social Sciences
Family Relations & Applied Nutrition	Social Sciences & Counseling
Family Science	Social Work
Family Sciences (2)	Social Work & Family Studies
Family Social Science	Sociology & Family Studies (2)
Family Social Sciences	Sociology (9)
Family Studies & Community Development	Sociology, Anthropology, & Child and Family Studies
Family Studies & Gerontology	Sociology, Social Work, Criminal Justice & Family Science
Family Studies & Human Services	

Department Names – Now

▶ Departments that included “family” in the title (Hans, 2013)

▶ 131 departments; 55 different department names

▶ Grouped according to the descriptive term used in conjunction with “family”

▶ “Studies,” “science,” and “therapy” collectively accounted for 88% of departments

▶ “Studies” and “science” collectively accounted for 74% of departments

Department Names with “Family” in the Title

Studies (55)

Applied Health Science, Human Dev. & Family Studies
Behavioral Sciences & Family Studies
Child & Family Studies (6)
Child Development & Family Studies
Child, Adolescent & Family Studies
Child, Youth & Family Studies
Consumer & Family Studies
Family & Child Studies
Family & Consumer Studies
Family Studies (3)
Family Studies & Gerontology
Family Studies & Human Services
Family Studies & Interior Design
Family Studies & Social Work
Human Development & Family Studies (26)
Marriage & Family Studies (2)
Psychology & Family Studies
Social Work & Family Studies
Sociology & Family Studies (2)
Sexuality, Anthropology, & Child and Family Studies

Science (42)

Consumer & Family Sciences
Family & Child Sciences
Family & Consumer Science
Family & Consumer Sciences (21)
Family Science
Family Sciences (2)
Family Social Science
Family Social Sciences
Family, Consumer & Nutrition Sciences
Family Nutrition & Exercise Sciences
Family, Youth & Community Sciences
Human Development & Family Science (5)
Human Development & Family Sciences (3)
Psychology, Sociology & Family Science

Therapy (18)

Counseling & Family Therapy (2)
Counseling and Marriage & Family Therapy (2)
Couple & Family Therapy
Family Therapy
Marital & Family Therapy (2)
Marriage & Family Therapy (9)
Professional Psychology & Family Therapy

Development (5)

Child & Family Development (3)
Family & Child Development
Family, Consumer, & Human Development

Education (2)

Child & Family Education
Individual, Family & Community Education

Life (2)

Family Life (2)

Relations (2)

Child Development & Family Relations
Family Relations & Applied Nutrition

Other (5)

Community, Family, & Addiction Services
Family, Youth & Community
Marriage & Family Counseling
Marriage & Family
Social & Family Dynamics

