



**COMMITTEE ON FAMILY RESEARCH  
(CFR) (RC06)**

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION (ISA)**

**CFR-GAZETTE**

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# 1. ***President's Column***

This time a story.

I took a holiday trip to Ladakh, Northern India, two years ago. We travelled through the Himalayan mountains in a fascinating landscape, 3000 and more meters above sea level. Our tour guide was a 25-year-old man from the region. At some bus stops young women were waiting obviously for the public transportation. Our guide, not shy, talked with them, they laughed and enjoyed the chat. He always had a notebook with him and during the chat he took notes. As he was definitely not a social scientist doing field research I asked him what he was doing. He told me that he was looking for a bride. He talks to the women, writes down their addresses, makes some notes on their family e.g. the profession of the father and, most importantly, the hour and date of the young women's birth. When he returns home he will go to an astrologer, he said, to find out who of the potential brides fits him best. His father will then get in contact with the particular young woman's family and hopefully a marriage can then be arranged.

I realized the diversity in family composition around the globe. You get the statistical impression from data, for instance listed in the handbook of world families, edited by Trost and Adams, to which I referred already in a previous editorial. They show the differences, for instance, in dating in India, Nigeria, Kuwait or Belgium. Data get lively when the information they hold is experienced in real situations.

When we talk of *family sociology on the move* it would be a good idea to be more acutely aware of the global diversity of societies rather than focussing solely on homogenized modernisation processes. Besides similar demographical trends, multiple forms of family life evolve.

Our research committee on family research is the appropriate place to encourage and stimulate comparative research. I hope that the coming sessions at the world congress in Gothenburg will be a starting point for one or the other cooperation.

Rudolf Richter

## 2. ***Honorary President's Column***

About forty years ago we faced a decrease of marriage rates, starting in Scandinavia and historically a rapid change came all over the Western world. As you all know – which we didn't know at that time – the decreases of marriage rates did not mean that the dyadic relationships between men and women were disappearing. Non-marital cohabitation came as a social institution alongside or parallel with marriage.

Many other family issues changed at about the same time, for example, divorce rates started increasing and the age of women at first birth of a child started increasing. To have a first child at age 30 was very unusual and surprising – now it is fairly common.

In 1980 I heard about the *lat relatie* in the Netherlands – couples were living apart together and had become a social institution there. Not many years later I started distributing the term LAT relationship in international media and I coined a term for the phenomenon in Swedish: *särbo*.

Very rapidly the term and the concept was accepted and also adopted in some countries and the term became a word in our family sociology jargon. But still the phenomenon is not made visible in many countries, while in some it is a social institution. And in many countries there is no term for it.

I have often argued that we are not very good at predicting changes in family matters. We were not able to predict the entrance of cohabitation neither of LAT relationships.

What will come next in the field of marriage and marriage-like phenomena? Maybe, what in Germany for many years has been labeled WG or *Wohngemeinschaft*. This means that a person has an apartment or a house big enough for more than one person. And someone else can live there, too. We are not speaking about just renting a room or so but a non-erotic living together, sharing kitchen, living room etc, but not bedroom. Could very well be the same or opposite gender. Journalists, who often are better at finding coming changes than we are, have dug up, for example, some well known media person who have “kicked out” the man and let another woman share her apartment/house instead of the man – friendship and not romantic love or shared sexuality. Will WG be the next step? Or what will happen?

JT

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### **3. From the Secretary**

Dear Members

The ISA World Congress will be taking place in Göteborg, Sweden in less than two month's time. The CFR (RC06) programme consists of a total of 25 sessions (of which seven are joint sessions and one is an integrative session). A list of these sessions appear on page 6 of this publication. Once again, thank you to Rudy Seward and the CFR session organisers for all their hard work. As in the past, we believe that the congress will provide the opportunity for scholars from all over the globe to reflect on developments in the discipline and to discriminate their research findings.

You will recall that we requested members to cast their vote with regard to proposed revisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Committee on Family Research. Vice-President Rudy Seward reported that all members who have responded, voted in favour of the proposed revisions. The revised Constitution and Bylaws are available on the CFR home page for your perusal.

For those of you who are interested to know a bit more about the profile of our membership, please see below:

#### **Membership as on 30 April 2010: Committee on Family Research (RC06)**

Regular members in good standing (ISA members)	142
Affiliated members	156
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>298</b>

#### **Geographical distribution of members**

Australia	8
Austria	6
Bangladesh	1
Belgium	3
Brazil	4
Canada	16
China	2
Estonia	1
Finland	4
France	4

Germany	14
Hong Kong	1
Hungary	2
Iceland	1
India	7
Israel	8
Italy	5
Japan	13
Jordan	1
Korea	2
Kuwait	1
Lithuania	3
Luxemburg	5
Mexico	9
Netherlands	2
New Zealand	1
Nigeria	6
Norway	25
Poland	3
Portugal	15
Romania	5
Serbia	1
Singapore	3
South Africa	5
Spain	6
Sweden	9
Switzerland	2
Taiwan	13
Turkey	2
United Kingdom	22
USA	55
Vietnam	1
Zimbabwe	1
	<b>298</b>

See you in Göteborg!

