



GROVES CONFERENCE

on Marriage and Family

From the Desk of the President

Sharon M. Ballard, PhD, CFLE



Hello Groves Family,

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying the winter weather, whatever that might look like for you.

Groves has had a focus on social justice since its beginning 90 years ago and this year's conference will continue the tradition of addressing cutting edge, provocative, and timely ideas with the theme "Families in a Time of Social and Political Upheaval: Lessons from the Israeli- Palestinian Conflict." Our conference planning committee (Dudley Chancey, Ellie Wroten, and Janis Henderson) has been working hard to put together a great program. Please make your plans to join us in Washington DC in June. There is still time to submit your proposal! See page 4 in this newsletter for more information.

As a precursor to the conference, our 4th annual book discussion will be held on March 25th where we will be discussing *No Way Forward: Life Stories of Three Families in the Gaza Strip* by Brian Barber. Dr. Barber will also be giving a keynote talk at the conference. This will be a unique opportunity to read the book, join the discussion facilitated by Groves member, Lisa Godwin, and then attend the conference to hear Brian Barber talk about his work. See page 3 in this newsletter for details on registering for this event.

The Groves mission and opportunities to connect with other family science scholars and practitioners through events like the annual book discussion group and the annual conference are just some of the reasons why Groves is special. Whether you have been a member for years or are new to Groves, if participation in Groves has been meaningful to you, please renew your membership! Even if you are not able to attend the conference this year, your membership is important to Groves as an organization. In order for Groves to continue, we rely on our membership! If you are a lifetime member or an academy member, please consider making a donation in lieu of your membership dues.

Thank you for your continued support of Groves!

Sharon Sharon

Seeking 2025 Conference & Student Sponsors!

Organizational sponsorships to help offset conference costs
Scholarship donations help students attend. Contact Linda Vukelich at lmvukelich@gmail.com with any questions.

2025 Winter Newsletter

Contents

- Pg 1 *From the Desk of the President*
Sharon Ballard
- Pg 1 *Conference Sponsorships Sought!*
- Pg 2 *Membership Committee Report*
- Pg 3 *2025 Groves Book Group*
- Pg 3 *2024 Groves Election Results*
- Pg 4 *2025 Conference Families in a Time of Social and Political Upheaval: Lessons from the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*
- Pg 5 *Look for us on Facebook!*
- Pg 7 *Groves Board Members*

Membership Committee Report

Groves Membership Committee Chair, Karmen Smith, PhD

The Groves Conference: A Historical Perspective

The Groves Conference was founded in 1934 by the visionary Professor Ernest Groves, a pioneer in the field of family studies. Professor Groves was among the first academicians to offer a course in marriage and the family at an established university, specifically the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. What began as a modest gathering of teachers and students passionate about the serious study of the family has now evolved into an interdisciplinary, interprofessional organization with a limited and invited membership.



The objectives of the Groves Conference are to work on the leading edges of theory development and empirical research in the field of family studies. The conference is known for its timely and provocative discussions, diverse perspectives, and flexible focus that adapt to the changing dynamics of family life and societal trends.

New Initiatives for the Future

As we navigate through these challenging times, Groves remains committed to fostering connections and supporting the growth of our members. Our new initiatives are designed to enhance our visibility and bring more individuals into our fold. We are excited to introduce practical, eco-friendly swag items that proudly display the Groves logo and inspirational quotes that reflect our values and mission.

Our recruitment strategies will focus on reaching out to individuals who share our passion for family studies and are interested in joining our vibrant community. By building relationships based on strength, healing, and hope, we aim to expand our influence and continue making meaningful contributions to the field.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

In addition to our new initiatives, we have a series of events and opportunities lined up for our members. These include virtual workshops, seminars, book discussion groups, and networking events that provide platforms for sharing knowledge, discussing current research, and fostering collaborations. We encourage all members to participate actively and take advantage of these opportunities to learn, grow, and connect with fellow professionals.

Your Involvement Matters

The success of the Groves Conference relies on the active participation and engagement of our members. We invite you to get involved in our initiatives, attend our events, and contribute to our mission. Whether it's through sharing your research, volunteering for our programs, or simply spreading the word about our work, your involvement makes a significant impact.

