



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

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL
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1. *President's Column*

Family Sociology and the Public Debate. Introductory remarks to a RC06-seminar

The Vice-president for Research of the ISA, Arturo Rodriguez Morato, has raised the issue of sociology and the public debate. I think this is a topic of central concern for family sociology and gives us the opportunity to reflect on this relationship.

Looking at the program of this conference on aging we can hardly say that family sociology is not engaged in public debate. Just a look at the titles suggests that the presentations will be concerned with issues in the public debate. Relations between generations, caring for elderly, household composition, wellbeing of family members, grandparenthood, all these are issues raised in different papers. They will reflect everyday behaviours and social policies or give advice and build foundation for politics. Family sociology is definitely engaged in public debate.

A scientific conference like our interim meeting might be an occasion to report from our research, but it is also a retreat from everyday duties to reflect on the position of our research in society. What is the role sociologists play in public debate? Should scientists be engaged in everyday discussions and politics? Should and can it be a central strategy for scientist to engage in the public field? Should scientists not rather 'make' science than politics? What is the value of the scientific sociological contribution? What are the methodological or theoretical foundations within sociology allowing us to inform and enhance public debate? Let me just present a few thoughts on that.

Max Weber made the famous distinction between being scientist and politician as a profession. Politicians are value driven and look at social problems from the point of view of their ideology. Scientists might also be value driven in their selection of themes, in the choice of the fields they are dealing with, but scientific work in itself should not be value driven. We have to analyse objectively. We had a century of discussion on that and we know that these "ideal types" do not reflect reality. The borders between science and politics have recently become more and more blurred. A symbol for this in social science is: the expert. This discussion is not new and has been accompanying sociological research for decades.

Robert S. Lynd, who conducted the monumental study of "Middletown" with his wife Helen, feared a polarisation between the sociologist as a scholar and as a technician. He wrote in his essay "Knowledge for What" in 1939: "Actually they (scholar and technician) tend to pull apart, the scholar becoming remote from and even disregarding immediate relevancies, and the technician too often accepting the definition of his problems too narrowly in terms of the emphases of the institutional environment of the moment" (p 1). His essay reflects on the status a sociologist should have and how sociology can contribute to American culture. His fear was primarily about loosing the relation to reality. The scholar retreats to the ivory tower of the university to be completely absorbed with questions of science far from practical issues. Lynd quotes a line of W. H. Auden to characterize this tendency: "Lecturing on navigation while the ship is going down".

In my opinion social sciences in the last decades and especially family sociology might have a problem which is just the opposite: repairing the ship, not knowing if it needs repair at all and what kind of repair. We sometimes are trying to

solve social problems not having them properly defined. Is the importance of family really declining? What does “declining” mean? What image and definition of family is behind this argument? From what standpoint, from what ideology do we interpret a phenomenon as one which needs repair? In scientific terms: in many cases we lack theory more than data. We are looking very specifically on the narrow range of the actual problem not seeing the historical structure it is embedded in.

About twenty years after Lynd, Charles Wright Mills wrote his book on *Sociological Imagination* (1959). He distinguished three types of researchers who can contribute to the discussion on the role of family sociology in the contemporary public debate.

He speaks of the social scientist as a man (he did not speak of women at that time) of knowledge, second as an advisor to the king and third as an independent researcher (p178ff).

The man and the woman of knowledge concentrate on truth and facts. This is not a-political. Looking for truth is a political statement. He writes “In a world of widely communicated nonsense, any statement of fact is of political and moral significance.” p178. While this is probably the central understanding of being a scientist, another form has emerged and is prevalent now. The role of the advisor to the king. This role is very difficult to perform nevertheless Mills saw in it the most usual role at his time.

It seems to me that nearly nothing has changed since then. This role emulates in the figure of the social science expert nowadays. I would say that at least in the United States and in Europe this was the central role of social scientists. Politics is making bureaucratic uses of social scientists, asking them to gather data, to collect tremendous amount of data.

Mills is in favour of a third type which overlaps the other two. It is the independent researcher who is committed to the value of reason and of truth, does his own work, selects his own problems and directs his work “at kings and to ‘publics”” (p181). Of course this is the person Charles Wright Mills always wanted to be and how he worked. It is difficult to say, in what way or if at all one can do research like this any more. Are the central issues and questions we are looking at not much more imposed by outside research foci of big funding organisations or by present day discussions rather than by our own interests and necessities which come from a long term sociological perspective? Perhaps today it is less the selection of themes, but rather the intention we put in our research which makes up the independent researcher. We need research institutions, especially universities which allow us to play this independent role.

In a world which is full of such social problems the politicians have constructed, economy has produced, technological progress and digitalisation have caused and science has promoted, we should more and more reflect on the processes which underlie these problems, on the strategies which lead to these problems, on the principles and mechanisms which are the fundamental elements of the problems.

This is not only a question for general sociology but for family sociology as well. In the family as a social phenomenon the public dimension coincides with the private one. Family sociology combines micro and macro aspects. It looks at biographies, at the private world in its interaction with society as such, with the economic and political, more over with geographical, ecological and biological environment. So in family sociology we as scientists have the potential of being men and women of knowledge, but we face also the danger of being advisors to the king rather than playing the role of independent researchers.

This has also structural reason. Research money comes for data gathering, politicians are interested in expertise and the public is generally very sceptical against letting scientist work, getting them money and not controlling them. Nevertheless it will be a challenge in the future to discuss which conditions are necessary so that independent researchers can fruitfully contribute to social development.

I am looking forward to how private troubles and public issues comprising social problems are dealt with in our sociological research on family. Let me finish with the last line again from the book by Mills: "...the sociological imagination has its chance to make a difference in the quality of human life in our time."

