



The Interim Meeting
of the Research Network “Sociology of families and intimate lives” (RN13)
of European Sociological Association (ESA)

FAMILY: *CONTINUITY AND CHANGE*

September 25-27, 2014
Mykolas Romeris University
Ateities str. 20, Vilnius, Lithuania
<http://ESA-RN13im2014.mruni.eu>

Numerous sociological studies conducted during the last decades have revealed an increased diversity and de-standardization of family forms and configurations, family formation patterns and inter-relations among its members. These changes are so evident and dramatic, that occasionally even the question has been raised whether family as a social institution still exists. Until today in many European countries we observe ongoing trends, e.g. of decreasing marriage and / or birth rates, of increasing divorces and remarriages, of postponement of family formation to later stages in the life course.

At the same time researchers observe continuity and, especially in Northern Europe, even trends' reversals. Traditional patterns of the division of paid and unpaid work within couples, for example, are visible everywhere, even if on gradually more subtle levels. The desire to live in a stable partnership and the motivation to have children remain high. The family still is considered one of the most important values and life spheres.

Continuity and change - we find both at the same time. So, questions arise: how much continuity do we observe? Where do we observe change and why? How can the observed change / continuity be explained at a global, social group or individual level? How can we explain asynchrony of developments between the European countries / regions? How can and should we identify and measure the change / continuity? Are we over- or under- estimating the degree of change due to a lack of appropriate methods?

Scientific Committee: Isabella Crespi, Detlev Lück, Gerardo Meil, Giovanna Rossi,
Eric D. Widmer, Anna-Maija Carstén, Vida Česnuitytė, Esther Dermott

Local Organizers: Vida Kanopienė, Vida Česnuitytė

Thursday, September 25, 2014

Room I-414

12:00-13:30 Registration

13:30-14:00 Opening

Leta DROMANTIENĒ, *Dean of the Faculty of Social Technologies, MRU*

Detlev LÜCK, *Vice-Coordinator of RN13 – Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives*

14:00-15:30 Plenary session I

Chairs: Sarmite Mikulionienė & Anna-Maija Castrén

Discussant: Detlev LÜCK

- Ulla BJÖRNBERG, *University of Gothenburg, Sweden*

Nuclear fission in families. Historic review of perspectives in European family sociology

Like many themes in sociology, family sociology has had a special interest in studying social change through the lens of families. In the process of modernization families have been portrayed as carrying changing features that have caused worries in debates about the effects of changes on keeping important “family functions” alive. In retrospect, families were analyzed as units to be held together through special duties carried out by women in particular, through the financial support by husbands. For example, looking back at my own history, I started to study families inspired by Nordic approaches to the interconnections of family, social class and community. However with the growing impact of women studies the focus shifted into analysis of what was going on in families with theoretical lenses of gender. Women studies asked new questions about family life and analyzed domestic labor and the exploitation of female unpaid reproductive work. The theoretical framework was macrostructures of patriarchy. Complementary to the gender approach, the features of individualization within the process of modernization developed as an overarching lens in studies of changing family patterns. Family change like sinking birth rates, increased cohabitation and falling marriage rates, children born out of wedlock, divorce and separation and formation of new families became the final blow to the view on families as units - “Nuclear fission of families”, to quote the title of a thesis by the Norwegian sociologist, Kari Moxnes. New conceptions like ‘family practices’ (David Morgan), ‘family configurations’ (Eric Widmer), ‘network families’ (Bäck-Wiklund), ‘family fragments’ (Smart & Neale), ‘transnational care in families’ (Baldassar and Merla), ‘same sex families’ (Rosenheil) are examples of analyses of emerging family forms and of how family relations are maintained or reconstituted under changing social conditions. The role of social- and family policy and balancing work and family in analyzing institutional conditions for family life also provided a large amount of studies in family sociology. The position of the child in changing family formations has also become a strong focus in family sociology. Likewise the intergenerational perspective, especially on care under the new circumstances of increased female employment and ageing populations.