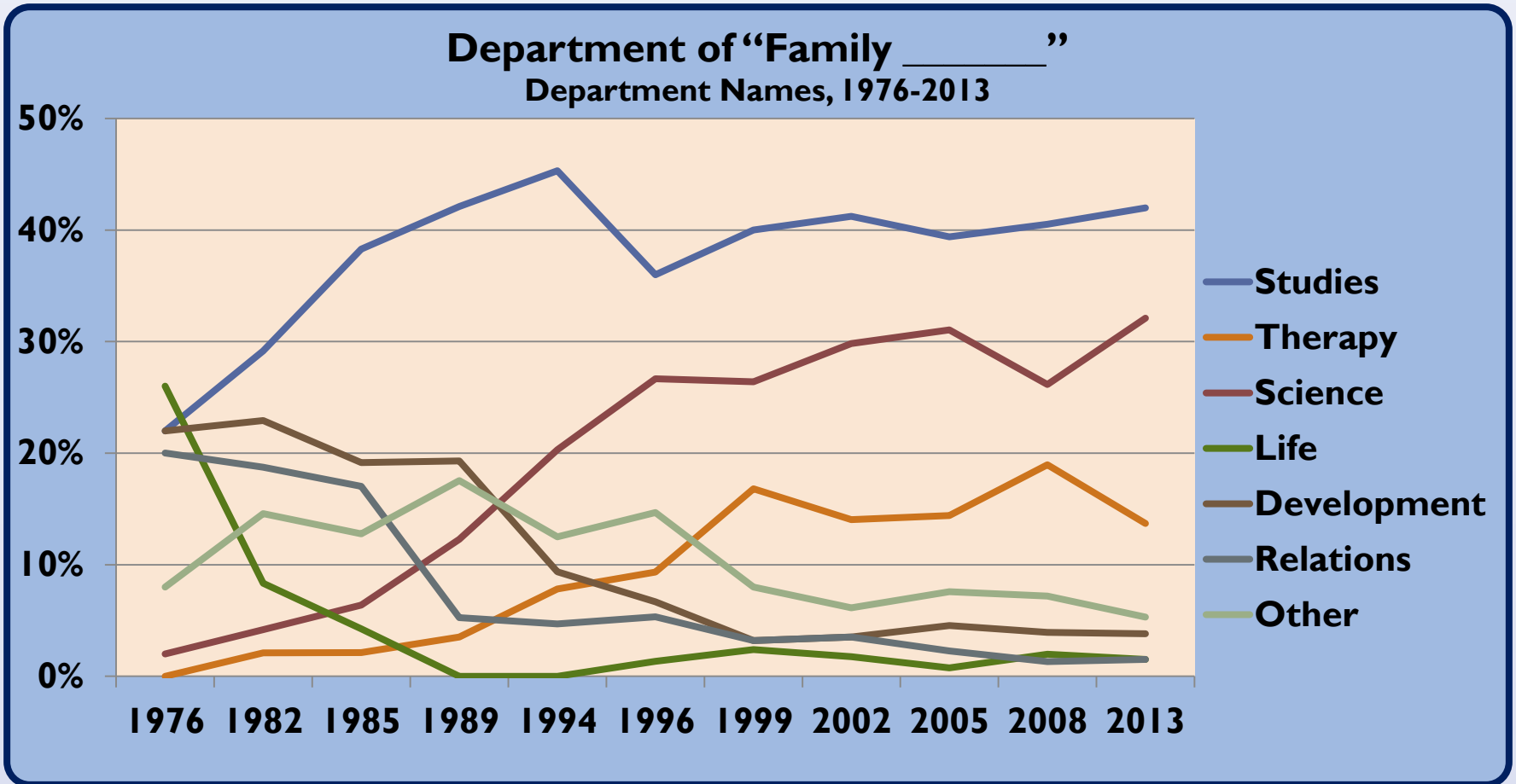
Department Name Trends

Sources

- ▶ **1976:** Figley, C. R., & Francis, B. R. (Eds.). *Student perspectives: A resource guide for graduate programs in family studies*. Minneapolis, MN: National Council on Family Relations.
- ▶ **1982:** Love, C. J. (Ed.). *A guide to graduate family programs*. Cincinnati, OH: Johnson & Hardin Co.
- ▶ **1989:** Touliatos, J. (Ed.). *Graduate study in marriage and family: A guide to master's and doctoral programs in the United States and Canada*. Fort Worth, TX: Human Sciences Publications.
- ▶ **1994:** Touliatos, J. (Ed.). *Graduate study in marriage and family: A guide to master's and doctoral programs in the United States and Canada*. Fort Worth, TX: Human Sciences Publications.
- ▶ **1996:** Touliatos, J. (Ed.). *Graduate study in marriage and family: A guide to master's and doctoral programs in the United States and Canada*. Fort Worth, TX: Human Sciences Publications.
- ▶ **1999:** Touliatos, J. (Ed.). *Graduate study in marriage and family: A guide to master's and doctoral programs in the United States and Canada*. Fort Worth, TX: Human Sciences Publications.
- ▶ **2002:** Hans, J. D. (Ed.). *Graduate and undergraduate study in marriage and family (2002-2004): A guide to bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs in the United States and Canada*. Columbia, MO: Family Scholar Publications.
- ▶ **2005:** Hans, J. D. (Ed.). *Graduate and undergraduate study in marriage and family (2005-2007): A guide to bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs in the United States and Canada*. Lexington, KY: Family Scholar Publications.
- ▶ **2008:** Hans, J. D. (Ed.). *Graduate and undergraduate study in marriage and family (2008-2010): A guide to bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs in the United States and Canada*. Lexington, KY: Family Scholar Publications.
- ▶ **2013:** Hans, J. D. (Ed.). *Program guide* [online database]. Retrieved from <http://www.ncfr.org/degree-programs>

