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1. **President's Column**



'Is Normative Effect Still Important in the Family Behavior? A View from the East Asia'

As I ponder upon a good subject to write at this joyous season, I can't help notice the "foreign air" of Christmas celebration in this island.

At the beginning of December, visible efforts of Christmas decoration are displayed in public places like train station, department stores, modern offices and residential complex where beautiful ornaments on Christmas trees and designed lighting arrangement have become a must since 1990's? However, the real celebration of Christmas is hardly a social event since the Christian population in Taiwan is approximately 4% only. The most common gathering on Christmas eve is probably for urbanites attending parties and young generation putting on fashionable outfit. No special holidays nor national celebration is scheduled which usually make late night parties difficult for working population.

In contrast, the lunar New Year which will be February 8th, 2016 (year of the Monkey) is undoubtedly the most important holiday for East Asians. Employers and bosses are expected to offer year-end bonus to subordinate workers in red envelopes as their token of appreciation for their dedication and diligence. At home, elders and parents also prepare gift money for children as the lunar new year gift. When adult children start to "enter the society" with earning abilities, they are expected to offer gift money to elderly parents (again, in red envelope) to show their gratitude and life-time filial piety. In addition to monetary aspect, each household works on the annual feast as well as serious annual cleaning with implication to "get rid of the old and bring in the new". Then the holiday transportation scenario:

During the lunar New Year's holiday in 2015, there were 36 hundred millions Chinese taking vacation with 2.25 hundred millions going abroad. On average, there were two hundred millions people moving inside China each day during the New Year's holidays. At the same time, Taiwan also experienced an unprecedented rise of 0.65 million tourists at the custom. The impressive magnitude of temporary human migration in China and in East Asia has caught lots of media attention. Behind it, the strong cultural norm of family reunion and the ancestral worship at the Lunar New Year is certainly the key of motivation.

As society modernizes, government has prohibited burning firecrackers in urban residential areas. However, since setting fireworks means to remove ill fortunes and

to welcome good lucks for the new year, it is not uncommon to hear loud but somewhat restrained firework noise at specific hours over the new year holidays. One starts to wonder if traditional practices such as this and the red envelope from adult children to elderly parents will gradually disappear. For family sociologists, the continuity and change of family norms as well as family behaviors are indeed most fascinating. Below, I'll provide two illustrations to show how normative effects operate in both the expectation and the actual behavior in the family process.

In mid-1990s, I conducted a face-to-face survey asking 500 couples of childbearing ages to answer various aspects of their conjugal relations. The only open-ended question included was to list their subjective family members, then to list again which family members are expected to sit together in the dinner table at the new year's eve (I remember it took the research team a full week to organize answers!). The finding clearly shows husbands tend to comply to the cultural norms in both situations (i.e., patrilineal family). While wives are more likely to list bi-lateral family members in their subjective definition (i.e., maternal parents or close siblings as subject family members), they agree with husband in who should attend the family reunion dinner at the New Year's Eve. For wives, New Year's Eve is culturally defined as a patriarchal occasion. Thus, maternal parents as well as maternal siblings are not to be invited. Furthermore, married couples tend to concur with each other in that in addition to lineage differential, the marital status of siblings also matters. Hence, a married elderly brother is expected to invite his unmarried siblings and his married brothers (and families) for the family reunion. As to married sister, she should be with her husband's family and will only return to her natal family on the 2nd day after the New Year. Needless to say, all these practices are culturally prescribed and maintained even up to today. For that article, the conclusion was the significance of lineage and marital status in defining family members provides strong support for the significance of normative effects. (Yi, Chin-Chun and Yu-Hsia Lu, 1999 "Who Are My Family Members? Lineage and Marital Status in the Taiwanese Family" *The American Journal of Chinese Studies* 6(2): 249-278)

Another recent social trend which demonstrates the dominant effects of cultural norm is about marriage and child birth. As you may have read, East Asian suffers from low child birth rate for years. Taiwan actually had the lowest low total fertility rate in the world in 2010 (TFR=0.895). There are various reasons why women are not bearing children (Yi and Chen, 2014 "The Intergenerational Transmission of the Value of Children in Contemporary Chinese Families: Taiwan and Mainland China Compared", *Comparative Population Studies* 39(4): 679-706). One of the reasons seen from the Figure 1 is the influence of the cultural norm. To be succinct, the dragon year (i.e., year 2000 and year 2012) is the desirable year for bearing children, especially dragon sons. A clear rise of birth rate for every 12 years reflects such a belief. The tiger year, on the other hand, is considered undesirable to have children. When government learned the shocking news that Taiwan was ranked number 1 in not having newborn babies, the solution was immediately reached which also utilized normative expectation. Because 2011

was the 100th birthday of Taiwan, the Republic of China, which also coincided with a popular Chinese idiom used for wedding blessing (百年好合, or be a harmonious union forever), to encourage young people to get married that year was the main goal. Parents especially welcomed the fact that 2012 would be the dragon year to follow. Therefore, a clear boost of crude marriage rate of 7.1 in 2011 and a real increase of birth rate in the following dragon year were successfully achieved!

Figure 1

Age at 1st marriage, Crude Marriage Rate and Total Fertility Rate in Taiwan : 2000-2014

Year	Age at 1 st Marriage		CMR (‰)	TFR (‰)
	Male	Female		
2000 Dragon	29.2	25.7	8.3	1.680
2001	29.5	25.9	7.5	1.400
2002	29.7	26.3	7.7	1.340
2003	29.8	26.7	7.7	1.235
2004	29.7	26.6	5.7	1.180
2005	29.7	27.1	6.3	1.115
2006	29.8	27.5	6.3	1.115
2007	30.3	27.7	5.8	1.100
2008	30.5	28.0	6.5	1.050
2009	30.9	28.4	5.0	1.030
2010 Tiger	31.3	28.8	5.8	0.895
2011 100 th	31.4	29.0	7.1	1.065
2012 Dragon	31.5	29.2	6.2	1.270
2013	31.7	29.4	6.3	1.065
2014	31.8	29.6	6.4	1.165

Source: Department of Statistics, Ministry of Interior, Taiwan

There are of course important personal, familial, societal as well as structural factors accounted for the changing family behaviors. I only want to point out that in many parts of the world, normative effects remain to be tenacious and powerful. While I'm working in my cozy office in a typical raining day in Taipei, I realize that studying families in East Asia for over three decades surely enrich my personal and professional life.

Chin-Chun Yi

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2. *Honorary President's Column*



'On presentations at scholarly meetings'

During the years I have attended many international seminars, conferences, symposia and congresses (or whatever they might be called). Some presenters have evidently been very good, some just good teachers/pedagogues, some have not. What could we learn from the good one? I will here try to give some of my answers to that question.

First of all, the good presenter empathizes with the audience. That is not an easy task; the audience oftentimes is heterogeneous as far as goes, for example, scientific experience, interests and knowledge. Sociology is not only sociology, there are many sociologies; the ISA lists 55 specialties when enumerating the research committees of which ISA consists. Luckily, however, meetings are somewhat homogeneous as far as specialties go. The good presenter asks herself (for simplicity I let the good ones be females) what an audience she has and adjusts her presentation to fit.

