



**Committee on Family Research  
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(ISA)**

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## 1. PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Toronto conference in May brought to us various global aspects of the connection between health and families. Some of us were sceptical as health issues looked to be somehow more in the centre than family issues and some anticipated from a tight schedule a huge conference for our committee with little possibility of social contacts. They were wrong. The conference in Toronto turned out to be a most inspiring enterprise, especially due to the interdisciplinary approach it took. People dealing scientifically in health issues found many problems in common with our family sociologists and vice versa. We would like to thank the organizers Lorne Tepperman, who first promoted the idea and realized it in Toronto, and Aysan Sev'er who did a wonderful job in organizing and bringing the people together.

I learned something of the new world this time too. One or the other colleague from the United States could not participate because they found out they had no passport or no valid one – as US citizens now need to show their passports when entering Canada. New borders are erected.

In 2008 we will have two conferences, one on ageing in May in Boston and one on family forms in September in Lisbon.

At the business meeting in Toronto Rudy Seward, who could not be present, prepared for us an outline of a possible young scholar's award, with 'young' meaning also 'new' in the scientific field. We hope we can proceed in this within the next month.

Our website <http://www.soz.univie.ac.at/rc06/> was relaunched. It is based on the same structure as the old one. The navigation bar on the left shows the main indexes of the site. The website contains the names of the board members, statues, list of members with contact information (access only for members: still under construction, disposability is foreseen for July), actual announcements (e.g. conferences), abstracts of the conferences, published gazettes and the history of CFR. A link to pictures and publications will be provided too (these sides are still under construction).

Hope to see a lot of our members in Boston and Lisbon next year.

Rudolf Richter

## 2. HONORARY PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Before non-marital cohabitation came to our cultures norms were, at least officially, very strong against any visible love relationships between adults. Young people could and should show their interest to each other. But older persons should not.

Non-marital cohabitation broke the old norm which made the four elements strictly connected: the marital ceremony should come just hours before the two were allowed to move in together and they should not have sex together before that moment. The fourth element normatively connected was the expectation of a child to be born about a month after the marriage.

When non-marital cohabitation had become a social institution LAT relationships came and after a while also became a social institution. Had non-marital cohabitation not come, LAT relationships would probably neither have come as a social institution to be recognized at the end of the 1980s and in the beginning in the 1990s. In some countries this took a couple of decades and in other countries somewhat longer a time.

Besides the breaking of the normative elements so closely connected these changes also means that now there was more of a permission to show affection openly. The non-marital cohabitants started by living together which clearly meant that they showed the sign of having sexual relations. Even if pre-marital sex among couples in love was common before the changes they were still clandestine, especially if they were made apparent by a pregnancy. Non-marital cohabitation changed all that. Couples living in LAT relationships also clearly show affection. Is this relatively more openness of showing affection visible in other respects, too?

Sadly there is no good data on couple formation, going steady and cohabiting or LAT relationships. Therefore we have to be satisfied with marital statistics. I have checked official statistics in Sweden on marriages or "family formation" (as it still can be seen to be called) among older people. If we look at marriages among people aged 60 and over where both are of that age we find that there is a remarkable increase from 1990 to 2000 from 243 to 326, an increase with 34 per cent. In 2005 the number was 703; an increase from 1990 with 189 per cent. If we would compare 2000 with 2005 we would find an increase with 116 per cent.

Since these figures are not from any sample but based upon population data there is no meaning to speak about statistical significance. However, there could be factors of chance that could influence these figures. At the same time

the tendencies are so strong that I can hardly believe that so could be the case to any significant degree.

The norms were endogamous norms clear for women to the effect that they should not engage in emotional relationships with much younger men. Therefore, another indicator of the change toward more openness would be if older women nowadays marry younger men to higher an extent than previously. If we look at women 60 and above who marry men five or more years younger than themselves we find that in 1990 there were 29 marriages of that kind, ten years later the figure was 35 couples marrying – an increase with 21 per cent. In 2005 the number was 74 – an increase from 1990 with 155 per cent. And if we compare 2005 with 2000 we find an increase with 111 per cent. During these years the marriage rates have not changed much and thus there is no over all trend of increasing marriage rates.

My understanding to these changes is, as shown above, connected to a prohibiting norm system that has changed from the idea that older persons should not show affection toward each other. An example is that we nowadays can see many elderly couples walking hand-in-hand with each other – which we did not see some decades ago.

It might be worthwhile to notice that the younger generation was those fighting for the right to live together, for non-marital cohabitation, when the struggle went on. These were mainly those who belonged to the baby-boom in the 1940s. They fought for free love, for women to be equal to men, etc. They now belong to the category of 60+. Can it be so that they now have stabilized to the effect that they want more committed relationships than they fought for in their youth?