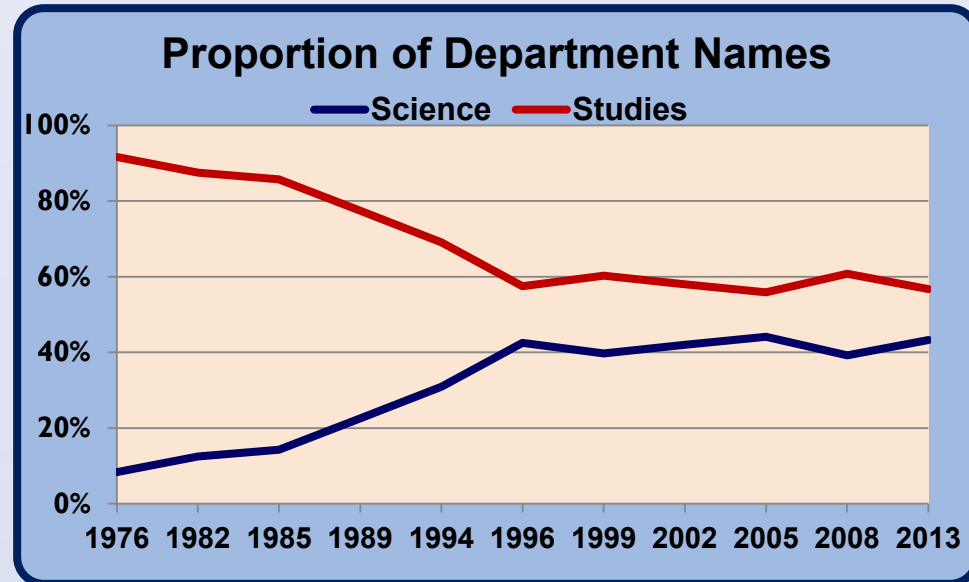
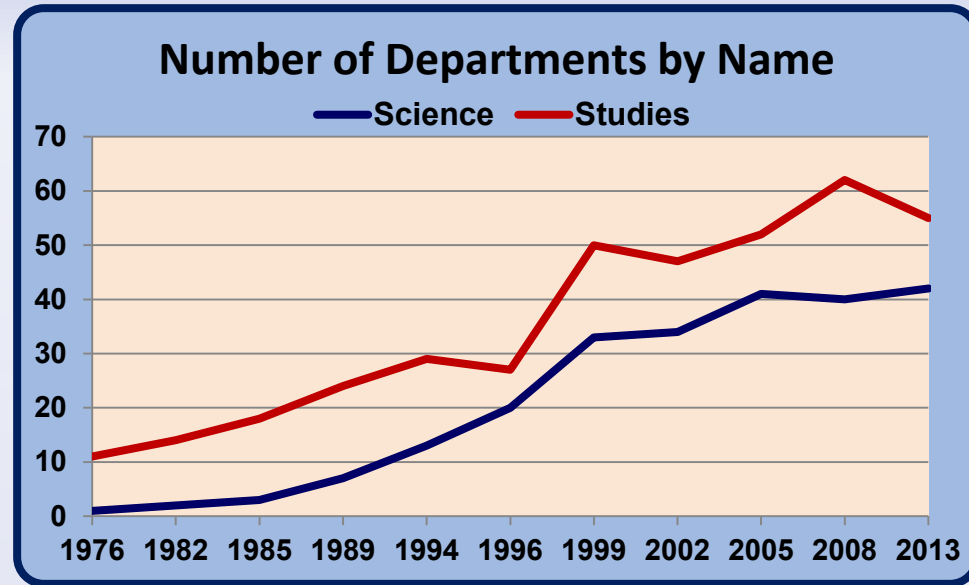
Department Name Trends

- ▶ “Family” department names, 1976-2013
 - ▶ Clear trend toward the three terms: science, studies, and therapy
 - ▶ Less overall variation, but ambiguity between “science” and “studies”