Family sociology has it especially.

Lasell College, Newton MA

20th May, 2008

Rudolf Richter

2. Honorary President's Column

Our international seminars are excellent fora for meeting nice colleagues and also for the official purpose of presenting ideas, have them discussed by friendly colleagues, listen to presentations and discussing them. The presentations and the discussions are all supposed to be based upon good scientific knowledge and practice.

It happens that some presentations are just of scientifically bad quality – that does not happen very often, but often enough. What should other participants do? Sit there listening without reacting? That happens very often. I guess that the silence is based upon various conscious or unconscious reasoning. One could be that the presentation is so embarrassing that some feel ashamed at being present and that they have not expected such low quality of scientific practice in our circles. Another could be that some of us are too polite to be nasty enough to criticize and discuss what is presented. A third possibility is that some believe that they have misunderstood what has been presented since "such strange things can be said and meant".

Not reacting explicitly is on the other side also bad scientific behaviour since seminars are aimed at supporting each other. Therefore we should be more ready to criticize and discuss. We do not have to – and we even shouldn't – criticize in a negative tone or aggressively. But to the point and nicely. After all we are each others' mentors and tutors. (I know that I myself sometimes, some say often, sound very aggressive in such situations. The way I see it I just sound that way by speaking loudly. Usually I do not at all intend to be seen as aggressive.)

I look forward to the next seminar and to more open discussions. And hopefully there will be time for discussions.

JT

jan.trost@soc.uu.se

3. From the Secretary

I would like to start by congratulating Tessa le Roux and Mark Sciegaj for organising a stimulating CFR conference at Lasell College, Boston, USA! I am sure that all participants, who attended the conference in May this year, will agree with me that the conference was not only a memorable one because of its high academic quality, but also for the fact that we all felt so welcome at their institution.

We are already looking forward to our second interim CFR-conference for 2008 which will be held this coming September at the Institute of Social and Political Sciences of the Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal. We would like to thank Fausto Amaro and Bárbara Neves for all their hard work in organising this conference.

Allow me, once again, to bring a few important matters under your attention:

Please be so kind as to inform me if any of your contact details have changed. You are welcome to send me an email, using the following address: rsmit@uj.ac.za

In the event that your CFR-membership fees are due, we would appreciate it if you would consider renewing your membership by paying the CFR (RC06) membership fee via the ISA's website with your credit card. (This is the easiest and cheapest way). The membership fee is US\$40 (or US\$10 if you are a student) for a four year membership. The following website address will take you to RC06's (CFR) page on the ISA's website: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc06.htm>

Scroll down to "Membership" and click on <https://secured.com/~f3641/formisa.htm>

This is the ISA's 'Individual Membership Form'. Section two of the form deals with affiliation to research committees, working groups and thematic groups. The Committee on Family Research (RC06) is listed at number 6. Once you have provided all the relevant detail, you can submit the form online by clicking on the button labelled "Submit form to ISA".

Once you have renewed your membership on the ISA website, we would appreciate it if you could send me an email informing me of the payment. This will help us to keep our records up to date and to cross check the membership information sent to us by the ISA. Please contact me if you require alternative payment options.

Kind regards
Ria Smit

4. Journal of Comparative Family Studies

A Proposal for the Journal of Comparative Family Studies in association with the Committee on Family Research

The Journal of Comparative Family Studies is probably the only publication primarily devoted to publishing articles based on cross-cultural family studies since 1970. Until now we have been publishing four issues per year including a Special Issue based on a selected theme.

As far as I know, a significant number of the members of CFL have published articles in this journal and some have been editors of Special Issues. My discussions with members of the Board of CFR gave me the impression that it may be a good idea to have a long-term association with CFR in the future.

In the last few years we have been publishing Special Issues from selected papers based on the themes of CFR seminars. I would like to continue publishing the CFR Special Issues. We also publish other Special Issues edited by other Guest Editors.

Commencing January 1, 2009, there will be five issues with the annual subscription rate for institutions at \$400 per year, or \$750 for two years. Institutional subscriptions for libraries, includes printed copies as well as online. For individuals the subscription rate will be \$170 for one year, or \$300 for two years. This subscription is only for the printed copies. For access to online, institutional subscriptions by the libraries are essential.

To formalize the association with CFR I hope that all members will be subscribers of the Journal. I also hope, the Journal of Comparative Family Studies could be considered as the official publication of CFR. For the active, paid-members of CFR, we would like to suggest \$100 per year for five issues of printed copies only. For access to online, please encourage their own university libraries to have an institutional subscription.

At the May, 2008 conference in Boston, there was a discussion about granting scholarships to qualified graduate students. It seems there was no proposal about funds for scholarships. If all members of CFR were Journal subscribers it will be possible to finance one, or perhaps two, annual scholarships depending on the amount for each scholarship.

As regards the future of the Journal I cannot continue for long as the Editor. Therefore, after some inquiries with the useful recommendations of the Board members of CFR, Dr. James M. White, Professor of Sociology at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, has kindly accepted my invitation to be the Editor for an initial three year period commencing in January, 2009. I will continue as the Managing Editor and will be responsible for the administration of the Journal office, which I hope will continue to be located at the University of Calgary. The Dean of Social Science, Dr. Kevin McQuillan, who himself is a Sociologist with interest in the Sociology of the Family, is very supportive of the future of the Journal at the University. I am in the process of discussion with the University of Calgary about the future administration of the Journal whenever I decide to give up all the responsibilities.

I hope members of the CFR will be supportive of my proposal.