To present is like writing an abstract, it is a way of marketing. When presenting we should not be interested in just knowing to have another item in the CV. We want people to find the presented interesting and to be interested in knowing more, might be to ask for a copy of the entire manuscript to be or just to sit down to discuss what you have said. Furthermore, like an abstract the presentation should be short, oftentimes the presenter will have only 15 or 20 (sometimes even less) minutes available for the presentation. And it happens that the presider of a session is less careful about the timing, which easily means that the last presenter of a session will have less time for her presentation. Thus, the good presenter is time-flexible and she has planned for both less and more time. She is also interested in having comments or questions from the audience after the presentation.

The good presenter:

1. Speaks loudly, clearly and somewhat slowly, remembering that the language spoken is *not* the mother tongue of all in the audience,
2. briefly tells the audience about the aim with the study,
3. gives some brief and important information about the theoretical perspective used (if any),
4. tells us what methods used even when the study is a so called theoretical one,

5. gives the audience brief information about important details about the method used; if *quantitative* she tells us about the sample size, its degree of statistical representativity, how data was collected, about the technical analyses. If *qualitative* she tells us about the sample and its degree of sociological or theoretical representativity (for example, if a strategic sampling has been made), how data were collected, about the technical analyses,
6. gives the audience information about the main results. This can be made orally only or in combination with visibility: if a film she shows only relevant parts, if power-point she does not show big tables and certainly not big tables showing, for example, with details impossible to comprehend within a few seconds – she shows only relevant data,
7. she gives the audience information about her interpretations of the results; what new theoretical insight comes from her study, or if a social problem is in focus she tells about the practical implications she can see that might be used in order to reduce the social problem.
8. Finally, the presenter I have in mind is not nervous, but if she were: what would she do? She might imagine the older participants to be nervous when young so they should be able to identify with her (on the other side many of those have forgotten what it was to be young and nervous). She might remember that all in the audience have their weaknesses; some men might feel ashamed that they have problems with their prostate; some might feel that they are not properly dressed. Such imaginations help many overcoming their nervousness when presenting.

A propos power point presentations: our presenter is careful in selecting only relevant information on the screen, for example, an outline of the structure of her presentation to be. She shows short texts and *not* long ones (and she certainly does *not* read the text – she is aware of that everyone is able to read by him- or herself), she shows simple informative diagrams or tables, not complex in short time incomprehensible ones. She does not look at the screen on the wall but on the audience and when necessary at the manuscript.

If there is time left for questions and comments the good presenter answers shortly, to the point, and she does not go into a long discussion. Oftentimes, she realizes that it is better to be appreciative for the questions or comments than to defend or to argue.

Finally, the good presenter listens and learns from the visible as well as the spoken reactions among the participants of the audience.

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3. *From the Secretary*



Dear members,

As another year comes to an end, it is important to take stock and acknowledge a fruitful 2015 for our RC06 with two stimulating events: a conference in Syracuse (with RC11) and a seminar in Dublin. We are now preparing an exciting 2016, with a seminar in Beijing (May) and a lively program at the ISA Forum in Vienna (July).

First of all, our deepest gratitude goes to our local organizing committees in the United States and in Ireland. Secondly, we cannot thank our Forum session organizers enough for their dedication to provide us with a high-quality RC06 program. Some sessions received over 40 abstracts, which added considerably to their work. Our program for the ISA Forum in Vienna includes 19 sessions and a business meeting, namely:

1. Connecting Families? Family Life and Communication Technologies
2. Contemporary Families in Urban Asia
3. Convergence or Divergence of Asian Family Values and Practices: Comparative Studies Based on Cross-National Datasets in Asia
4. Family Change in Western and Non-Western Global Contexts: New Gender Models and Praxis
5. Family Change in Western and Non-Western Global Contexts: New Gender Models and Praxis II
6. Family-Friendly Policies and Gender (In)Equality in Paid and Unpaid Work
7. Future Perspectives on Work and Family Dynamics in Southern Europe: The Importance of Culture and Regional Contexts
8. Gender (In)Equality and Labour Markets
9. Global Family Issues
10. Intersectionality and Intergenerational Family Relationships
11. Reflections on Qualitative Research Methods Used in Family Sociology
12. Social Policy, Feminism and the Decline of Patriarchal Fatherhood
13. Stages and Transitions in the Family Life Cycle in an International Comparative Perspective

14. The Families We (Do Not) Want: Constructing the Past, Present and Future Families through Rituals
15. The Social Reproductive Worlds of Migrants
16. The Social Reproductive Worlds of Migrants II
17. Transition to Adulthood: Longitudinal Data Analyses
18. Troubling 'families'? Global Futures for Family Discourses and Practices.
19. Author Meets Critics: "Fathers on Leave Alone" Edited By Margaret O'Brien and Karin Wall & "Fathering, Masculinity and the Embodiment of Care" By Gillian Ranson.

We are confident that our participation at the Forum will be thought provoking.

In this Gazette, you can find the call for papers for our RC06 seminar in Beijing and a list of other conferences. You can also read or re-read our guest bloggers of October and December: Michael Rush and Anja Steinbach (available on our website). In addition, we share our contribution to the ISA Forum blog. We challenged our RC06 young and/or early-career scholars to address the theme of the ISA Forum: *The Futures We Want: Global Sociology and the Struggles for a Better World*. In a brief text (up to 200 words), they were asked to consider it while focusing on their own research. The result was four interesting insights from Australia, Portugal, Japan, and Taiwan (<http://isaforum2016.univie.ac.at/blog/>). Thank you, Luke, Cláudia, Sigeto, and Hsin-Chieh! Finally, we list recent publications of our members and a heartfelt obituary for Joan Aldous written by long-time member, Wilfried Drumon.

Please don't forget to follow us on Twitter ([@sociofamilyISA](https://twitter.com/sociofamilyISA)) and to join us on Facebook: [ISA Research Committee on Family Research](#).

Best regards and wish you all a fantastic 2016,

Barbara Barbosa Neves

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RC06 website: www.rc06-isa.org

Committee on Family Research
International Sociological Association

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Guest blogger – 'Intergenerational Relations in Migrant- and Stepfamilies' by Anja Steinbach
Posted on December 1, 2015 | Leave a comment

Our long-time RC06 member and friend, Anja Steinbach, is our guest blogger of December. Anja shares with us her research insights on intergenerational relations in migrant and stepfamilies. And what a pressing issue to discuss as we end 2015. Please leave your comments and feedback below.

Welcome to the Committee on Family Research (RC06 or CFR) of the International Sociological Association (ISA)

RECENT POSTS

- Guest Blogger – 'Intergenerational Relations in Migrant- and Stepfamilies' by Anja Steinbach

4. Guest bloggers

i. Guest blogger of October 2015

'Individualisation, Internationalisation and Family Policy' by Michael Rush



Michael Rush is a College Lecturer in the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice at University College Dublin and member of RC06. From 2009 to 2013, he was the government appointed representative for Ireland on the European Union Alliance for Families Network. His new book is titled "Between Two Worlds of Father Politics: USA or Sweden?" (Manchester University Press, 2015). The book presents a critical framework for comparing ways of understanding fatherhood and national variations in 'father-friendly' parental leave policies, Child Support Schemes and variations in the decline in patriarchy across advanced capitalist regions and welfare states including, the USA, Sweden, the European Union, Ireland, the UK, Japan and China.

