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Section One: Family Assessment: History, Theory, and Applications

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Section One

Family Assessment: History, Theory, and Applications

In this section a more unified research effort in family assessment is advocated by Dr. Halverson. He urges the constructs most important in the study of families be identified by shifting from the study of isolated components of the family to a more global view of family functioning. There is a lack of attention to the nomological net of constructs. Multi-trait and multi-method analysis is recommended to produce useful information regarding the family.

Dr. Carlson continues this critique by highlighting the influential role of theory in the development and use of family assessment measures and methods. Carlson traces the development of family assessment by discussing the influences of sociology, systems/communication theory, ecological psychology, social learning theory, and the emerging influences of behavioral genetics, developmental psychology, the close relationships model, and the social relations model.