Dr. George Kurian,
Founder Editor
Journal of Comparative Family Studies

5. Upcoming Interim Conference (2009)

5.1

Joint meeting of the 17th Annual Parent Education Conference (PEC) and

International Sociological Association's Committee on Family Research Conference (CFRC)

University of North Texas
Denton, Texas, USA
February 12-14, 2009

Mission:

Bring together regional, national, and international scholars who focus on parent education and parenting. Professionals and students from all disciplines are welcome to participate. Participants will include practitioners, researchers, and policy makers.

For CFRC, session and paper proposals dealing with parent education and research on parenting are welcome. Themes include but are not limited to: Parenting preparation; Training programs; Impact of family policy; Challenges of combining paid work and family work; Parenting styles; Gender, social class, ethnic/race, and cultural differences; and Changing family structures.

Schedule (Subject to Change):

- Deadline for submission of session proposals: *June 1, 2008*
 - Subject line of e-mailed submission must include: CFRC PROPOSAL.
 - Email must include Full Name, Highest Degree Held, Current Position and Institution, Mailing addresses, and Phone & Fax numbers.
- Deadline for submission of abstract for paper proposals: *August 1, 2008*
- Decisions announced on acceptance of abstracts: *December 1, 2008*
- Submission of full papers: *January 15, 2009*

Contact Us with Questions:

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5.2

“FAMILIES AND MEMORIES”

Call for papers

Families and Memories

The CFR seminar 2009 will be held in Oslo, Norway with the theme *Families and Memories* June 15-17, 2009. The seminar is a co-arrangement between Oslo University College and the Center for Studies of Holocaust and Religious Minorities

(HL-center) and will take place at Villa Grande on the Bygdøy peninsula – the museum area in Oslo. Villa Grande which now hosts the HL-center was the perpetrator Vidkun Quisling's private estate during the war.

Families construct memories as well as memories constitute families. Each family member creates different stories and biographical narratives. At the same time these stories are related to each other and there is a collectiveness in the memory-making within a family. Memories are crucial both for the development of individual and collective identities, and they are framed by discourses such as national master narratives.

Memories are centered around events experienced from birth to death. The memory is how the person experiences and interpretes the events. It can be either shared by other family members or kept secret from others. Memories are reproduced by language and symbolic actions for instance rituals. Some are constituted around traumatic experiences, others are more related to everyday life.

The memory making happens within social norms. Social norms regulate the person's definition of the situation and behavior. What is being talked about as well as being silenced are connected to these definitions of situations and the social norms. How are processes of memory-making intialized, negotiated and continued, both on macro- and micro level. There will also be a special session on qualitative methodology.

Deadline for abstracts: October 1. 2008

Deadline for papers: May 1. 2009

Local organizer:

Irene Levin

irene.levin@sam.hio.no

Tel: + 47 22453517 or 47 99228325

6. 45th Interim CFR Conference: ***“Aging: Families and Households in Global Perspective”*** ***Lasell College, Boston, USA (May 19-23, 2008)***

Abstracts of Papers (Ranked by last name of the 1st author)

Merril Silverstein, Professor of Gerontology and Sociology. Family and Intergenerational Relations, University of Southern California

Keynote Paper: Aging Families in Context and as Context: The Macro-Micro Connection

Fahad Al Naser, Kuwait University, Kuwait

Aging: Sociological Perspective

The UN Statistics showed that there is dramatic increase of group age 60 + in 2025 they will reach 1.100 billion and even age group 80 will be increased. There is more awareness about aging not only biologically but also psycho – sociologically aged people think and feel that there is no need for them anymore within their societies. Societies have to look after them to fulfill their basic needs. It is not only material or

medical needs but also a social and psychological need. In other words aging lacks socialization as a period in the life span which is the last period, no doubts that the feeling of social security and happiness will be reflected on the security of the rest of the individual life. The aged people as a power, society should invest in them. My paper will shed a light on the socio- psychological need for the aged as group and how we can utilized them from different perspective. Also the paper will shed light on the philosophy of aged people care and it will include recommendation.

Fausto Amaro and Bárbara Barbosa Neves, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal

Aging, Family Network and Information Society

Currently, two trends can be clearly observed in the Portuguese society, aging and ICTs advance and its wide influence in every day life. Therefore, several questions and challenges related with aging and the families emerge in the present Information and Knowledge Society. This paper focuses on the role of ICTs in the improvement of quality of life and family network, addressing some common ideas such as: elders are lower internet and ICTs users. The discussion is based on the findings of an empirical research, namely through data drawn from a random sample of 300 people over 65 living in Lisbon, Portugal.

Jo Barnes, University of Waikato, New Zealand

Lesley Macdonald, Waikato Institute of Technology

A. Dharmalingam

Family related considerations in the decision to work or retire – a New Zealand study.

Semi-structured face to face interviews were undertaken with a sample of men and women, working and retired, aged 50-69 regarding the factors they take into consideration about retirement. The research findings indicated that there was a strong sense of commitment to caring for parents and simultaneously an active engagement in the care of grandchildren by respondents. However, the economic realities of the past two decades require that they continue to contribute to the family income. This was particularly evident for the women in the survey. This paper discusses these issues and their role in the decision by respondents to retire or remain in the workforce beyond the conventional retirement age.

Mercedes Blanco, CIESAS (Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social)

Edith Pacheco, El Colegio de México, México

The Work-Family Link: Comparative Analysis of Two Generations of Mexican Women (1936-1938 and 1951-1953).