Another possible way to understand these changes could be that we now live longer and healthier and that mass media advocates for respect for elderly and their love life. The word ageism has come and shows a tendency in the same direction. Are these tendencies related? They might be.

Are the tendencies the same elsewhere?

JT

### **3. FROM THE SECRETARY**

I would like to start by congratulating Lorne Tepperman and Aysan Sev'er for organising a stimulating CFR conference at the University of Toronto! I am sure that all participants, who attended the conference in May this year, will agree with me that the conference in Toronto 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.

Allow me 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](mailto: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.

- Our next interim CFR-conference will take place May, 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008 at Lasell College, Boston, USA. For more details regarding the call for papers, read the section on page 32 of the edition of the CFR Gazette.

- A copy of the minutes of the CFR business meeting, held in Toronto on May 10, 2007 is available on the CFR website.

Kind regards

Ria Smit

#### **4. 44<sup>TH</sup> INTERIM CFR CONFERENCE: TORONTO, CANADA MAY 8 TO 11, 2007**

##### **Abstracts of Papers (Ranked by last name of the 1<sup>st</sup> author)**

**Arun Kumar Acharya**

**Sexual Violence & Associated Risks: A Study on Trafficked Women in Mexico City**

Trafficking is an integral part of the social and economic fabric in Mexico as in other parts of the world. This practice causes intolerable degradation and suffering for the girls and young women involved, who are treated as a commodity. This

process results in risks to their physical and mental health and in particular to their sexual health, which I have tried to explore in this research. Sixty trafficked women currently working as commercial sex workers were interviewed with a semi-structured questionnaire and 13 in-depth interviews were conducted in La Merced red-light area of Mexico City.

**Adebola A. Adedimeji**

### **HIV Risk Perception & Constraints to Protective Behaviour Among Young Urban Slum Dwellers in Ibadan, Nigeria**

This study examined the relationship between HIV/AIDS risk perception and protective behaviour among sexually-active urban young slum dwellers in Ibadan, Nigeria. The multi-stage sampling techniques were used for selecting 1,600 respondents aged 15-24 years. Of these, 1,042 (65%) respondents who reported unprotected sex in the last three months were selected for analysis. Although the sexually-active respondents demonstrated basic knowledge of HIV/AIDS and high risk perception, risky behaviour was common, while protective behaviour was not. About 48% of 505 males and 12% of 537 females had multiple partners. Similarly, 29% of males and 38% of females were engaged in transactional sex. Only 14% of males and 5% of females used any form of protection, resulting in high rates of sexually transmitted infections. Structural and environmental constraints were identified as barriers to adopting protective behaviour.

**Rukhsana Ahmed & Benjamin R. Bates**

### **Cultural Competence & Gendered Experiences of Health Care**

Cultural competence is the adaptation towards understanding of cultural differences and is gaining support as a useful and necessary strategy for reducing disparities in health care. Health care receivers' perceptions of health care providers' cultural competence may affect access to and quality of health care. Against such a backdrop, this paper focuses on Appalachian Ohio in the U.S., as a medically underserved area with a culturally diverse population. Using newly developed scales of Global Cultural Competence of Physician Measured and Patient-Centered Cultural Competence Measure, the paper will assess gender differences in the perception of cultural impact on health care experiences.

**Patrizia Albanese**

### **When the Nation's 'Health' is at Odds With Her Health: Sexual & Reproductive Rights/Health under Nationalist Regimes in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Europe**

In periods throughout 20th century Europe women's sexual and reproductive health have been challenged and threatened by the introduction of policies geared at promoting national "health" and longevity. That is, with the rise of nationalism and

ethnic conflict in parts of Europe, women's sexual/reproductive health has been compromised by the passing of patriarchal and pronatalist policies and programs aimed at boosting "ethnically-pure" birthrates. I will present some findings from my recently released book *Mothers of the Nation: Women, Families and Nationalism in Twentieth Century Europe* (2006), which looks at the rise to power of nationalist regime in four European nations, at two points in time—the inter-war period and post-1989.

**Shahid Alvi**

**Exploring the Contours of Violence against Immigrant Women**

Despite an abundance of research on the incidence, prevalence and nature of violence against women, scholars have only recently begun to examine immigrant women's experiences of violence. This paper presents results from a comparative quantitative and qualitative study of 87 immigrant and non-immigrant women's health conducted in southern Ontario. A survey and 40 interviews were conducted to better understand the contours of immigrant women's experiences with a range of victimization types, and to unpack the complex relationships between these forms of victimization and associated factors, such as attitudes, living conditions and male peer support. The implications of these findings for service providers and broader policy issues are also considered.