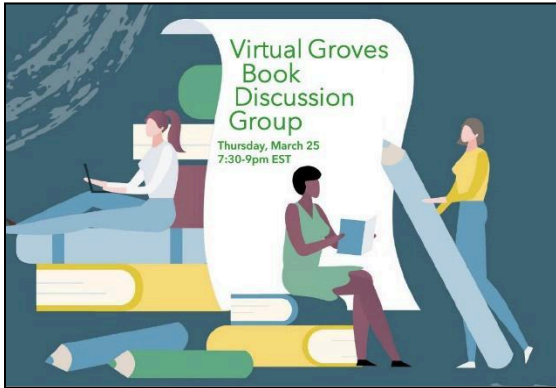
Together, we can continue to build a strong, supportive community that advances the study of the family and promotes positive change in society. Let's embrace the future with enthusiasm, pride, and a commitment to excellence.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events, proudly displaying your new Groves swag, and welcoming new members into our family. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Groves!

Click here to renew for calendar year 2025: [Renew 2025 membership & donation online form](#)

Groves Book Discussion Group – Wednesday, March 25, 7:30-9:00pm ET – via zoom

Wednesday, March 25, 2025, Virtual Groves Book Discussion Group

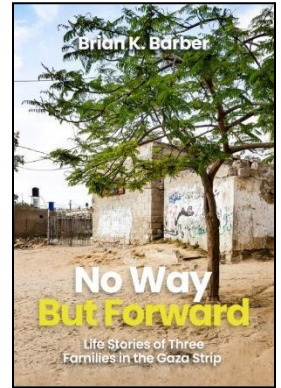


Please plan to join us and connect with other Groves members and discuss this fascinating and powerful book!

Discussion Facilitator Dr. Lisa Godwin

Each year we choose a book related to the conference theme. The 2025 conference

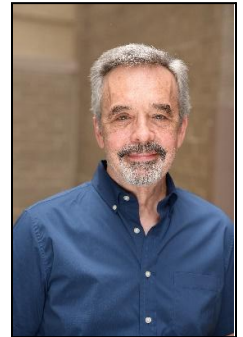
theme is *Families in a Time of Social and Political Upheaval: Lessons from the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* and will be held in Washington, DC, June 16-18, 2025.



The book that we have chosen is *No Way But Forward: Life Stories of Three Families in the Gaza Strip* by Brian K. Barber, PhD.

The book's author, Dr. Barber, will be a keynote speaker at the 2025 Groves Conference.

Dr. Barber traces how three ordinary young Palestinian men have experienced life in Gaza over the past thirty years—including the year following October 7, 2023. Their lives have been riddled with oppressive military constraint, violence, humiliation, and loss. Yet along with their parents, wives, and children, they have persevered. These narratives are gripping tales of survival, endurance, and hope.



[*No Way But Forward: Life Stories of Three Families in the Gaza Strip* is available on Amazon](#)

Participation in this event is free for Groves Members.

Non-member registration fees: \$25 (\$15 for non-member students) [Click here to register](#)

Groves Election Results



Groves Student New Professional (2025-2028)
Elizabeth Wroten

Groves Member-at-Large (2025-2028)
Carrie Bergeson, PhD, CFLE



Groves Conference 2025 –

[Online Registration open!](#)

June 16-18, 2025

Washington, DC

*Families in a Time of Social and Political Upheaval:
Lessons from the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*

Plan to Participate!