- Julia BRANNEN, *University of London, United Kingdom*

Studying families and family life: some methodological issues and approaches

The paper will consider some of the key methodological issues and approaches in the study of families and multi-generation families. In particular, it will address three sets of issues. The first concerns how to study aspects of family life that are habitual and quotidian and bring them into the reflective engagement of family members. The second concerns situating and making sense of family lives in relation to the historical and contextual aspects of time and space and the methods we may deploy in this endeavour. The third concerns the forms in which people narrate their family lives and how to understand and make sense of narrative accounts and memories.

15:30-16:00 Coffee-break / Professorium, room I-220 /

16:00-17:30 Session I: Theoretical concepts in studying families and family research methods

Chairs: Vida Kanopienė & Jacques-Antoine Gauthier

- The Struggle for Family Life: rethinking sociological approaches
Lisa SMYTH, *School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast, United Kingdom*
- Cultural Conceptions of Family as Retardants of Change in Family Lives. New Results from "Leitbild" Research
Detlev LÜCK, *Federal Institute for Population Research, Germany*
- A Combined Analytical Framework in Studying Family Reunification
Barbara BERTOLANI, *University of Molise, Italy*
Matteo RINALDINI, *University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy*
Mara TOGNETTI BORDOGNA, *University Milano Bicocca, Italy*
- Using visual methods to describe family changes: doing and displaying migrant families in Lithuania
Irena JUOZELIŪNIENĖ, *Vilnius University, Lithuania*
- Family as a Nexus of material-discursive Practices: New Onto-epistemological Foundations for the Definition of Humans and Human Relations and the Consequences for the Definition of Family
Cornelia SCHADLER, *Ludwig Maximilians University Munich, Germany*

17:30-19:00 Business meeting

Friday, September 26, 2014

Room I-414

9:00-10:30 Plenary session II

Chairs: Detlev Lück & Isabella Crespi

Discussant: Giovanna ROSSI

- Lynn JAMIESON, *University of Edinburgh, Scotland*
Practices of Intimacy, Futures and Social Change
Since the 1950s social change in family life in Europe and North America has been described as becoming more intimate and less hierarchical, more friend-like. Similar characterisations of change in personal life are also being made for countries across all of the continents of the globe. A more nuanced picture of the micro-dynamics of social change is gained through focusing empirically and theoretically on the repertoire of routine and mundane practices that build the quality of personal relationships. I have argued that thinking in terms of practices of intimacy in couple, parent-child, friendship and sexual relationships facilitates working across historical and cultural contexts and is helpful in assessing the limitations of digitally mediated forms of communication compared to face-to-face interaction for building intimacy. In this paper I consider whether a repertoire of practices that has the potential to build intimacy may also be implicated in reproducing hierarchy, inequality and division. In doing so I also discuss whether a focus on practices should encompass imagined future practices as well as routine or mundane practices in the here and now, while remaining mindful that both imaginaries and the enacted are socially produced.

- Eric D. WIDMER, *University of Geneva, Switzerland*

Family Diversity Growing Old: The family consequences of the pluralization of life courses for the elderly

The pluralization of the life course has led sociologists to stress the diversification of family contexts in young and middle adulthood. In the last decade, such diversification has also received more attention in gerontology (Silverstein & Giarrusso, 2010). However, the diversification of families in old age is not well known and its consequences for their relational resources hardly considered. This presentation explores whether a plurality of family members beyond the household characterizes family contexts in later life, and if so, whether this diversity has consequences for the relational resources of the elderly.

In recent decades, a series of demographic trends has changed the face of the family in old age. Increased life expectancy and the decrease in fertility have shaped “the beanpole family” with a complex mix of family generations (Bengtson, Rosenthal, & Burton, 1990). Living longer, older people have a greater likelihood of facing the death of family members of their own cohort, such as their partner, siblings or distant kin, with some individuals even outliving their own children. Low fertility as well as delayed parenthood have contributed to the development of childlessness among different aging cohorts. In addition, new family forms such as step-families have become more frequent since the 1960s, bringing with them the consequence of an increased diversity of pools of relatives in old age (Silverstein & Giarrusso, 2010). Moreover, although distinct pools of relatives offer different alternatives for the development of significant family ties, the presence of such pools does not in itself guarantee that meaningful family relationships are developed (Connidis, 2010).