Best wishes,  
Ria Smit

## **4. ISA World Congress: CFR Programme Göteborg, Sweden (11-17 July 2010)**



List of sessions (as per the ISA website)

- ✚ RC06/RC30 - Men, Work and Parenting I
- ✚ RC06/RC30 - Men, Work and Parenting II
- ✚ RC06/RC32 - Gender Equality and Family Transitions
- ✚ RC13/RC06 - Leisure and the Family in Contemporary Society
- ✚ RC30/RC06 - Parental Leave: International Comparisons
- ✚ RC31/RC06 - Diversity of Transnational Families
- ✚ RC32/RC06 - Globalization, Gender and Families
- ✚ IS08 - The Changing Role of Grandparents across Diverse Societies
- ✚ RC06.01 - East Asian Families in Comparative Perspectives
- ✚ RC06.02 - Intergenerational Relationships of Families in a Worldwide Perspective
- ✚ RC06.03 - Meet the Family Scholar: Poster Session
- ✚ RC06.04 - Family Life Education and Prevention
- ✚ RC06.05 - Linking Family Patterns with Diaspora Relations and Mobility
- ✚ RC06.06 - Marriage, Non-Marital Cohabitation and Other Dyadic Relationships
- ✚ RC06.07 - Multiracial/Ethnic Families
- ✚ RC06.08 - Family and Elder Care
- ✚ RC06.09 - Changing Asian families I: Evidence and logic
- ✚ RC06.10 - Methods in Family Research
- ✚ RC06.11 - Family and Society
- ✚ RC06.12 - Families in Developing Countries
- ✚ RC06.13 - Children, Parents and Public Policy
- ✚ RC06.14 - Families and Memories I
- ✚ RC06.15 - Families and Memories II
- ✚ RC06.16 - Vulnerable Families: Gender and Parents
- ✚ RC06.17 - Changing Asian Families II: Evidence and Logic

## 5. Recent Publications by CFR Members



**JOURNAL OF COMPARATIVE FAMILY STUDIES**



Special Issue of *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, 40(2).

Edited by:

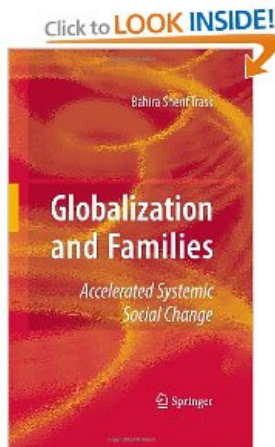
Sciegaj, M. & LeRoux T. (2009).

Title:

*“Aging: Families and Households in Global Perspective.”*

- ✚ Blanco, M and Pacheco, E. ‘Aging and the Family-Work Link: A Comparative Analysis of Two Generations of Mexican Women (1936-1938 and 1951-1953)’.
- ✚ Even-Zohar, A and Sharlin, S. ‘Grandchildhood: Adult Grandchildren’s Perception of Their Role towards Their Grandparents from an Intergenerational Perspective’.
- ✚ Gans, D, Silverstein, M and Lowenstein, A. ‘Do Religious Children Care More and Provide More Care for Older Parents? A Study of Filial Norms and Behaviors’.
- ✚ Igel, C., Brandt, M., Haberkern, K and Szydlik, M. ‘Specialization between Family and State Intergenerational Time Transfer in Western Europe’.
- ✚ Klaus, D. ‘Why Do Adults Children Support Their Parents?’
- ✚ McDaniel, S. A. ‘The ‘Growing Legs’ of Generation as a Policy Construct: Reviving its Family Meaning’.
- ✚ Nauck, B. ‘Patters of Exchange in Kinship Systems in Germany, Russia, and the People’s Republic of China’.
- ✚ Sev’er, A. ‘More Than Wife Abuse That Has Gone Old: A Conceptual Model For Violence against Aged in Canada and the US’.
- ✚ Sherif Trask, B., Willis Hepp, B., Settles, B and Shabo, L. ‘Culturally Divers Elders and Their Families: Examining the Need for Culturally Competent Services’.
- ✚ Yi, C and Lin, J. ‘Types of Relations between Adult Children and Elderly Parents in Taiwan: Mechanisms Accounting for Various Relational Types.’





*Globalization and Families: Accelerated Systemic Social Change* (Springer, 2010).

By:

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Professor and Associate Chair

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*Abstract:*

Globalization and Families: Accelerated Systemic Social Change examines the complex relationship between globalization and family life, in the U.S., other industrialized countries, and the developing world. While there exists an extensive body of research on the economic and political forces and impacts associated with globalization, there is very little research on the socio-cultural implications of globalization, and certainly no systematic analysis of how globalization is realized in the family sphere. The analysis specifically focuses on work-family issues, gender, migration, and the status of children, youth, and the elderly. It also investigates the role of the state in family lives and the contentious debates on poverty and inequality. Ultimately, it is argued that globalization is not necessarily a "run away" process, but instead with appropriate analyses and some good will, globalizing forces are tools that could be harnessed for the betterment of the human condition.

## 6. *New members*

The CFR welcomes the following members:

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corrections to the CFR secretary/  
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Vice-president	Rudy Seward (USA)
Secretary/ Treasurer	Ria Smit (South Africa)
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Honorary president	Jan Trost (Sweden)

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