The work-family link is now an essential topic in the discussion of women's work status and also in the phenomenon of retirement. In this paper the general objective is to analyze the interrelationship between family and work from a longitudinal approach with the aim of presenting the process women have undergone over time. In order to achieve this, the problem has been inscribed within the life course approach that rejects homogeneity and temporal linearity and assumes a multidimensional conception of time. Using mainly one of the methodological tools included in the life course perspective --the trajectory -- the analysis approaches the work-family dyad by examining the way the various life trajectories that make up the

life course of women's lives are interrelated and coexist. The aim is to describe the links between certain basic life trajectories (school, work, marital and reproductive) in shaping the life course of middle-class Mexican women comparing two birth cohorts. The universe of reference consists of a group of middle-class urban women for two age cohorts: 1936-1938 and 1951-1953. The source of information is the Retrospective Demographic Survey taken by the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics in 1998. This survey follows up the life histories of men and women, focusing on four main aspects: labor, migration, reproductive and marital trajectories.

Ahuva Even-Zohar, Ariel University Center of Samaria, Israel

Prof. Shlomo Sharlin, University of Haifa

Grandchildhood - Adult grandchildren's perception of their role towards their grandparents from an intergenerational perspective

The study focuses on adult grandchildren's perception of their role towards their grandparents according to the perspectives of both generations, the grandchildren and the grandparents. This study proposes a definition of the role of the adult grandchild, including the expectations, and obligations deriving from the role. The main theories, that provide the conceptual framework for this study are: the Symbolic Interaction Theory, the Exchange Theory and the Intergenerational Solidarity Model. The sample included 216 pairs of adult grandchildren (average age: 24.9) and their grandparents (average age: 78.3), Jewish residents in Israel, who responded to closed questionnaires. The main findings of the research demonstrate that role perception of the adult grandchild is shaped by means of intergenerational transfer and by internalizing norms and behavior patterns of parents. Grandchildren definitely possess a perception of filial obligation and responsibility toward grandparents and in fact they express more positive opinions than the grandparent regarding this responsibility. An additional innovative contribution of the examination of role performance by grandchildren in practice. The study shows that adult grandchildren are an integral part of the grandparents total support network.

Klaus Haberkern, Corinne Igel and Martina Brandt University of Zurich, Switzerland

Intergenerational Help in Europe. The Role of the Family and the State

Intergenerational solidarity within families is a flourishing field of research. However, there are still significant research gaps in regard to comparisons between various forms of support and between different countries. Our talk therefore deals with differences between the provision of practical help (in the household), elderly care (during illness or infirmity) and childcare (grandparenting) in European countries. Substantial differences between these types of support also exist at the country level. Using multilevel models, country-specific peculiarities can be traced back directly to various cultural and structural factors, such as social services and state expenditures for families. Our analyses, based on the 'Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe' (SHARE), show first, that intergenerational help (in regard to old parents and to adult children) and care depend on differing conditions on the personal, dyadic, familial and country level. Second, we find that while welfare state expenditures crowd in sporadic support, frequent and time intensive support is crowded out. The findings suggest, that welfare state institutions specialise on time-

consuming and regular support as daily childcare and long-term care, whereas the family takes over more sporadic forms of help and care.

Carol D. H. Harvey and Rachel Eni, University of Manitoba, Canada
Qualitative Investigation of the “Skipped Generation”: Aboriginal Grandmothers with Parenting Responsibilities in Manitoba, Canada

Aboriginal grandmothers who have parenting responsibilities were studied. Previous research has shown that “skipped generation” households are over-represented among Canadian Aboriginal families compared to other families (Fuller-Thomson, 2005). Data for the present study were collected in 2007 in 16 First Nations communities in Manitoba. Open-ended semi-structured in-person interviews were conducted in maternal-child centers that provide programs for developmental health for children and their parents (prenatal to age 6). Of the 100 people interviewed, we selected 10 grandmothers with parenting responsibilities for in-depth qualitative analysis. An ecosystem model was applied. Results showed grandmothers had the following difficulties: Access to resources was limited since they were not legal guardians of their grandchildren, generations living together (with grandchildren) was a solution for child safety, poverty and overcrowded housing were obstacles, food was expensive in remote areas, and grandmothers worried about vehicles and road safety. Implications for public policy are examined.

Barbara E. James, University of North Carolina @ Chapel Hill, USA.
Shortage of Geriatricians: Who Will Fill the Gap: What Will Ensure Adequate Health Care for the Elderly In USA?

In the USA persons 65 years of age and older will soon represent 1/5 of the population which will be the largest proportion of older persons in that nation's history. The nation's health care system will face an unprecedented strain for which it is ill-prepared. There are fewer than 9,000 certified geriatricians (Family Practice and Internal Medicine physicians with specialized fellowship training focusing on the complex health problems that aging inevitably bring). Of the approximately 98,000 residency and fellowship training slots in US hospitals and medical schools only 324 are in the area of geriatric medicine or geriatric psychiatry. Issues discussed in this paper: 1. Need for more geriatric training in schools of medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, and public health. 2. How inadequate medical care for the elderly affects not only the patient but their family, community and nation economically, socially and psychologically. 3. Needed policy changes in order for more geriatricians to train and adequately compensate for the care they give.

Hugo Kanya , Simmons College, Boston, USA
Women Domestic Violence, HIV/AIDS and Human Rights

The HIV/AIDS populations has grown and changed considerably over the past 20 years all over the world. In Africa, devastating effects can be traced with various populations including women and children. The status of women, especially older women poses serious considerations for practitioners, educators, researchers and policymakers. This presentation explores the challenges that face women, especially older women in their struggle to combat HIV/AIDS. It proposes a link between violence and HIV/AIDS and advocates for education with political and economic rights for women within the African context.