Because life trajectories have become more diverse in cohorts of individuals that currently reach old age, we hypothesize that a diversity of family configurations is present during this life stage. Depending upon the ways in which individuals define their significant family members, we expect them to develop distinct types of social capital. We hypothesize that bonding social capital is more likely to be developed in family configurations focused on partners, children, and grandchildren whereas family configurations focused on siblings, extended kin, or friends are expected to develop bridging social capital.

10:30-11:00 Coffee-break / Professorium, room I-220 /

11:00-13:00 Session II: Family forms, structure and configurations

Chairs: Ulla Björnberg & Pierre-Alan Roch

- Personal configurations in light of cohabitation trajectories
Jacques-Antoine GAUTHIER, *University of Lausanne, Switzerland*
Gaëlle AEBY, *University of Lausanne, Switzerland*
Rita GOUVEIA, *Institute for Social Sciences of the University of Lisbon, Portugal*
Vasco RAMOS, *Institute for Social Sciences of the University of Lisbon, Portugal*
Vida ČESNUIITYTĖ, *Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania*
- Co-residence as a mechanism for relational proximity: The impact of family trajectories on the diversification of personal networks
Vasco RAMOS, *Institute for Social Sciences of the University of Lisbon, Portugal*
Rita GOUVEIA, *Institute for Social Sciences of the University of Lisbon, Portugal*
Karin WALL, *Institute for Social Sciences of the University of Lisbon, Portugal*
- The shift of personal networks during the transition to parenthood: a gendered process?
Marlène SAPIN, *University of Geneva, Switzerland*
Eric D. WIDMER, *University of Geneva, Switzerland*

- Progressive Polygamy in Western United States
Janet BENNION, *Lyndon State College, USA*
- Who will be the first to marry? Education and transition from cohabitation to marriage
Aušra MASLAUSKAITĖ, *Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania*
- Society-personal social network-individual or individual-personal social network-society: who's values are in priority in family formation process? Case of Lithuania
Vida ČESNUIČYTĖ, *Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania*

13:00-14:00 Break / Canteen, IV-131 /

14:00-16:00 Session III: Functions of family social networks

Chairs: Anna-Maija Castrén & Vasco Ramos

- Young Couples' Relational Networks and Marriage Choices Paths: Membership and Influence
Donatella BRAMANTI, *The Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan, Italy*
Matteo MOSCATELLI, *The Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan, Italy*
- The Changing Nature Of Intergenerational Relations
Rosario POZO GORDALIZA, *University of Balearic Islands, Spain*
Maria Antonia GOMILA GRAU, *University of Balearic Islands, Spain*
Belén PASCUAL, *University of Balearic Islands, Spain*
Marga VIVES, *University of Balearic Islands, Spain*
- Family social networks in Lithuania: the provision of social support
Vida KANOPIENĖ, *Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania*
Sarmitė MIKULIONIENĖ, *Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania*
- Family Strategies, Social Policies and Social Capital: A Comparative Approach
Olga GANJOUR, *University of Geneva, Switzerland*
Eric D. WIDMER, *University of Geneva, Switzerland*
- Precarious occupational integration and social disaffiliation process: The case of Switzerland
Pierre-Alan ROCH, *University of Lausanne, Switzerland*
- Family Forms, Employment Patterns and the Wellbeing of Parents after the German Reunification: The Effect of Different Economies and Cultures
Angelika TÖLKE, *German Youth Institute, Germany*
Heike WIRTH, *GESIS - Leibniz Institute for Social Science, Germany*

16:00-16:30 Coffee-break / Professorium, room I-220 /

16:30-18:30 Session IV: PhD session

Chairs: Isabella Crespi & Detlev Lück

- Changing family, kinship and social bonds in three stages of family formation
Aino LUOTONEN, *University of Helsinki, Finland*
- Understanding kinship changes and variations in contemporary northern societies
Pierre-Yves WAUTHIER, *The Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium*