**Pat Armstrong & Hugh Armstrong**

**Bringing It Home: Women's Health Work**

Global, national and local transformations in social programs and workplace relations are having a profound impact on women's health work in and out of the paid labour force. The consequences vary, not only among countries but also among women. Using the specific example of Canada, this presentation will explore the consequences for women and their health as well as for the health and relations in their households.

**Alex E. Asakitikpi**

**Young Adults' Perception of Sex: What HIV/AIDS Interventionists in Nigeria Must Know**

HIV/AIDS is one of the leading causes of death among young adults in Africa especially south of the Sahara primarily because this population cohort is the most prone to risky sexual behaviour. Appropriately, the development of a holistic programme to curb the spread of the virus has become a major priority for governments in the sub-region. Paradoxically however, research into this population cohort has not been extensively carried out in Nigeria to increase our scientific understanding of young adults' sexuality. This study explores popular young adults' perceptions of sex and HIV/AIDS, as well as the socio-cultural interpretation of

condom use and abstinence. It is suggested that if the National Action Committee on AIDS (NACA) in Nigeria is aware of the extent of young adults' sexuality, its intervention strategies for HIV/AIDS would be more responsive both to people's perception of sex and their attitude towards the disease.

**Alex E. Asakitikpi**

**The Household Management of Childhood Diarrhoea in Ibadan Metropolis, Nigeria.**

This study investigated household management of child diarrhoea in Ibadan focusing on maternal knowledge, beliefs and treatment choices. The results showed both positive and negative diarrhoea management behaviours: While all respondents were knowledgeable of diarrhoea as a killer disease, most mothers' beliefs on its aetiology were at variance with biomedical explanation with negative impact on preventive measures. Similarly, although breastfeeding was not withheld from sick babies, the use of anti-diarrhoeals was widespread. For an effective intervention programme, mothers need to be enlightened on the relationship between personal hygiene and diarrhoea incidence while campaign on the danger of anti-diarrhoeals as treatment option should be initiated and sustained.

**Aretha Asakitikpi**

**Imitating Life Through the Eyes of the Television: The Effect of Foreign and Local Musicals on the Moral Reasoning of University Undergraduates on HIV & AIDS.**

In an attempt to understand the effect of foreign and local musicals on the moral reasoning of Nigerian students, a comparative study was done of the students of a private Christian based university and a Nigerian Federal Government owned nominal university using a working definition of moral reasoning to refer to how the university students define what is right and what is wrong. The paper shows that such reasoning is affected by three major variables namely; the university's learning environment, the socio-economic and the family background of the student.

**Jamila J. Atiku-Abubakar & Aliyu A. Ahmed**

**Stigma & Violence against Women As A Result of HIV-Positive Status Disclosure to Sexual Partners in Nigeria**

The study examined stigma and domestic violence due to HIV-positive status disclosure. We ascertained if women exercised their rights to know the status of their sexual partners. Results analyzed according to perception, disclosure, reaction, rights and support, all of which differed by civil status, education, income and religion. Women reported discrimination and violence by partners. Reactions varied; while women were willing to accommodate their partners, men would react negatively. Demand for disclosure is more frequent among Christians than Muslims, in educated

than illiterate, in men than women but minimal among married individuals. Emphasis was on support for infected women with few safety nets.

**Maureen Baker**

**Managing the Risks of Childhood Poverty: Changing Interventions in Family Life**

Over the past century, Canada and New Zealand have created various programs to improve the health and wellbeing of low-income families. Initially, they focused on maternal/child health and income support for widows and deserted mothers but later included unemployment benefits, family allowances, improved social services and job creation. After the 1980s, programs were restructured to re-emphasize family and community responsibility for children's well-being. I argue that current policies to reduce child poverty now focus largely on maternal employment and paternal support but poverty rates remain high because socio-demographic trends and political agendas tend to counteract program benefits. Yet comparative research suggests that childhood poverty can be reduced.

**Filiz Baloğlu & Burhan Baloğlu**

**Migration & the Perspective of Families on Health**

In this study we will examine migrated family from Sanliurfa to Istanbul. Families we will examine are the members of the Seddat tribe. The tribe claims one of the highest populations in Southeast Region of Turkey. We will focus on how new life-styles, family structure and working life in an urban environment effect family perspectives on health issues. Then we will draw comparisons between tribal life-styles and urban life-styles to health and illness.

**Peter Baskerville**

**The Changing Material Welfare of Women in Urban Canada in the Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, a massive transferal of wealth from men to women took place. This paper charts the extent of that transferal and offers some comments on how that impacted women's material well being.