Department Name Trends

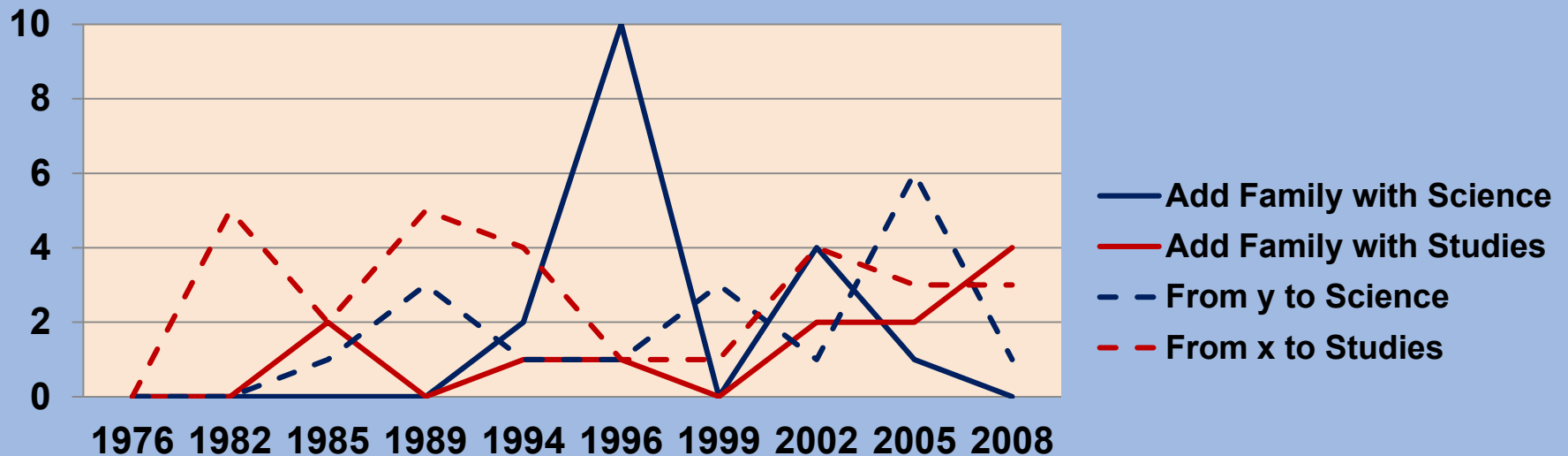
- ▶ “Studies” versus “science” in department names over time.
 - ▶ Raw number of departments
 - ▶ “Studies” consistently more common than “science”
 - ▶ But similar trajectory over time
 - ▶ Proportion of departments
 - ▶ Narrowed precipitously in 1980s and early-1990s
 - ▶ Relative proportion leveled off in the mid-1990s, with “studies” holding a roughly 60% to 40% edge over “science”



Department Name Trends

- ▶ Department name changes among programs already included in the program guides
 - ▶ Further illustrates ambiguity between “science” and “studies”
 - ▶ Many terms dropped in favor of either studies or science (see table)
 - ▶ Only a few departments (not shown) have dropped studies or science in favor of other terms (e.g., development, education, relations, resources).

Department Name Changes



y: life, living, relations, relationships, resources, services, and studies

x: development, ecology, environment, life, living, relations, relationships, resources, and sciences

Department Name Trends

- ▶ No discernable pattern according to institution type

Department Names of “Family” Departments According to Institution Type

Institution type ^a	Departments	Names	Studies	Science
Research university, very high research activity	43	25	15	12
Research university, high research activity	43	28	13	7
Doctoral/research university	20	16	1	4
Master's colleges and universities, larger programs	61	37	9	12
Master's colleges and universities, medium programs	7	7	3	1
Master's colleges and universities, smaller programs	6	6	1	0
Baccalaureate colleges	15	12	6	2
Baccalaureate/Associate's colleges	3	1	3	0
Special focus institutions	7	7	1	1
Unknown or unclassified	12	11	3	3

^aCarnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Carnegie Classifications Data File, June, 2013. Retrieved from <http://classifications.carnegiefoundation.org/resources>

Faculty Survey

- ▶ Family Department Faculty Survey (Spring 2010)
 - ▶ A single recruitment e-mail was sent to faculty members in departments included in the 2008 edition of the *Graduate and Undergraduate Study in Marriage and Family* (Hans, 2008)
 - ▶ 752 faculty members completed an internet-based survey
 - ▶ 88.7% of respondents had earned doctoral degrees:
 - ▶ 36.8% in the 2000s,
 - ▶ 28.3% in the 1990s
 - ▶ 20.6% in the 1980s
 - ▶ 12.9% in the 1970s,
 - ▶ 1.3% in the 1960s
 - ▶ Respondents' current department names used:
 - ▶ 44.0% "studies"
 - ▶ 24.3% "science"
 - ▶ 9.4% something other than the terms studies or science
 - ▶ 3.6% "family" not included in department name
 - ▶ Rank:
 - ▶ 31.4% Professor
 - ▶ 25.7% Associate Professor
 - ▶ 27.9% Assistant Professor
 - ▶ 15.0% Other Ranks/Titles

Faculty Survey

- ▶ The variation in department names within the family field is ...
 - ▶ 19.0% Very Problematic
 - ▶ 59.0% Somewhat Problematic
 - ▶ 18.6% Not Very Problematic
 - ▶ 3.3% Not At All Problematic

Burr & Leigh (1983): 68% reported that the “variation in department labels is a *fairly serious* or *very serious* problem” (N = 334)