Other new publications include Rush, M. (2015) "Theorising Fatherhood, Welfare and the Decline of Patriarchy in Japan", International Review of Sociology/Revue Internationale de Sociologie Vol 25, 3, plus Rush, M. And Seward, R.R. (2015) 'Changing Fatherhood and fathering across cultures towards convergence in work-life balance: divergent progress or stalemate?' In Crespi, I. & Ruspini, E. (eds) "Balancing Work and Family in Changing Society: The Father's Perspective", New York: Palgrave MacMillan. With his partner Liz, they have two sons, Tadhg and Lorcan. You can find him [here](#).

Alongside my esteemed colleague Professor Tony Fahey from our School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, I had the privilege of organising the annual ISA RC06 Committee on Family Research seminar for 2015 in the fair city of Dublin, on the island of Ireland. Our proposal to hold the 2015 seminar in Dublin was accepted by the Board of RC06 one year previously at a specially convened meeting during the XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology in the city of Yokohama. In attendance for the meeting were Chin-Chun Yi, the President of RC06, from Academia Sinica, Taiwan, and Mark Hutter, the Vice-President, from Rowan University, USA. Also present was out-going board member, Rudy Ray Seward, who is considered a friend by many, including myself, and with whom I have had the opportunity of co-authoring several conference papers and also a co-authored book chapter on global fatherhood and work-life balance policies.

One of my lasting memories of the ISA World Congress in Yokohama was "Our Message to the World" from the Japan Sociological Society, which emphasised supranational sociology and the call for "involved" social scientists to inform public

policy making in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake. The resonance of this message now echoes even more loudly as refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea urgently plead for transnational policy settlements and solutions to the Refugee Crisis. At the heart of the Japan Sociological Society's (JSS) Message to the World was a fresh dedication to principles of internationalization and international co-operation that have been maintained by the ISA since its establishment in 1948 and by the JSS since its establishment two years later in 1950. So, when it came to choosing a theme for the 2015 RC06 seminar Dublin, it seemed like a progressive move to build on the principles of internationalisation and to focus specifically on individualisation in relation to family policy. It was this type of thinking which led us to arrive at the title of 'Individualisation, Internationalisation and Family Policy' for the Dublin seminar. The title of the seminar reflected my colleague Tony Fahey's research in family sociology, family policy and demography and my own research on comparative family policy, welfare state variations, gender, fatherhood and the decline of patriarchy.

Sib Size Convergence

Our proposal to host the RC06 seminar was enthusiastically supported by the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, in the College of Social Sciences and Law, University College Dublin (UCD), which is Ireland's largest university with almost 25,000 students. This support was critical to the success of the seminar. As was the location of the seminar in Dublin, which is famed in literature, song and verse and which acts a gateway to Ireland's wild Atlantic western coast and the beautiful coastal and mountainous scenery of counties Cork, Kerry and Wicklow. However, what was critical academically was the title of the seminar which attracted papers on the decline of patriarchy in East-Asia and a range of papers on how family policy was responding to the rise of individualisation in inter-generational and adult relationships. The seminar identified convergence around reduction in 'sib size' or the numbers of biological siblings we grow up with, which was presented by my colleague Tony Fahey as a phenomenon of 'individualisation' that was reducing inequality over time across families in the USA. From South American colleagues we learned about the limits to the ability of families to sustain social cohesion. In addition, adolescence was presented as a period of increased risk in the life-cycle by colleagues from across the globe including those from the USA, Africa, and South America.

Internationalisation and Individualisation of well-paid parental and family Leave

Several papers highlighted the role of economic precarity in weakening the capacity of families to offer care and welfare, especially to older family members. Other papers showed evidence of new intergenerational dependencies being created in the West while in East Asia, on the other hand, the decline of patriarchy was seen to be loosening or individualising intergenerational ties as married partners concentrated on looking after each other's older parents rather than both partners looking after the husband's parents. Indeed, the individualisation of caring responsibilities between men and women in families, both for children and older people, and concepts of

shared parenting and shared residencies for children featured in a number of presentations. My paper focused on the concept of individualisation as applied by family policy and social policy to 'non-transferable' quotas of parental leave being made available to mothers and fathers and how this type of Nordic approach to parental leave was being adopted by several European Union member states. My presentation also highlighted that the USA and the English-speaking welfare states were lagging behind the EU states in the provision and individualisation of well-paid family leave or parental leave but that Japan had taken a 'Nordic turn' towards individualisation and gender equality in work-life balance policies.

Gender Equality and Social Care

It is not possible to mention all the papers, as there were over fifty presentations over three days but we had the opportunity to discuss topics which varied from young marriage in Taiwan to reproductive services and abortions or terminations in Israel, India, Ireland, Great Britain and Australia. We were especially happy to see a strong representation of scholars from East Asia and other world regions outside of the European and Anglophone spheres. The breadth of international participation gave the seminar a wider perspective on welfare state development and family policies. The presentations made clear that that international cooperation towards gender equality was considered to be a global 'public good' and that family policy debates about balancing paid work with care concerned the ongoing development of both men's and women's social citizenship rights as workers and carers. In this regard it was refreshing to hear children's social citizenship rights being highlighted in relation to their equality of access to parents' separate residences and the findings from Spain that older people did not want to be a burden on their adult off-spring. The lesson for family policy was that welfare states require systems of social care to support working parents across a range of household types and children and older people required levels of de-familization for access to quality social care and child care outside the family. Where care was being re-familized progressively, it was not through families having to crowd together in the face of austerity and precarity, but through the provision of individualised and 'non-transferable' quotas or periods of well-paid parental and family care leave.

Dublin Seminar attracts new RCO6 members

To finish on a lighter note, the partners and children many participants brought to the Dublin seminar to enjoy Ireland's scenery and hospitality made the occasion all the more memorable and pleasurable. Many partners and children came to the evening reception in Ardmore House on the UCD campus, which turned into a lively family event with children's laughter ringing out loud. What also added to the success of the seminar was the number of new RCO6 members in attendance. At the reception, Chin-Chun Yi asked all the first-time attendees at an RCO6 event to raise their hands, and there were many. Chin-Chun then asked all the participants from East-Asia to raise their hands and they were many also. Indeed, Chin-Chun remarked that it was probably the largest gathering of RCO6 family scholars from East-Asia she had

witnessed coming together outside East-Asia. Finally, Chin–Chun asked all the new RC06 members to raise their hands and there were many of these also. It was important too, though, that many long-standing RC06 members attended the Dublin seminar including our Honorary President and internationally esteemed scholar, Jan Trost, who graced the seminar by chairing sessions and providing lively participation throughout the Q and A sessions. The opening reception in Ardmore House also benefited from the presence of Renata Kaczmarek, the United Nations Focal Point on the Family, who is based in New York, but who travelled to the RC06 seminar to network with ‘involved’ social scientists with a view to developing more informed global family policy initiatives (see her picture below). Renata gave the opening speech for the seminar. She emphasised the importance of networking between family policy scholars and global family policy makers. The Radisson Blu St Helen’s Hotel, just across the road from the UCD Belfield Campus, provided the location for the keynote paper by Professor Göran Therborn, which offered a state-of-the art perspective on Dialectics of Individualisation followed by a lively Q and A session. The keynote paper was followed by a drinks reception with accompanying music from an Irish harpist and a seminar dinner of fine Irish produce and free flowing conversation and laughter.