Ruth Katz, Nurit Gur-Yaish and Ariela Lowenstein, University of Haifa, Israel
Three motivations of adult children to provide help to their elderly parents –
A cross-national comparison

This study explores the role of filial norms, intergenerational family relations and parental need for help in the amount of care provided to elderly parents, taking into account adult children's personal resources and cultural diversity. The study is on the basis of data collected in a cross-national project from 2064 respondents in four European countries and Israel. The quality of the relationships between parents and children was significant predictor of instrumental support and emotional support. The importance of affectual solidarity is also reflected in the finding that emotional support was the highest dimension of support given to elderly parents in all the countries examined. Filial norms did not influence the likelihood of providing help to elderly parents. Filial norms may be most salient for the quality and intensity of support or whether support is sustained over time. The cross-national comparison revealed both similarities and differences in caregiving domains and intergenerational family relations. The strongest predictor of amount of help was parents need for help. This was regardless of children's general value orientation or the quality of the relationships. In contrast to pessimistic theoretical thinking about the breakdown of family solidarity, our data suggest that children are there for their elderly parents when needed.

Daniela Klaus, Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany

Reasons to Support Old Parents: Findings from the German Study 'Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics' (PAIRFAM)

Population ageing is very apparent in Germany resulting from a high life expectancy accompanied by fertility below the replacement level. Currently, around one fifth of the population is older than 60 and this percentage is expected to increase to around one third in only 2050. The welfare system increasingly struggles to bear the vast demand for not only financial support of the retired but also their health provision, everyday care and maintenance as they become frail. Assuming intergenerational relationships as being of a high potential to contribute to individual's well-being, it is of interest to examine their adaptation to changing family structures due to the demographic changes as well as to the current retrenchment of the welfare provision. To what extent grown-up children are able and willing to provide for their parents in case of insufficient or even missing alternatives? Whereas many studies proved (female) children as being the main caregiver of their old parents, the motives for providing help and support are rather vague. Indeed, in literature three motives are discussed – filial responsibility, intimacy and reciprocity – but attempts to contrast them empirically are rare. The aim of the presentation is to contribute to a better understanding of the reasons to support parents. In preparation for a nation-wide Partnership and Family Panel in Germany, a pilot study was implemented in 2006. Using a subsample of around 1000 adult children of different birth cohorts, the extent of emotional, material and instrumental support given to their parents is investigated in dependence of indicators for emotional closeness, normative solidarity, and mutual exchange; controlled for a variety of variables characterizing the opportunity structure of the intergenerational relationship.

Blanche Le Bihan and Claude Martin, French School of Public Health, Rennes, France

Women in their 50s caring for an elderly parent and working: conciliation or pressure?

Our contribution focuses on intergenerational ties. A large part of recent academic literature insists on the importance of family ties as a support network, based on concrete and practical forms of solidarity. The discussion about conciliation between work and care is mainly centred on childcare and few researches have been devoted to women who are still on the labour market and care for an elderly parent. Yet, this issue is more and more central, because of the growing needs of elderly people, who receive important support from their family, and the hypothetic “care deficit” due to the transformations of family structures and of the labour market. To contribute to this discussion, we propose first a reflection on pressure as an element of the conciliation issue. The evolution of the labour market – working flexibility, situation of the senior workers – is a main component of this pressure. Second, we present the main issues of a qualitative comparative research centred on the points of view of the carers themselves, and the results in France which show the difficulties women have to face to combine work and elderly care.

Irene Levin, Centre for Holocaust Studies and Religious Minorities, Oslo, Norway
Aging and Memory

Often one thinks about old age as a period where one looks back at one’s life. The thinking about earlier experiences is a process (or processes) of picking up (drawing on) (trekke frem) memories where some have been talked about and some have not been talked about – being kept in silence for different reasons. When thinking back one wants to experience the event again – either it was “good” or “bad”. In the latter case perhaps by adding some comfort to the experience. However, one cannot experience the event as it was, but one will see it through the cultural and social situation of to day and this situation is changing all the time. One looks upon what happened and cannot do so without seeing it within the present context. The paper will draw on two case studies. Both cases are from the last World War in Norway. One woman who had written a book just after the war about her activities during the war and her arrest by the Gestapo officer Fehmer in Norway. Later, in 1970 and 1980, she was interviewed about these events. At that time she is understanding her activities differently than she first wrote about them. At time of the interviews she is seeing them as being done by an independent woman – the independent woman she later became. Her first writing about her war experiences shows her as a dependent housewife being arrested and unaware of what was going on. Later she sees herself more as a subject or agent in her own life. She changes her interpretation of herself and presents the earlier experiences as an assertive woman trying to cheat the Gestapo officer Fehmer by using her sex appeal. In the book written just after the war, she characterized herself as a “stupid young woman”. This change has nothing to do with dishonesty, but because as time goes on, she sees herself from the context of to day – of the woman she has become.

Susan A. McDaniel, University of Utah, USA

The 'Growing Legs' of Generation as a Policy Construct: Reviving its Family Meaning

Generation is a packed social concept with immense explanatory capacity and policy utility, yet a concept fraught with misunderstanding and underestimation in the aging policy, and family literatures. This paper has three objectives: 1) to explore generation as a socially useful explanatory concept; 2) to show how generation has been conceptualized theoretically and historically in ways useful today; and 3) to contemplate how policy debates can be illuminated by revival of the family meaning of generation. Generation as a family concept relies on inequality as a socially cohesive, positive notion, on relationality, on the dynamics of time and change. Transitions are expectable, not shocks, and ageing is a life course experience and stage, not a category or a group with special interests.