- **Call for Proposals - Deadline - February 25, 2025** ([flier](#))
- **2025 Groves Conference** [Online Registration Site](#)
- **Groves Membership** - [Join or Renew here.](#)
- **Groves Scholarship** - [2025 Groves Conference Scholarship Form](#)

Conference Theme and Description:

In recent years, global social and political landscapes have changed in ways that have challenged families' abilities to live, work, and function in their environments. Family scientists, practitioners, and others with vested interest in families find themselves confronted with increasingly complex situations and impacts of such changes in their work with individuals and families. The more recent developments of the longstanding Israeli-Palestinian conflict provides a high-profile example. The political violence and long-reaching social ramifications have exposed a new generation of individuals and families to political violence and long-reaching social ramifications. As family scientists and practitioners, we have an important role to play in learning, reflecting and responding to social and political upheaval with criticality and sensitivity, for the sake of continuing to support families who are exposed to such upheaval. The 2025 conference offers an opportunity to critically consider the important role of family science academics and practitioners as individuals and families navigate the challenges of the social and political ramifications of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The conversation will extend to include elements of other social or political upheaval in recent years. Attendees will be invited to challenge their understanding through critical and sensitive analysis in order to best serve and support individuals and families exposed to such upheaval.

The primary mission of Groves is to foster critical thinking about issues in the area of family science and to promote social action and social justice. A variety of session formats are used (e.g., workshops, roundtable discussions, immersion experiences, field trips, plenaries, seminars, posters, etc.) designed to generate reconceptualizations of family-related issues. They are ultimately intended to hone a social tapestry that will improve the quality of life within and among families of the world.

2025 Conference Registration Information

Full Conference Registration includes breakfasts and lunches (Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday), as well as two excursions (Museum of the Palestinian People, Capital Jewish Museum).

- Groves members: \$475
- Students: \$325
- Nonmembers: \$575
- One-day registration: \$300

Late registration (after March 15, 2025): Add \$100 to applicable fee

Cancellation policy: No refunds can be made after April 30, 2025 and paid fees will be considered a donation to Groves.

To join Groves, go to <http://www.grovesconference.org/membership.html> or for questions about membership e-mail grovesmanager@yahoo.com)

Companions Ask about meal and event accommodations for companions closer to the conference date.

Call for Proposals:

We welcome proposals from Groves members and nonmembers (academics, practitioners, and community members), in a variety of presentation formats including:

- Paper presentation/Discussion
- Roundtable Discussion and Resource Sharing
- Poster Presentation
- Panel Presentations

We anticipate your encouragement and facilitation of graduate and undergraduate student participation in this conference!

Possible topics for proposals include past, current, and future issues with respect to:

- Current events and their impact on families (Elections, policy changes, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict)
- Historical marginalization of families
- Extremist social and political movements and their impact on families
- Family risk, resilience, and coping amidst social and political upheaval
- Issues in policing and the criminal justice system
- Restriction of education, academic freedom, and critical thought
- Practitioner approaches to encouraging client/family coping with social and political upheaval
- Policy impact across sectors and families
- Impact of social and political movements on family functioning
- Pedagogical approaches to conflict, social and political movements
- Resistance movements at various levels (including but not limited to campus protests and conflict)
- Conflict resolution amidst social and political upheaval

Proposal Submissions

Please include the following information:

- Name, affiliation, and contact information of each presenter
- A brief 50-word bio for each presenter
- A description of the presentation and how it fits with the theme of the conference (no more than 300 words)
- Preferred format - please list your top two choices (paper presentation/discussion, roundtable discussion and resource sharing, poster presentation, panel presentation, other)
 - If other, please describe.

Submit proposals by February 25, 2025, via email (attached as Microsoft Word or PDF file):

GrovesConference2025@gmail.com

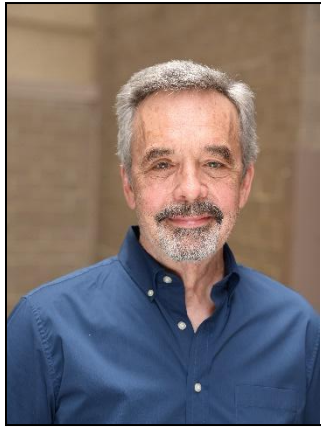


Look for us on Facebook!

Check out the Groves Facebook page and connect with Groves and fellow members whenever you want!