It was a great privilege to organise the Dublin 2015 seminar and we hope it long stays in the memory of RC06 members who came along. On behalf of Tony and myself, we would like to thank Paula McGarry, Jennifer McGowan, and Elizabeth Hassell from the management and administration sections of the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, plus Breda Byrne and Orla O’Dea from the UCD Procurement Office, who all contributed hugely to the smooth progress of the seminar. Finally, I would like to thank Barbara Barbosa Neves, the RC06 Secretary and Treasurer, for inviting me to write this guest blog and for her invaluable support in organising the Dublin 2015 seminar.

ii. Guest blogger of December 2015

“Intergenerational relations in migrant- and stepfamilies” by Anja Steinbach



Anja Steinbach is a Professor of Sociology and department chair at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany. Her research focuses on family studies and migration. Her teaching and research interests include divorce and remarriage, demography, intergenerational relations and transmission, interethnic relations, migration and integration, life course research, and cross-cultural approaches. You can find her [here](#).

It was in 1999 when I was not only attending the first RC06 seminar “Migrant and Ethnic Minority Families” in Berlin, but organized it together with Bernhard Nauck, the president of the CFR board at this time. And it was not only my first RC06 seminar; but it was my very first conference attendance at all, as I started as a PhD student in 1998. Thus, it was also my very first presentation at a conference, addressing intergenerational relations in repatriate (Russian-German) families in Germany. So, from the very beginning of my scientific career, my research interests have been on intergenerational relations in migrant families. However, my most recent presentation (together with Karsten Hank from the University of Cologne) at a RC06 seminar – the “Aging Families/Changing Families” conference, jointly organized with RC11 at Syracuse University in June 2015 – was on intergenerational relations in stepfamilies. In this blog posting I would like to bring together all of my research interests of the last decade: Intergenerational relations in migrant- and stepfamilies.

Since Bengtson and colleagues started in the 1970s with their theoretical and empirical work on intergenerational relations to answer the question whether familial solidarity between parents and their adult children is declining, because of manifold changes in US society, there has been an overwhelming amount of research done in all parts of the world on this topic. The positive result of all these research activities is that, almost universally, relations between parents and adult offspring are quite close with frequent contact and exchange of help. In Europe a north-south divide can be observed, with closer relations in the south and less close relations in the north. Taking everything together, though, there is no reason for concern: Between parents and children as well as grandparents and grandchildren reciprocate feelings as well as responsibilities (especially in times of needs) exist. Taking into account the importance of support between generations and specific demographic processes – like migration flows on the one hand or the rising number of divorces and remarriages on the other hand – the question arises, if in spite of the overall positive picture some social groups are disadvantaged, for example migrants or stepfamily members.

The migrant families share is significant in most of the countries. But because of their diversity – usually there’s more than one migrant group in a country – it is quite difficult to get data with satisfying numbers of migrants for elaborated analyses. Above that, if migrants are included in a survey so that they can be compared with natives, the questionnaire is usually phrased in the native language. However, since migrants are a substantial part of the population we should try our very best to get at least some knowledge about their (family) relations. Regarding the quality of intergenerational relations there are some factors, which lead to an expectation of differences between natives and migrants: On the one hand, migrant families are more or less affected by their socio-cultural background of their country of origin. This is often manifested in differences regarding familial norms, expectations, and also behaviors. On the other hand, the migration experience itself – together with the process of integration – could be a challenge for intergenerational solidarity. Tying up with these considerations in migration (or more precisely integration) research two different hypotheses with antagonistic prognoses can be found: As the solidarity

hypothesis claims a strong closeness in migrant families, the conflict hypothesis postulates that relations of parents and children in migrant families are characterized by a high degree of tensions and conflicts. An empirical test of these hypotheses conducted by myself and my former colleagues Helen Baykara-Krumme and Daniela Klaus shows for the two biggest groups of migrants in Germany (Turks and Russian repatriates) that the differences between natives and migrants regarding intergenerational solidarity are overestimated in the theoretical discussion. In accordance with other studies, which investigated single aspects of intergenerational relations, we concluded that one can generalize that emotional closeness is high in all families and conflict is relatively rare. By and large, the conflict hypothesis could be refuted and the solidarity hypothesis could be verified.

Regarding the differences in intergenerational relations of members of nuclear families and stepfamilies the hypotheses are not that clear: Here often the hypothesis of residence stands against the hypothesis of biology. Family structures of stepfamilies can be highly complex and very often are included in cross-household constellations. Usually stepfamilies are formed after a separation or divorce of the biological parents as one or both of them enter new partnerships. The separation can either occur when the child is minor or adult. In the former case, the question is whether the child ever lived with the stepmother or the stepfather in the same household. The split up of the parents and the re-partnering could of course also occur when the child is an adult with completely other consequences for the relations to biological and social parents. The relevant factors here (next to the relations between the parents, their resources, the existence of (step-)siblings and (step-)grandparents, etc.) are: The age of the child when the separation or divorce occurred and the length of living with the different types of parents (mother/father/stepmother/stepfather). This is especially interesting in the context of a new development of the placement of children after a parental split up. In some countries like Belgium or Sweden one third of the children of separated or divorced parents live under the condition of shared physical custody (that is, children live an equal amount of time with the biological mother (and her new partner) and the biological father (and his new partner)). This was a widely discussed topic at the CFR seminar on “New Family Forms following Family Dissolution” in Leuven in 2012. Results indicate that the relations of stepparents and stepchildren in adulthood are mediated by the biological parents. The intergenerational relations of stepparents and stepchildren are worse on every dimension, but if the child is in frequent contact with the biological parent and they feel close to each other, the relation to the partner of this parent (which is the stepparent) is usually not that bad. Very recent studies show that it is no problem to have pretty good relations with three or four parents and this could be a future scenario with more families living after separation with shared physical custody. An important prerequisite, however, would be a much greater engagement of fathers in childrearing.

Comparing intergenerational relations of natives and migrants living in stepfamily

constellations leads us to the intersection of all topics. In one of my studies I could show that the influence of family structure on parent–child contact rates was the same for immigrants as for natives, despite solid theoretical reasons to expect a stronger negative effect for immigrants. Turkish parents see their adult children more often than German parents, yet similar effects of different family structures held in Germany for both Turks and Germans. From this, I concluded that the potential support of adult children for a parent who lives alone or in a new partnership in old age is less than the potential support for biological parents who live in an intact partnership. The potential support for stepparents is even lower. Thus, older parents living alone or in a new partnership and stepparents are in danger of receiving too little care, but between immigrants and native Germans there is no difference in this respect.

Regarding intergenerational relations in migrant- and stepfamilies, not much research has been done yet. The reason is very simple: We have huge data limitations, because the proportion of migrants and members of stepfamilies in the overall population is relatively small. Thus, migrants as well as stepfamily members are difficult to study because in official statistics we usually can't identify them and in social surveys capturing families they are underrepresented. Thus, we should try hard to gather adequate data in the future. In a perfect world, such data would have a large number of observations, be longitudinal, and internationally comparable.

iii. “The Futures We Want” From A Family Studies Perspective

Four RC06 contributions for the ISA Forum blog, available here:

<http://isaforum2016.univie.ac.at/blog>

Luke Gahan: “*Separating Same-Sex Parents*”



Just like other parents, same-sex parents separate and are required to navigate family law courts, post-separation parenting, family counselling, single parenting and/or the creation of blended or reconstituted families.

However, the law has not always recognized same-sex relationships or their families and as a consequence non-biological parents have lost all contact with their children. Similarly, separating same-sex parents have often felt alienated by what they perceive as heteronormative service providers, such as lawyers, counsellors, therapist, and government service providers.