- Identity Policies of Multi-local Post-separation Families-Territorialisations between Distinction and Belonging
Tino SCHLINZIG, *Dresden University of Technology, Germany*
- Temporary de-standardization of partnership formation found in GGS, while fertility standardized continuously
Okka ZIMMERMANN, *University of Göttingen; Braunschweig Institute of Technology, Germany*
- Anchored in tradition? Explaining Europeans gender role attitudes: a multilevel analysis
Vera LOMAZZI, *The Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan, Italy*
- In the Name of the Father: Fatherhood and Masculinity in New Family Forms
Efrat KNOLL, *Bar Ilan University, Israel*

19:00- **Social dinner** / Rotonda Hall, 1st floor /

Saturday, September 27, 2014
Room I-414

9:00-10:30 Session V: Family value as an institution

Chairs: Vida Kanopienė & Pedro Romero-Balsas

- The importance of family as institution. Findings from an Italian Survey
Sara MAZZUCHELLI, *The Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan, Italy*
Miriam PARISE, *The Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan, Italy*
Giovanna ROSSI, *The Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan, Italy*
- Is the Italian Family still an Institution? Findings from the European Values Study
Giovanna ROSSI, *The Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan, Italy*
Sara MAZZUCHELLI, *The Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan, Italy*
Maria Letizia BOSONI, *The Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan, Italy*
- The impact of social and economic changes on the family in the Republic of Croatia based on the research "Sunday Working and Quality of Life"
Valentina KANIĆ, *The Catholic University of Croatia, The Republic of Croatia*
Damir MRAVUNAC, *The Catholic University of Croatia, The Republic of Croatia*
Ivana BRSTILO, *The Catholic University of Croatia, The Republic of Croatia*
Lana BATINIĆ, *The Catholic University of Croatia, The Republic of Croatia*
- Active labour market programmes for women with a partner: Challenge or replication of traditional gender roles
Eva KOPF, *Institute for Employment Research, Germany*
Cordula ZABEL, *Institute for Employment Research, Germany*
- Trends in Educational Assortative Mating in Europe between 1988 and 2012
Tomáš KATRŇÁK, *Masaryk University, The Czech Republic*
Laura FÓNADOVÁ, *Masaryk University, The Czech Republic*
Beatrice CHROMKOVÁ MANEA, *Masaryk University, The Czech Republic*

10:30-11:00 Coffee-break / Professorium, room I-220 /

11:00-13:00 Session VI: Roles and biographies

Chairs: Eric D. Widmer & Vida Česnuitytė

- Family Secrets
Jan TROST, *Uppsala University, Sweden*
- Gender and agency in transition to family
Anna-Maija CASTRÉN, *University of Helsinki, Finland*
- The impact of motherhood on women's retirement in Italy: family factors, job career and life paths
Isabella CRESPI, *University of Macerata, Italy*
Lucia D'AMBROSI, *University of Macerata, Italy*
Alessandra FERMANI, *University of Macerata, Italy*
Claudia SANTONI, *University of Macerata, Italy*
Maria Letizia ZANIER, *University of Macerata, Italy*
- Fathers on leave alone in Spain
Gerardo MEIL, *Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain*
Pedro ROMERO-BALSAS, *Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain*
- Farming fathers and their fathers: Changing meanings of the co-location of home and work
Berit BRANDTH, *Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway*
- The Sequences of Involvement Styles at the Transition to Fatherhood
Irene RIEDER, *University of Vienna, Austria*
Eva-Maria SCHMIDT, *University of Vienna, Austria*
Cornelia SCHADLER, *University of Vienna, Austria*
Ulrike ZARTLER, *University of Vienna, Austria*
Rudolf RICHTER, *University of Vienna, Austria*