Sarah McLoughlin, University of Oxford, UK

Exploring the Impact of Retirement on Well-being in the European Union

The European Commission has identified the twin phenomena of population ageing and social exclusion among the elderly population as issues for concerted action by Member States. This paper explores the extent to which retirement impacts upon well-being, using harmonised data from the European Community Household Panel (ECHP). Well-being is conceptualised as being multidimensional and encompasses three domains: economic and material well-being, social interaction and cohesion, and mental and physical health. Respondents provided information on a number of contextual influences on their wellbeing, before and after retirement. Using one wave of the ECHP, this paper will take a sub-sample of the population aged 46 to 75 years, focusing on pre-retirement (work) and post-retirement. A number of factors may influence well-being and so factor analysis is used to explore whether any underlying dimensions can be found to answer how retirement impacts upon well-being. A cross-country comparison of well-being in pre and post-retirement will be presented using cross-sectional multivariate statistical methods. Countries which differ with respect to labour market and pension legislation and overall welfare provision, will be analysed to test whether there are any similar patterns of association across countries or if there are divergences.

Bernhard Nauck, Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany

Patterns of Exchange in Kinship Systems in Germany, Russia, and the People's Republic of China

The paper attempts to integrate two major theoretical approaches for the explanation of kinship relationships, namely the institutional approach of cultural anthropology and the interactionist approach of family sociology and social gerontology. It takes the institutional settings of kinship systems on the societal level into account and relates them to interactions within the kinship groups. These relations are formulated in two hypotheses: The lineage-hypothesis refers to the selection of kinship members for interaction relationships; the welfare-hypothesis refers to the selection with regard to the kind of relationship (functional solidarity and/or emotional solidarity). The empirical analysis is based on an approach suggested by Silverstein, Lawton & Bengtson (1994) for intergenerational relationships. This approach is extended to include the analysis of kinship relationships with mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, mothers-in-law, fathers-in-law,

sisters-in-law, and brothers-in-law. The empirical analysis is based on standardized interviews with mothers and grandmothers in Germany (N = 713), Russia (N = 649) and the People's Republic of China (N = 823), having been collected within the research project "Value of Children in Six Cultures". These three societies were chosen for the analysis of kinship relationships, because they differ systematically with regard to the institutional structure: Germany is neolocal-bilinear, Russia and China are traditionally patrilocal-patrilinear, but with different modernization pathways. Thus, it can be investigated whether these institutional conditions have an impact on kinship interaction. The empirical analysis comprises 10.173 kinship relationships in total. The typological description of the kinship relationships, based on the interaction dimensions "structural opportunities", "communication and emotional closeness" and "mutual help", already reveals significant differences in the importance and the reach of kinship relationships in these three societies. In a subsequent multi-variate multi-level regression analysis, the effects of "society", "position in the social structure", "individual attitudes", and "kinship structure" on "communication and emotional closeness" and "mutual help" are tested. This analysis reveals that the institutional structure of the kinship system has a much stronger effect on kinship relationships than socio-structural factors or individual family-related attitudes.

Sumana V. Pandey, Government Girls College, Dausa (Rajasthan) India
Grandparenthood and Intergenerational Relationships in Ageing Indian Population

We live in the ageing world. While this has been recognized for some time in developed countries, it is only recently that this phenomenon has been fully acknowledged. Only in the past few decades the attention of national societies and the world community has been drawn to the social, economic, political and scientific questions raised by the phenomenon of ageing on a massive scale. Previously, while individuals may have lived into advanced stages of life, their numbers and proportion in the total population were not high. The twentieth century, however has witnessed in many regions of the world the control of prenatal and infant mortality, a decline in birth rates, improvements in nutrition, basic health care and the control of many infectious diseases. This combination of factors has resulted in an increasing number and proportion of persons surviving into the advanced stages of life. This paper attempts to study the status and the role of elderly within the family and community institutions as a source of wisdom and knowledge, particularly to have an understanding of the intergenerational relationships in the Indian context. As the economic level of India is raising, fast urbanisation and modern technologies has eroded the familial support of the elderly. Indian society is experiencing many transitional changes. This study will try to find out the type of changes taking place within the family members and the relationship of the grandparent with the grandchild.

Archana Prakash, University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA
"Aging in Place" Among Senior Homeowners

This paper examines the process of aging in place among senior homeowners from three perspectives—psychological, sociological, and economic. Three major concepts—quality of life, social capital, and utility maximization—respectively were used to understand aging in place from each perspective. We found that place

attachment and social capital were the two most important forces that make aging in place an attractive option for senior homeowners. Finally, this paper proposes a unified conceptual model by synthesizing the three perspectives to better understand the process of aging in place among senior homeowners.

Mark Sciegaj, Lasell College, Boston, USA

The Importance of Social Supports on Health and Quality of Life Indicators Among Two Groups of Community Dwelling Grandparents Who are Primary Caregivers of their Grandchildren

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 1995 there were approximately 3.9 million children living in households maintained by a grandparent. This represented a 76 percent increase from the 2.2 million in 1970. Approximately 39 percent of children living in grandparent households live in the urban environments and 19 percent live in the northeastern United States. Existing research indicates these grandparents report increased stress over a lack of material means and personal resources, the ability to provide care for their grandchildren and concern over their own health. This paper reports on the experiences of two sets of grandparent caregivers in Boston Massachusetts. One group resides in specialized public housing with social supports for both the grandparent and grand child and the other group lives in the community without such supports.

Barbara H. Settles, Shawneila Pierre, Jia Zhao, Karen Mancini, and Amanda Rich, University of Delaware, USA

Rough Justice: The Search for Equity and Fairness in Intergenerational Family Exchanges in a Global Perspective.

Families are the safety net for society. They handle whatever problem there is no program or organizational response to solve in the larger society. Normative arrangements for exchange and transfer that have served families well for many generations are under considerable strain as demographic, medical and economic change has increased the length of time generations care for each other, the severity of problems that people are surviving, but continuing to need care, and the complexity of making long term plans in a globalization setting. This review and analysis will look cross culturally at both traditional arrangements and new expectations and strategies. Several case studies will be shared for discussion and to look at perceptions of equity and fairness intergenerationally and in differing legal and social settings.