In our struggle for a better world we must ensure that all families have the same access to services and to protection under the law. While much of the world is focused on the ideas of marriage equality, we must go one step further and ensure that there is equality within the standard of service available to same-sex parented families from counsellors, family therapists, lawyers and other government services, when these families require help with their relationships, assistance while going through divorce/separation, or when they are creating a reconstituted family.

Luke Gahan is a PhD Candidate at The Bouverie Centre, Victoria Australia's Family Institute, and is an executive member of the Australian Sociological Association (TASA). Luke teaches sociology of relationships at La Trobe University and is completing his PhD research on separating same-sex parented families.

Cláudia Casimiro: "Online dating and gender stereotypes"



Family studies show that the number of unmarried people has been increasing for the last decades in the Western society, but the social pressure for a conjugal life persists. In this scenario, the internet as a matchmaker became indisputable.

The internet plays an important role in the formation of romantic relationships. In pursuit of a fairer world, it is also a privileged stage for the sociological understanding of gender issues. Namely, how in the construction of online dating profiles do men and women convey to maintain or contribute to the transformation of gender differences, roles, and stereotypes.

According to empirical findings obtained in my postdoctoral research, carried out in Portugal, there are important gender differences in the self-presentation procedure and gender role stereotypes tend to be (re)produced. Male daters reinforce the instrumental role (rational and practical attributes as well as socioeconomic status are underlined), and female daters accentuate the expressive role (emotional and affective facets are valued, and physical attributes emphasized). Online self-presentations reflect shared cultural values about gender and they contribute to the predominance of online stereotypical gender identities. The association of women to the world of reproduction and of men to the world of production has not been completely fractured, and important traits of conventional gender relations still persist today. In this matter of gender, change does not occur as it is expected, change, as Bourdieu explained, occurs in the permanence.

Cláudia Casimiro is an Assistant Professor at the University of Lisbon (School of Social and Political Sciences, ISCSP, Lisbon). She is also the member of the coordination team of the Thematic Section “Families and life course” of the Portuguese Association of Sociology (APS). Her research interests include: relationships; families and personal life; intimacy; online relationships; online dating/romance; information and communication technologies; family violence; female violence; qualitative research methods.

Sigeto Tanaka: “Combining ideology, political dynamics, and empirical research to map out our future: a frontier of family sociology”



Among various difficulties our societies face, I am interested in problems of equality and sustainable welfare system, especially from perspectives of family sociology. The social institution of family, in an aspect, has been developed as a part of the welfare system in human societies.

In modern societies, however, family has been losing its welfare functions. Family today accordingly needs to restructure itself. In another aspect, family is also a social institution based on gender and parent-child relationships. As a natural result, there are many occasions where family-related institutions contradict with the modern principle of equality, in regards both to gender and to origin. These problems are common to many of contemporary societies, with variations according to each society’s own historical contexts.

Sociology has accumulated empirical findings about these issues with evolving techniques for collecting and analyzing data. However, in my opinion, we have not yet enough developed theories and methods to combine empirical findings to ideological and political dynamics and to outline probable scenarios for the future. It is a vast frontier for family sociology today.

Sigeto Tanaka is an Associate Professor at the School of Arts and Letters, Tohoku University. Specializing in family sociology, social statistics, gender studies, and the use of information technologies for sociology.

Hsin-Chieh Chang: “On Multicultural Families and Civil Partnerships”



Around the time when I held my doctoral defense at UCLA in late 2013, the proposed civil partnership bill was to be sent to the legislature in Taiwan. This proposed bill includes gay marriage and various forms of civil partnerships, is considered quite liberal in Taiwan and East Asia, where traditional gender roles and family values are well maintained at home and workplace, and reinforced by the mass media and some religious doctrines.

My dissertation examines the patterns, processes, and consequences of social integration of intra-Asia marriage migrants in Taiwan and South Korea. Having worked with marriage migrants, their Taiwanese/Korean marital families (referred as multicultural families by the Taiwanese and Korean governments), and migrant organizations that hold rather liberal or conservative perspectives on marriage migrants' welfare, I felt excited for my interviewees while observing the heated debates over alternative forms of families in Taiwan for two reasons. First, if the majority of Taiwanese recognizes the existence of “unconventional forms of marriages and families” including interethnic marriages that are formed by socially disadvantaged Taiwanese husbands and foreign wives from less-developed societies, that would be a very positive sign of a multicultural society. Second, once the bill is passed, it might push more citizens to show respect and practice empathy to marginalized individuals and their families at different socioeconomic and geographic locations. I felt optimistic.

Since I moved back to Taiwan in early 2014, I have observed some stark contrasts along the value spectrums on traditional versus secular-rational, and on survival versus self-expression among academics and friends of different age cohorts, gender orientations, and educational backgrounds. I came to realize there seems to be a long way to go, before the gaps in cultural values between genders, generations, and across nations can be narrowed. In the era of globalization, we are in need of realistic goals for policy makers, academics, and the civil society to work together, to relieve the tensions between traditionalism and modernity, and to build all forms of partnerships in the name of love, for the sake of love.

Hsin-Chieh Chang received her PhD in Community Health Sciences at the University of California Los Angeles in 2014 and is currently Assistant Professor at National Taiwan University. She was previously Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute of Sociology at Academia Sinica. Her current research focuses on the social integration of transnational migrants as well as the social and health consequences of social change in transitional economies.

5. Conferences

i. **RC06 Call for Papers (Beijing, 2016): *Social Change and Family Developments***

Social Change and Family Developments” is an international conference co-sponsored by the Institute of Sociology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and our committee. The conference will take place from **May 25th to 28th, 2016** at the **Institute of Sociology, CASS, Beijing**, China. On behalf of both sponsors, the local organizing committee cordially invites family sociologists, demographers, and other interested social scientists to participate in this event.

Plenary sessions on family changes around the globe are planned and noted international family scholars will be invited to deliver keynote speeches. Parallel sessions will allow up to 60-70 oral presentations, in addition to several concurrent poster sessions.

The conference theme encompasses a wide range of potential research topics on family from sociological, demographic, economic, psychological, and educational perspectives. To list several possible session titles:

- Changing family structures and family relations
- Changing marriage patterns in East Asia
- Family and migration
- Family transitions and well-being for children and adults
- Aging families: grandparenthood, elderly care
- Family values: ideational shifts on family change
- Balancing work and family in the global age
- Family influences on educational and occupational attainment
- Intergenerational relations
- Comparative family studies
- Emerging youth issues on the transition to adulthood
- Institutional impacts on the family and policy responses to family changes

For other suggestions, please email Zhao Kebin (zhaokb_cass@163.com), Deputy Director of Institute of Sociology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Deadline to submit an abstract: January 31st, 2016

Notification of the status of your submission: February 29th, 2016

Due date for the full paper: May 15th, 2016

Please send your abstract to **Dr. Yu Jia: yujia@cass.org.cn**

More information on the conference [website](#).

ii. Other Calls

- “Parenthood: Perspectives on Family Lives”

Research Network Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives (RN13), European Sociological Association, Interim Meeting, Bristol, UK, 7-9 July, 2016

Research on parents, parenting and parenthood is a major part of sociological work on family life as it addresses a variety of concerns such as: the role of government in family life; the ongoing of changing importance of longstanding social divisions; the nature of intergenerational relationships; the significance of biology for the construction of our personal lives. This conference seeks to include both current sociological research addressing the topic of parenthood and work that cuts across disciplinary boundaries.