- ▶ Respondents provided well over 200 different labels for how they describe their professional identity to others
 - ▶ The most common labels were:
 - ▶ 5.0% “marriage and family therapist”
 - ▶ 3.6% “family scientist”

Faculty Survey

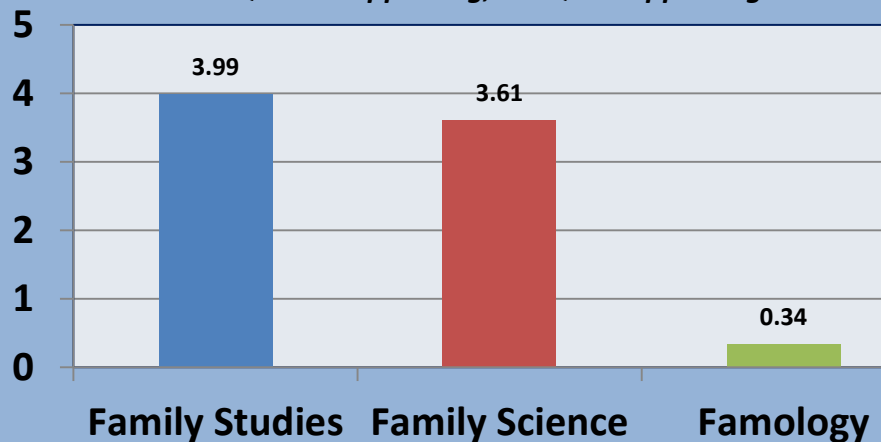


- ▶ How appealing are each of the following labels for the family field? (0 = quite unappealing; 5 = quite appealing)

Respondents tended to rate the term used by their own department more favorably than the other terms.

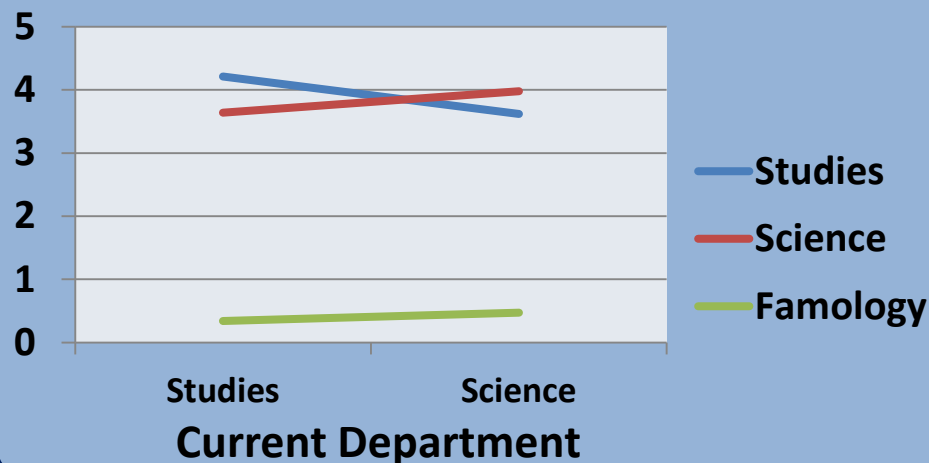
Appeal of Labels for Family Field

0 = Quite Unappealing; 5 = Quite Appealing



Rating by Current Department Name

0 = Quite Unappealing; 5 = Quite Appealing



- ▶ 22% suggested additional “appealing” labels for the family discipline

- ▶ Among the most common suggestions were:

- family ecology
- family relations
- family social science
- human ecology
- relationship science

Discussion Points

- ▶ Is the problem one of identity, branding, or both?
 - ▶ Can we articulate who we are and how we differ from others who study families?
 - ▶ Is there a difference between “family studies” and “family science”?
 - ▶ How do we best reconcile being both an interdisciplinary field and a discipline?
 - ▶ Is a more inclusive and less politicized term such as “relationship science” desirable?
 - ▶ Has the time finally arrived (or, will the time ever arrive) for famology?
 - ▶ Are there any *disadvantages* to standardizing the term used for the family field?
 - ▶ Can we learn from experiences of other disciplines that grapple(d) with these issues?

“A solution-focused participatory discussion intended to chart a course for resolving the naming issue.”

- ▶ What are we going to do about our identity and/or branding problem?
 - ▶ Where would we be today if we had implemented a common name 30 years ago?
 - ▶ Where will we be in 30 years if we do nothing now?
 - ▶ Where do we want to be 30 years from now . . . and what must we do to get there?
- ▶ What role should NCFR play in facilitating our movement toward a common name?