13:00-13:30 Conference closing

Vida KANOPIENĖ, *Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania*

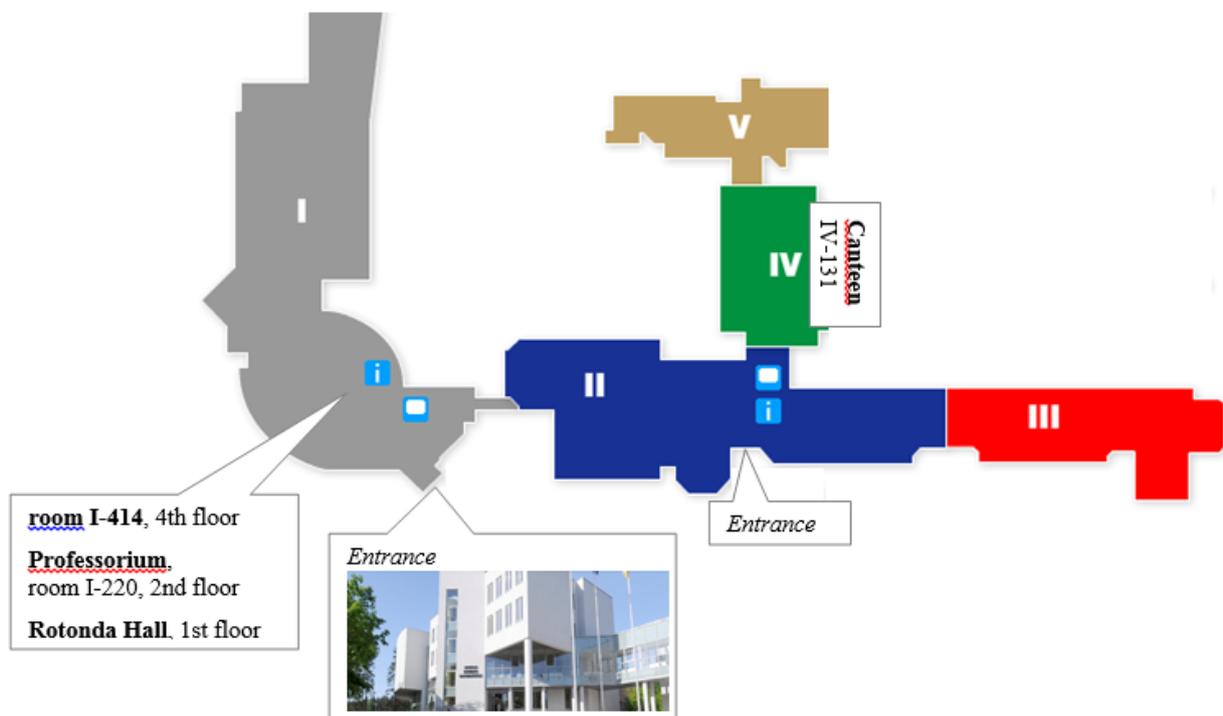
Isabella CRESPI, *Coordinator of RN13 – Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives*

Posters

- Youth's Social Perceptions of Family: Cross-cultural Comparison of Basic Attributes
Vladimir SOLODNIKOV, *Russian State University for Humanities, Russia*
- Being parents: the adoptive families
Anna DAL BEN, *University of Verona, Italy*
- Migration Effects on Intergenerational Relationships in Lithuania: Perspective of Elderly Parents
Margarita GEDVILAITĖ-KORDUŠIENĖ, *Vytautas Magnus University; Lithuanian Social Research Centre, Lithuania*
- Childcare network and urbanization from the perspective of family/community questions
Noriko TATEYAMA, *Kanto-Gakuin University, Japan*

- Development of Conjugal Interaction
Manuela SCHICKA, *University of Geneva, Switzerland*
- Changing Family formations in Hungarian Families - New Father Roles
Júlia GALÁNTAI, *Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary*
- Combining Leading and Supporting Roles - Family and Career Strategies among Elite Couples
Bernadett CSURGÓ, *Institute of Sociology, Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary*
Luca KRISTÓF, *Institute of Sociology, Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary*

Auditorium



GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTERS

Oral presentations

Oral presentation can't exceed 20 min together with the discussion.

All usual technical equipment will be available in the room, though if you need some special equipment for your presentation, please, inform the organizers of event in advance.

Chairs of the sessions will be asked to give a summary of the sessions' contents **during the closing session of the Interim meeting (Saturday, 27th of September)**.

Posters

The poster presentations will be hanged up in the room of Interim meeting, and no oral presentation of the posters are not planned.

Each poster will have space around 45x90cm.

The posters will be hanged up for the duration of the conference, and the participants are going to be invited to visit the posters during the numerous breaks we have between the sessions. We hope that people come up to you with feedback or questions and that you will be available.



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