Abstracts are invited that relate to one of the following themes or for an open stream that engages with the meeting theme:

- Ageing and Care
- Fathers and Fatherhood
- Feminisms, Gender and Parenting
- Historical Perspectives
- Socio-Legal Parenthood
- Parenting and Ethics
- Migration
- Measuring Parenting
- Mothers and Motherhood
- Reproductive Technologies
- Policy and Politics
- Theorising Contemporary Parenthood
- Work-Family Conflicts and Solutions

Abstracts of approx. 500 words outlining (as appropriate) the research question, theoretical approach, methodology, and research findings should be submitted to esther.dermott@bristol.ac.uk by the **31st December 2015**.

Conference attendance is free to members of the ESA RN13 members; £25 for non-members.

Organisers:

Professor Esther Dermott, University of Bristol, esther.dermott@bristol.ac.uk;
Professor Tina Miller, Oxford Brookes University, tamiller@brookes.ac.uk

- 6TH LCSR INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

The Laboratory for Comparative Social Research announces a call for the **6th LCSR International Workshop “Trust, Social capital and Values in a Comparative Perspective”**, which will be held within the XVII April International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development of the National Research University Higher School of Economics on **April 18–22, 2016** in Moscow, Russia.

Workshop topics are:

- Trust and Social Well-Being
- Trust and Social Solidarity
- Trust and Social Capital
- Values, Trust and Economic Growth
- Trust and Corruption

Keynote speakers:

- Ronald Inglehart (LCSR HSE, Moscow, University of Michigan, USA)
- Christian Welzel (LCSR HSE, Moscow, Leuphana University, Germany)
- Eric Uslaner (University of Maryland, USA)
- Jan Dehley (Jacobs University Bremen, Germany)

Participation at the workshop is possible via entering the **LCSR research network**. LCSR network aims at motivating young scholars to work on their own projects under the guidance of the LCSR experts (Ronald Inglehart, Eduard Ponarin, Christian Welzel and many others).

The submission **deadline** is **January 15, 2016**.

The notification of acceptance will be given by February 1, 2016.

Please submit to hse.lcss@gmail.com the following documents:

1. 2 pages Curriculum Vitae;
2. 5 pages Project Description: Name of author, affiliation, title, abstract of 250 words, main goal, brief literature review, main hypothesis, data description, methodology description and preliminary results (Template for Proposal).

Your application should meet the following **requirements**:

1. The paper should be empirical and comparative (more than 5 countries) using quantitative methods;
2. The paper should address one of the workshop's topics.

Working language is **English**.

LCSR provides accommodation at HSE Guest House and covers travel expenses only for LCSR associate members.

More information about 6th LCSR International Workshop is available here:
<http://lcsr.hse.ru/en/seminar2016>

- ESHD 2016 Call for Papers & Sessions

Biennial meeting of the European Society of Historical Demography, 21-24 September, 2016, Leuven, Belgium

With this call, we would like to invite researchers to propose individual papers or complete session proposals (four papers per session) dedicated to describing the features of historical demographic structures, functions and processes; illuminating the mechanisms underpinning these processes with the most appropriate methods for modelling cross-sectional or longitudinal data; and studying individual behavioral change. The second conference of ESHD will be open to all proposals of a good quality which fall within a broad range of themes covering different historical periods, regardless of study disciplines.

To nourish the proposed theme, **innovating historical demography: the world and Europe**, participants are encouraged to build bridges between theoretical issues, new methodological approaches and empirical results. Inspiring ideas could include:

- Elaboration of the opportunities for and advantages of comparative analysis (e.g. regional, temporal and categorical) based on parallel designs, to study social change;
- Proposals of innovative quantitative and qualitative research methods to promote a better understanding of individual behavior;
- Development of an agenda for the identification and investigation of the most important substantive questions in the field of historical demography, questions that relate to a number of contemporary issues, such as early life conditions, families and linked lives, kin relations, intergenerational transmission, social mobility, ethnic relations and a global cosmopolitan world. Some important questions and topics are:
 - What can historical demography teach us about societal openness, inclusiveness and inequality in opportunities?

- How do economic and climate dynamics and crises shape life courses?
- Migrants in historical societies: political economy and intercultural encounters?
- Reproduction of inequality: a historical tradition or a modern challenge?
- Europe encounters the World: widening perspectives on demographic behavior in the past concerning indigenous and colonial populations;
- The relationship between early life conditions and adult outcomes;
- Solidarity, agency and gender.

We particularly welcome participants who are at the early stages of their research career. We also encourage them to take a full part in the conference, for instance, by chairing parallel sessions.

Instructions for submitting a paper

Submissions are made via the online submission system at <http://eshd2016.eshd.eu>.

All authors are asked to submit both: a short abstract (max. 250 words) and either an extended abstract (2-4 pages, including tables) or a completed paper by **10 January 2016**.

The author making the submission must provide the full names, affiliations, and email addresses of all co-authors for each submission. At the ESHD 2016 conference only one submission as a first author is allowed; participants may however co-author other papers. Once registration is open, those attending the conference will be able to register individually.

Extended abstracts must be sufficiently detailed to allow the members of the scientific committee to judge the merits of the paper, and include a description of the topic to be studied, the theoretical focus, the data and research methods, and the expected findings. Alternatively, authors may submit complete papers for the members of scientific committee to review.

If your submission is accepted in a regular session, you must upload the full paper by **end of August 2016**. All papers will be available in PDF-format at <http://eshd2016.eshd.eu> to allow discussion.

Instructions for submitting a session

In order to propose a complete session, an organizer has to gather four speakers who will each present a paper on a related topic, a discussant who will start the discussion with a prepared comment on the papers, and a chair. The roles of session organizer, chair and discussant can be fulfilled by the same or different persons. Each speaker should fill out the pre-registration form found on the website. You should say “yes” to the question "Does your paper belong to a complete session

proposal?", and then add the session title in the space provided. The deadline for this submission is **10 January 2016**.

Important dates

10 January 2016: Deadline for submitting papers/sessions.

End March 2016: Notification for acceptance to authors/session organizer.

Mid-May 2016: Announcement of scientific programme.

Mid-June 2016: Deadline for conference registration.

End August 2016: Deadline for submitting completed papers.

End August 2016: Announcement of the final scientific programme

21-24 September 2016: 2nd ESHD conference, Leuven, Belgium.

Scientific committee

Isabelle Devos, Virginie Barrusse De Luca, Martin Dribe, Georg Fertig, Saskia Hin, Hideko Matsuo, Koen Matthijs, Peter Ori, Alice Reid, Diego Ramiro Fariñas, Lucia Pozzi, Frans van Poppel, Michel Oris, Jan Van Bavel

- 5th Pairfam Interdisciplinary International Conference

Parenting, Co-Parenting and Child Well-being in Changing Families Munich, June 29 - July 1, 2016

We are pleased to announce the upcoming international interdisciplinary conference on "Parenting, Co-parenting and Child Well-being in Changing Families", to be held from June 29 to July 1, 2016 in Munich, Germany. Save the dates and mark your calendar!

The conference is part of the scientific program of the pairfam project funded by the German Research Foundation. Pairfam is a representative panel study for analyzing close relationships and family relations in Germany. It provides large longitudinal data sets to be used by interested researchers. For more details see www.pairfam.de.