Featured Speakers

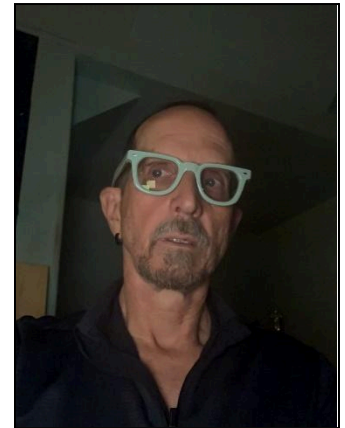
Brian K. Barber, PhD



Brian K. Barber, PhD is Senior Scholar at the Middle East Policy Council, Senior Fellow at the Institute for Palestine Studies, and Professor Emeritus, University of Tennessee. He currently lives in Washington, DC. His work has addressed how context—from parenting to political systems—impact individual and social development. Among other books, he is editor of *Intrusive Parenting: How Psychological Control Affects Children and Adolescents* (2002, American Psychological Association), and *Adolescents and War: How Youth Deal with Political Conflict* (2008, Oxford University Press). His published articles have appeared in, among others, *The Lancet*, *Social Science & Medicine*, *Global Public Health*, *PLOS ONE*, *Child Development*, *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, and *Journal of Adolescent Research*. His commentaries have been published in *Haaretz*, *CNN.com*, *Informed Comment*, *Counterpunch*, and *Middle East Policy*. Professor Barber's most recent book is *No Way but Forward: Life Stories of Three Families in the Gaza Strip* (2025, KDP) Please see: www.bkbarber.com.

Mark Lance

Mark Lance recently retired as Professor of philosophy and professor of justice and peace at Georgetown University where he taught for 35 years. He is a graduate of Ohio State University (undergraduate in music, philosophy, and math) and the University of Pittsburgh (PhD, philosophy). He was also the Allen and Anita Sutton Postdoctoral fellow at Syracuse University. He has published two books, 3 edited collections, and over 50 articles on a wide range of philosophical topics, including philosophy of language, logic, epistemology, political philosophy, and moral theory. He was co-founder and frequent director of the Program on Justice and Peace, having also written one book and a number of articles on nonviolence, community organizing, and anarchism.



He has also had a career as an activist, organizer, and public intellectual and teacher, working on a wide range of issues including anti-war activism, LGBTQ+ rights, international solidarity, anti-fascism, anarchist politics, and economic justice. His work on Palestine began during the first Intifada in the 1980s, when he was part of a national campaign to end teargas sales to Israel. In the early 2000s, he founded Stop US Tax-Aid to Israel Now (SUSTAIN) and was later co-chair of the US Campaign To End the Occupation (Later US Campaign for Palestinian Rights.) He has lectured, led teach-ins, and organized workshops throughout the US, Europe, Southern Africa, and Australia. He has been engaged in all aspects of grassroots political work from community education to civil disobedience. He is currently teaching free public education courses on organizing and other topics, and working with the Free DC coalition. In his spare time, he is a rowing coach, amateur chess player, father, husband, and advocate for people living with alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency.

Why Washington D.C.?

As the nation's capital, Washington D.C. has always been at the center of protest and political upheaval. Families are affected by policy changes and choices in both positive and negative ways and often are in the middle of political debate, conflict, and protest. Washington D. C. represents the power of policy and the freedom of speech. Building on our 2024 conference in which we examined *Civil Rights and Intersecting Identities: Social movements for equality and justice*, Washington D.C. provides unique opportunities and a powerful backdrop for continuing the conversation, particularly in regard to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Hotel Venue:

Courtyard Arlington Crystal City at Reagan National Airport

The Courtyard Arlington Crystal City/Reagan National Airport is conveniently located near the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. There is a courtesy shuttle to and from DCA that is available for use. The hotel is conveniently located near the Pentagon, the Arlington National Cemetery, and other attractions, museums, and restaurants in DC.

Courtyard Arlington Crystal City/Reagan National Airport

2899 Richmond Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202

Conference rate: \$219/night

Register by March 15, 2025 for the special Groves Conference rate.

[Courtyard Arlington Crystal City/Reagan National Airport online registration link](#)

Marriott Registration Site - [Book your group rate for Groves Conference Jun2025](#)

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Groves Manager Linda Vukelich grovesmanager@yahoo.com - L.Vukelich@comcast.net

Please email all Board or general communications to grovesmanager@yahoo.com