Aysan Sev'er, University of Toronto, Canada

Is it Wife-Abuse that has Gone Old? Violence Against the Aged Family Members within an Ageing North-American Context

Now that baby-boomers as the largest bulge in the North American population are moving towards the retirement ages and beyond, the frequency of violence against the aged is also expected to rise since there will be more of them. How will this social problem play out in the North American society, whether the traditional factors for underreporting abuse of the aged will continue to silence the boomer population, or whether there will be more social awareness on the issue and more political resolve towards its resolution will require analysis.

Jean Ann Seward, Seniors in Motion, Inc. & JSCCS Corporation and **Susan Eve, Kim Mathis, M.S., and Rudy Ray Seward, Ph.D.**, University of North Texas, USA
Home Health Care and Fitness Program Benefiting Seniors and their Families: A Comprehensive Approach.

Better sanitation, hygiene, and medical advances had contributed to longer life expectancies. An increasing numbers of seniors have to deal with age related physical changes (senescence) and chronic diseases along with reduced informal support networks due to family changes. Seniors rely more on care from agencies outside family and friend networks, placing heavy burdens on minimally available public and private support services. One solution is comprehensive home health services and fitness programs that work with seniors and their families and friends to increase the quality of their lives. Quantitative and qualitative data from a home health therapies-providing agency and fitness center, whose staffs overlap, will be used to document the benefits of a comprehensive approach. Home health agencies have learned the need to include family members and friends in successful long-term health care program plus the need for intervening preventive measures. The fitness center provides such a measure. The goal is fitness through exercise, and wellness through education for seniors. The staff combines knowledge and experience in providing fitness services, physical and occupational therapy, medical social work, and dietary consultation, as well as related services to home health and hospice agencies, family practice clinics, long term care facilities, local hospitals, and private patients. Senior participants improve their health and quality of life, helping to reduce burgeoning health costs.

Rachel Aber Schlesinger, York University, Canada

Ben Schlesinger, University of Toronto, Canada

Elder abuse in Canada: Naming the Shame of What's Hidden at Home.

On 2006 Canada's seniors consisted of 4.3 million persons. This meant that one in seven persons in Canada today is older than 65 years of age. In some selected urban centers our seniors constitute between 20-41 % of the population. This group of older citizens is one of the fastest growing age groups in Canada. Our median age is increasing every year, and stands at 39.5 years in 2006. Canada is 6th among 68 countries in proportion of seniors. Issues of aging well, in the family and society concern us. We present a review of research and programs related to elder abuse in Canada, with an emphasis on family issues. We examine elder abuse for the period of 2000-2006. Our review summarizes national, provincial and local studies. It covers financial, physical, emotional and sexual abuse of Canada's seniors. The multi-cultural issues of elder abuse are part of this presentation. The paper concludes with comments on prevention and interventions among intergenerational families. We make some suggestions for the reduction of elder abuse in family life.

Bahira Sherif Trask, Bethany Willis Hepp, and Barbara Settles, University of Delaware, USA

Culturally Diverse Elders and their Families: Implications for Research and Practice

This paper will examine the implications of the rapid increase in racial and ethnic diversity among the older population in the United States. Racial and ethnic minority populations are projected to represent 25.4% of the elderly population by 2030, up

from 16.4% in 2000. Between 1999 and 2030, whites 65+ are projected to increase by 81% compared with 219% for older minorities, including Hispanics (328%), African-Americans (131%), American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts (147%) and Asians and Pacific Islanders (285%) (www.aoa.gov/minorityaccess). Demographic trends associated with poverty are another area that also requires attention. In 2000, approx. 3.4 million elderly people (10.2%) were below the poverty level. Another 2.2 million or 6.7% of those 65+ were classified as “near-poor”. While most research focuses specifically on middle class elders, these statistics indicate that researchers and practitioners need to account for elders with limited resources in their work. This paper will review some of the most important trends with respect to changing demographics among the elderly. It will then focus on the importance of accounting for these trends in research and service provision. The discussion will address the complexities of defining cultural diversity given globalizing trends that often link individuals and families to home societies in little understood ways that influence cross family and intergenerational relations. The paper will also highlight the fact that the demographic changes that are currently taking place need to be addressed from an individual, family, and system perspective. Recognizing disparities among elders, as well as incorporating cultural competence into research and services to the elderly and their families, promises to be a critical component of future scholarship.

Ria Smit, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Aging Well in South Africa: Intergenerational Ties and the Perceived Quality of Life of the Elderly

During the past decade or two there has been a growing interest in South Africa regarding the way in which the quality of human life can be enhanced. Yet, few studies have researched the quality of life and well-being of the elderly in this country, who, on the one hand, have to adapt to a multitude of changes and challenges associated with growing older, and, on the other hand, are living in a society characterised by profound chronic stressors, such as poverty, crime and HIV/AIDS. This paper focuses on findings from a study done in South Africa, which aimed to shed light on the perceptions and experiences of individuals over the age of 65 with regard to (a) their subjective quality of life, (b) their level of personal resilience and (c) the quality of intergenerational relationships. Special reference is made to the relationship between the perceived quality of life of the elderly and intergenerational solidarity. With respect to elderly parents and their adult children and grandchildren, three broad characteristics of intergenerational solidarity received attention, i.e. (i) the frequency and quality of contact, (ii) the level of affinity and (iii) the giving and receiving of assistance.