The conference will focus on parenting, co-parenting and child well-being in changing family contexts. It will address maternal and paternal parenting in different family contexts, cooperation and conflict between parents, and family influences on children's well-being at different ages (from infancy to adolescence).

The program will feature a number of interesting keynote lectures by internationally renowned scientists. Further contributions of interested scientists are particularly

welcome. We therefore invite submissions of papers and posters presenting own research on (co-)parenting, parent-child relations and child well-being. Please submit your abstract until February 15, 2016 (see below). You are free to use pairfam data, but the conference is not restricted to contributions derived from this project. For further information on the project and data access please contact the pairfam user support (support@pairfam.de).

Given limitations in the number of participants, we encourage early registration.

Further information on the scientific program, conference organization and registration will be available shortly on: www.pairfam-conference2016.lmu.de

Abstract Submission: Interested researchers and young scientists are invited to submit an abstract for a paper or poster presentation.

For abstract submission, please send a word document (in English), including the following information:

- » Title of the contribution,
- » Full names and institutional affiliations of all authors (with the presenter's name underlined),
- » Abstract of no more than 300 words, describing your topic and hypothesis, methods and main results,
- » Complete address of the presenter, including e-mail address.

Please submit your abstract until **February 15, 2016** to:
pairfam-conference2016@lmu.de.

Notifications of acceptance will be mailed until March 15, 2016.

Conference Venue:

Conference Center "Kardinal Wendel Haus" at the Catholic Academy Bavaria is nicely located in "Schwabing", a culturally and socially lively, famous quarter of Munich, next to the beautiful "English Garden".

Important dates:

February 15, 2016: **Deadline for abstract submission**

March 15, 2016: Notification of acceptance

April 15, 2016: Deadline for registration

Conference Team:

Prof. Dr. Sabine Walper, Dr. Barbara Wilhelm, and Philipp Alt.
University of Munich
Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences
Leopoldstr. 13 80802 Munich, Germany.

Contact: Dr. Barbara Wilhelm and Philipp Alt
Email: pairfam-conference2016@lmu.de

Homepage: www.pairfam-conference2016.lmu.de (will be available shortly)

i. Summer Schools**- LCSR SUMMER SCHOOL 2016**

Laboratory for Comparative Social Research (LCSR) of the National Research University Higher School of Economics is pleased to announce the 6th Summer School on “Latent Growth Curve Models for Longitudinal Data (based on SEM course)”.

Dates: July 31– August 12, 2016

Place: Voronovo, Moscow

Deadline for registration: April 20, 2016

Registration is required. Participants from Russia and CIS countries are eligible for travel costs cover on a competitive basis.

Accommodation is provided to all participants for free.

Applications (CV and Motivation letter) should be send to hse.lcss@gmail.com before **April 20, 2016**.

The results will be announced on **April 30, 2016**.

For more information please click [Summer-School-2016](#)

6. Recent Publications by RC06 Members

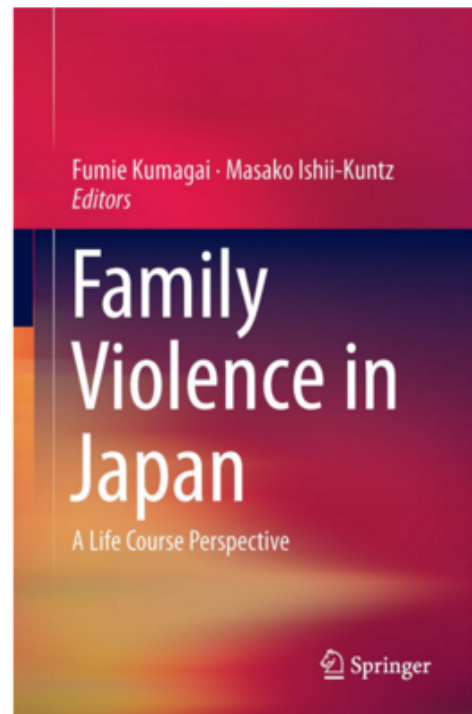
i. Books

Family Violence in Japan A Life Course Perspective

Edited by Fumie **Kumagai** and Masako **Ishii-Kuntz**

2016
Springer

- Provides a comprehensive overview of family violence in Japan from a life course perspective,
- Takes a broader approach to the field, covering child abuse, intimate partner violence, filial violence and elder abuse as a whole in Japan,
- Analyzes various types of family violence in Japan, incorporating historical development of individuals and intergenerational factors simultaneously,
- Identifies seven major sociocultural characteristics which may induce or suppress each type of family violence in Japan,
- Presents Japanese perspective of family violence in Japan by five Japanese family sociologists specializing in the field.



Available in hardcover, ebook, or MyCopy.

This book provides fresh sociological analyses on family violence in Japan. Aimed at an international audience, the authors adopt a life course perspective in presenting their research. Following a comprehensive overview of family violence in Japan in both historical and contemporary contexts, it then goes on to define the extent and causes of child abuse, intimate partner violence, filial violence, and elder abuse. In doing so, the book is the first of its kind to look at these different types of violence in Japanese families and simultaneously incorporate historical development of individuals and intergenerational factors. Furthermore, its reliance on the life course perspective enables readers to obtain a broader understanding of family violence in the country. Written by five Japanese family sociologists who have identified various major sociocultural characteristics that either induce or suppress family violence in Japan, it is a valuable resource not only to scholars and students of the topic, but also to those specializing in sociology, psychology, anthropology and comparative family studies around the globe.

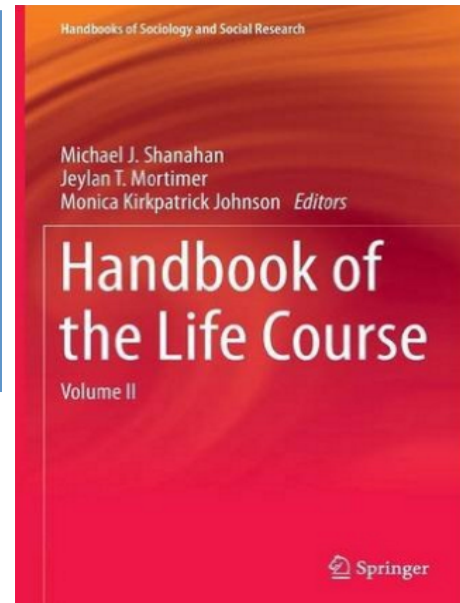
For more information and table of contents:
<http://www.springer.com/jp/book/9789811000553>

Handbook of the Life Course, Vol. II

Edited by Michael Shanahan, Jeylan T. Mortimer,
and Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson

2016
Springer

The *Handbook of the Life Course*, Vol. 2, has just been published, emphasizing emerging trends, challenges, and new directions in life course studies. The volume is available via purchase of the hardcover and paperback, purchase of individual chapters, or free download of the entire volume for scholars and students affiliated with an institution that is a member of SpringerLink.



Building on the success of the 2003 *Handbook of the Life Course*, this second volume identifies future directions for life course research and policy. The introductory essay and the chapters that make up the five sections of this book, show consensus on strategic “next steps” in life course studies. These next steps are explored in detail in each section:

Section I, on life course theory, provides fresh perspectives on well-established topics, including cohorts, life stages, and legal and regulatory contexts. It challenges life course scholars to move beyond common individualistic paradigms. Section II highlights changes in major institutional and organizational contexts of the life course. It draws on conceptual advances and recent empirical findings to identify promising avenues for research that illuminate the interplay between structure and agency. It examines trends in family, school, and workplace, as well as contexts that deserve heightened attention, including the military, the criminal justice system, and natural and man-made disaster. The remaining three sections consider advances and suggest strategic opportunities in the study of health and development throughout the life course. They explore methodological innovations, including qualitative and three-generational longitudinal research designs, causal analysis, growth curves, and the study of place. Finally, they show ways to build bridges between life course research and public policy.