Maximiliane E. Szinovacz, Jill E. Neagle, and Archana Prakash, University of Massachusetts and **Adam Davey**, Temple University, USA

Fluctuations in Family Caregiver Networks over Time

Demographic trends may significantly alter the family care networks of frail elders in the future. When the large baby boom cohorts will reach old age in the next decades demand for care will increase dramatically. However, their potential caregivers come from relatively low fertility cohorts that are also characterized by relatively high divorce rates. Lower fertility decreases the availability of adult child caregivers and high divorce rates the availability of spouse caregivers. Past

research on caregiving, focusing on primary caregivers and based on cross-sectional and often small non-representative samples, can provide little insight into the impact of these demographic changes on future care needs. Using an alternative approach, we explore fluctuations in caregiver networks (specifically in care provided by adult children) over a two-year period with data from the US nationally representative Health and Retirement Study. Our as yet preliminary analyses compare adult children who started, stopped, continued care or provided no care during this period (N=1545 care occasions). The data indicate that fluctuations in care are quite common and are linked to cultural mandates (e.g., women provide more continuous care than men), other care obligations (e.g., adult children involved in grandchild care tend to be more involved in care initially but may drop out of the care network later on), care network characteristics (e.g., adult children in mixed-gender care networks are more prone to participate initially in caregiving), or attributes of the care recipient parents (e.g., adult children provide more continuous care to parents who cannot be left alone). We will further explore whether such fluctuations in care predict use of formal care or nursing home placement.

Jan Trost, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

Old Age and New Marriage Patterns

After non-marital cohabitation came several decades ago, the remarriage rate started decreasing, which means that it also followed the first marriage rate. The marriage rate decreased for all ages. The changes were more or less parallel. During the last decade more and more couples where both are older than about 65 years of age are marrying in some countries in Europe. In my presentation I will show data from Scandinavian countries during later years and discuss these changes in order to reach a better understanding of the change. My theoretical background will be from an interactionist perspective. There are many possibilities for an understanding of these changes: there are more persons of these ages than previously, more are in good or fairly good physical and mental condition, norms have been changing about visibility of emotions, just to mention some examples.

Maggie Walter, Natalie Jackson, and Bruce Felmingham, University of Tasmania, Australia

Will Older Workers Heed Government Calls And Remain in the Workforce for Longer?

As in other western industrialised countries the proportion of older Australians is rising alongside a decline in the proportion of younger Australians. This structural ageing has significant labour market and population dependency ratio implications. In response Australian governments have recently introduced a range of policy 'carrots' to persuade older workers to abandon early retirement and/or remain in the workforce past traditional retirement ages. Such policies include: the payment of an Age Pension bonus to eligible older workers who defer applying for the Age Pension; allowing older workers aged 55 years and older to access superannuation monies if they are working less than full-time; simplifying the superannuation and taxation system; and most recently, the removal of tax on superannuation payments for workers retiring after the age of 60. While such policies offer direct financial incentives for extending labour market engagement, the key question is whether or not older Australian workers will be prepared to change their retirement plans in

response to such policy encouragement. This paper answer this question by presenting the results of the Australian Survey of Retirement Attitudes and Motivations (ASRAM), a recently completed, nationally representative survey old Australian workers aged 40 – 59 years.

Chin-chun Yi, Academia Sinica, Taiwan and

Ru-pin Lin, National Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan

Types of Relations between Adult Children and Elderly Parents in Taiwan: Mechanisms Accounted for Various Relational Types

With rapid social changes, family structure and family function have experienced drastic changes. In Taiwan, as a traditional paternal society by cultural heritage, research focus has emphasized the changing intergenerational relation between adult children and elderly parents, especially with regard to family values held and specific exchanges occurred. From different surveys, it is shown that although approximately 1/3 of Taiwanese household are three-generational families (from the perspective of elderly age 65 and above, the proportion is as high as 60%), the preference of co-residence in the future has been steadily declining. It will be interesting to examine the intergenerational exchanges among non-co-resident families on the relational types derived as well as on the exchange patterns revealed. Findings will shed light on the future intergenerational relations in a paternal society like Taiwan. For this study, data are taken from the 2006 Taiwan Social Change Survey (Phase 5 Wave 2). Samples are constituted by 756 adults with at least one parent alive but are not co-residing at the time of the survey. The intergenerational solidarity model proposed by Bengtson is used as the theoretical framework and indicators such as frequency of contact, money exchanges and housework help (receive and give) between adult and elderly parents, emotional closeness as well as normative attitudes are measured. Using Latent Class Analysis, five similar types of relations are derived with normative types being the highest (49%), followed by detached (17.7%) and tight-knit (16.9%), and sociable (10%), intimate but distant (6%) to be the least. In order to delineate possible factors accounted for different relational types, the Multinomial Logistic Regression was performed and preliminary results indicate that socio-demographic variables are important in explaining the variation. Compared with the tight-knit type, geographic distance and age of parents are found to significantly affect other relational types. The possible association between different types of relations and actual exchanges between adult and parents are further analyzed.

7. Recent Publications by CFR Members

- Seward, R. R. & Richter, R. 2008. "International Research on Fathering: An Expanding Horizon." Special Issue of *Fathering: A Journal of Theory, Research, and Practice about Men as Fathers*, 6(2).
- Tepperman, L. 2009. *Betting Their Lives: The Close Relations of Problem Gamblers*. Toronto: Oxford University Press (Canada).

- Tepperman, L. & Simpson, R. In Press. *Cash Cow: The Gambling Problem in Canada*. Toronto: Oxford University Press (Canada).
- Sev'er, A. & Tepperman, L. 2007. Health in Families, Healthy Families: Gendered Explorations. Special issue of *Women's Health & Urban Life: An International and Interdisciplinary Journal*, 6(2).

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