For more information and table of contents:
<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319208794>

ii. Articles

Zanier, M. L., & Crespi, I. (2015). **Facing the Gender Gap in Aging: Italian Women's Pension in the European Context.** *Social Sciences*, 4(4), 1185-1206.

The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the phenomenon of increasing gender inequalities that happen at old age regarding women's pension. Moving from recent life-course theories and studies, this study analyzes the reasons behind gender-biased pension levels and how their cumulative effects result in (continuous) significant gender gaps. The article presents a European overview of pension gender gap, focusing on family and work-life issues in Italy. This is one of the first critical reviews of the small but growing literature and national data concerning the effect of gender inequalities related to pension gaps in Italy. In the past, research on the balance of welfare provision between State, family, and market has ignored gender, while more recent studies have barely explored how gender roles, changing over time, interact with the shifts in pension policies. Considering the effects of work-life balance policies since the 2000 Lisbon agenda process and its development, the study especially focuses on the Italian case within the European context. The article examines how the choices in work-life balance policies vary between different national contexts and welfare regimes, by highlighting the Italian case. In this country, welfare and social policy regimes remain very unbalanced, showing a lack of awareness of family and women's needs, as in many Southern countries, and Italy is not able to give appropriate answers to these problems and to the question of the growing gender gap. This article finally shows the poignancy of structural and cultural reasons for gender differentiated pension levels in Italy, within the European context, according to patterns of employment, marital, and maternal status between earlier and later generations of women.

Crespi, I., Zanier, M. L., Santoni, C., Fermani, A., & D'Ambrosi, L. (2015). **Family, Work and Old Women's Situation in Italy and Spain: New Gender Inequalities.** *AG About Gender-Rivista internazionale di studi di genere*, 4(8).

The discussion about women's situation in old age has often been restricted to their employment biographies. For women, however, family factors play a large role in connection with welfare state models. The key research question is: "How has the condition of older women, including their retirement, been influenced by family- and job-related factors in Southern Europe?" Italy and Spain, particularly, exemplify the Mediterranean, familistic welfare model. This paper shows results from the Survey of Health and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) relative to these two countries (Wave 1). The data analysed highlight the impact of different

experiences of motherhood, marriage and career, on women's retirement years. SHARELIFE contains standard questions concerning job and family life aspects. The samples thus obtained provide cases for further research on the situation of ageing women, including those who live alone. SHARE data show that, since the beginning of 2000, women have had shorter careers compared to men, with many career breaks. These differences, which were not followed by any balancing policies in the Lisbon agenda decade, are now affecting women's retirement and creating new gender inequalities.

Crespi, I., & Ruspini, E. (2015). **Transition to fatherhood: New perspectives in the global context of changing men's identities.** *International Review of Sociology.*

Published online: 07 Oct 2015. DOI: 10.1080/03906701.2015.1078529

The proposed thematic session aims to highlight the main challenges that the cultural and structural changes within the families and in gender relations and the changing social expectations about men's involvement in the care of children and about fatherhood pose to men's and fathers' identity. Fathering in contemporary society requires men to be simultaneously provider, guide, household help and nurturer. The difficulties of these roles, and the tensions they sometimes produce, challenge men's relationships with their female partners, the meaning and place of work in their lives and their sense of self as competent adults. We will also explore the relationship between transitions to fatherhoods and the challenges of balancing work and family obligations. How to balance paid work, other interests and relationships with responsibilities, anxieties and pleasures of childrearing are today concerns for both men and women.

7. Obituary: Joan Aldous (1926-2014) by Wilfried Dumon



Joan Aldous
University of Notre Dame

As a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, 1965, I came into contact with Joan Aldous. At that time she was an associate of Reuben Hill, a key-figure in Family Sociology in the USA and a world authority. *The Minnesota Family Study Center* was characterized by two features: a) an international orientation, monitoring global trends and development in family sociology, b) a systematic development of research based family theory building. Although co-teaching and co-authoring with Reuben Hill, even at this early stage in her career, Joan Aldous could very well be characterized as a person by herself. The two of them can be identified as pioneers who contributed greatly to the transformation of family sociology qualified as a field of lower status into a scholarly respected sub-discipline of sociology.

As research based theory, in 1970 Reuben Hill published his monograph “Family Development in Three Generations: a longitudinal study of changing family patterns of planning and achievement” and it was Joan Aldous who fine-tuned the conceptual framework of it resulting in the 1976 publication on “Family Careers: Rethinking the Developmental”. Coincidentally, in that year, Joan Aldous was appointed at Notre Dame University, Indiana, in the capacity of the first female holder of an endowed professorship (the William R. Keenan Chair).

Although in family sociology the development approach, with concepts such as family life cycle, gradually was substituted by life course analysis. Joan Aldous hardly can be blamed for neglecting the societal aspects of family roles. More particularly she already in 1979 pointed to the external influence of men’s work in men’s families, and still later emphasized dramatic changes in society as expressed by “the changing concept of fatherhood” (1998). It eventually led to a revision of her original work by publishing “Rethinking the developmental perspective (Emotional development)”

1996.

As to her international orientation two elements should be highlighted: organizational involvement as well as academic impact. In the USA Joan Aldous served among other positions as president of the NCFR (National Council on Family Relations), which honored her with the Earnest W. Burgess Award. On the international level, she was a long time member of the CFR she also was a member of the board and as such she was very instrumental in turning the CFR from a rather self-selected club into an open democratic organization. When Gerrit Kooy (The Netherlands) was president of the CFR, Joan Aldous drafted the first constitution of the CFR effective from spring 1975.

Her scholarly activities outside of the USA were not refrained to the European sphere, it included Japan as well as other countries, but was still focused on Europe and included far wider a range of academic seminars, conferences and congresses in which she served in several roles ranging from presenting papers over to chairing and organizing events. It also included presenting invited lectures and accepting at several European universities, e.g., Belgium and the Netherlands. All these activities apparently self-evident for a top scholar as well-known and respected as Joan Aldous. Yet her tenacity should be appreciated in light of the development of her personal life-course. When a young girl her aim was to be a ballet dancer but she was struck by serious polio so that career vanished. She decided to study and became a sociologist with specialty in the field of family, luckily for us. But Joan Aldous was heavily physically handicapped and went through many surgical operations.

In all her activities, Joan Aldous appeared as an open-minded strong person offering new challenges and inspirational insight. Simultaneously, she was demanding of others as well on herself. Most of all she was a sociologist in mind and in heart. Lately, she confided to me words to the effect “sociology is so power full a discipline, it enables one to understand what’s happening in the world”.

Wilfried Dumon

Wilfried.dumon@soc.kuleuven.be

8. Other announcements

- Our colleague Fausto Amaro (University of Lisbon) was elected president of the *Portuguese Society of Suicidology*. Congratulations! For more information, see www.spsuicidologia.pt.
- Save the date for the 2016 Conference of *The Australian Sociological Association* (TASA) in Melbourne:



9. New Members

We welcome the following new (or returning) members:

Mark Hutter, United States

10. Board of the CFR (2014-2018)

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