**Rachel Berman & Leslie Wilson**

**Gendered Coping & Caregiving Patterns in Families with Children with Special Needs: Mothering as 'Accidental Activism'**

This paper explores the dynamic coping strategies of parents of exceptional children. Particular emphasis is placed on the *gendered experiences of coping and caregiving* given the unique interactions between families, partners, and medical and other professionals regarding the care of a differently-abled child. Our study is a

qualitative analysis of interviews between parents and professionals at a New England children's hospital. Major themes in the paper include: Mothering as 'accidental activism' and the experience of turning private trouble into public activism, women's role negotiation between the professional-as-expert versus mother-as-expert, the power imbalance between family members, professionals and children, as well as issues of mother-blaming and the shared stigma of disability for both mother and child. The discussion revolves around the concept of social support and the need for a flexible, community-based model of service to better suit the needs of women, children and families with special needs.

**Toba Bryant**

**The Welfare State as a Determinant of Women's Health: A Comparison of Welfare States in Canada, Denmark, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States**

The case will be made that characteristics associated with variations in the welfare state among industrialised nations are primary contributors to women's health and well-being. This is the case because women's health and well-being are particularly sensitive to decisions made in relation to the spending priorities of governments, the extent to which services are provided and the degree to which women are supported in moves towards equity. We examined data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, United Nations Human Development Program and other sources to understand these influences on the health and well-being of women in Canada as compared to that of women in Denmark, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. We identified a consistent pattern by which national features supporting women's health and well-being are more likely to be observed in nations with a social democratic orientation as compared to nations with liberal-market approaches to policy development.

**Sean Cadigan, Terry Quinlan & Alton Hollett**

**Using Census Records to Advance Genetic Research**

This presentation will demonstrate the effectiveness of automated longitudinal matches of census records for reconstructing family tree information over large populations for genetic analysis. Currently, health researchers spend years visiting residents in small communities, searching through church records and other archives. This process is time consuming, expensive and often incomplete. In partnership with the Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency, CCRI Atlantic has developed an innovative method for building a database for virtually the entire population using primarily census data. Historically, data from pre-Confederation Newfoundland censuses have been available to historians, researchers and the public at large, making it immensely important for detailed investigation of this nature.

Computer simulations have been developed to build family relationships over time using the unique Newfoundland and Labrador census information. Preliminary test results are extremely positive and near complete coverage is expected. This linked information is then provided to health researchers in a de-identified format to allow investigation of genetic relationships among individuals in a way that protects individual privacy. By allowing researchers to find critical genealogical links in just minutes as opposed to years, the conclusion is that this approach has the potential to change dramatically the way genetic analysis is conducted. During the presentation, methodologies will be discussed in detail and results will be presented.

### **Sandra Colavecchia**

#### **The Impact of Family Finances on Women's Emotional & Material Well-being**

Women's emotional and material well-being are examined using in-depth interviews of married couples with young children. Individual interviews with husbands and wives were conducted to investigate a range of issues related to family finances. This paper explores how women's domestic labour in managing family finances has emotional costs for women including stress, anxiety and worries about money. The findings highlight how the transition to motherhood and labour surrounding family finances serves to constrain women's personal spending and lead to negative emotional consequences. Constraint in personal spending and experiences of financial deprivation are shaped by women's paid labour.

### **Linda Cook & Norah Keating**

#### **Caregiving Costs & Mental Illness**

Approximately 20% of Canadians will experience a mental illness over their lifetime. This presentation focuses on findings from a critical review of literature on caregiving consequences of family members to adults with mental illness and analysis of a national survey on their caregiving experiences. Findings are that the major domains of consequences are out-of-pocket expenses, employment disruption and unpaid labour; that patterns of costs are specific to care to adults with mental illness; and that costs are not equitably distributed. Discussion is focused on the caregiver's gendered relationship with the care receiver which is predictive of high costs.

### **June Corman**

#### **Women in Farm Families: Balancing Paid Work & Domestic Labour**

Increasingly women in farm families have paid employment as well as making a contribution to the farm through their domestic labour, and for some, by producing grain and livestock for sale. This paper explores the extent to which farm women take off-farm jobs, how they balance domestic labour, paid labour and farm labour and the consequences for their health. The paper puts original data collected on one

rural community in the context of findings in the literature on farm families in Canada.

### **Tracy Davenport**

#### **The costs of caregiving in families with children with disabilities: Affordability and options**

Little is known about home care as a financial burden for families across the life course. The cost of caring for a child with a disability can cost more than the average family can afford. Most families have no concept of the amount of money that will be required to raise and maintain a child with a disability, which places them in a difficult position to plan for or take steps to meet the required expenditures. This paper considers three different measures of affordability: and examines what disability programs are available to ameliorate some expenses and increase affordability.

### **Lorraine Davies & William R. Avison**

#### **Gender Inequality, Family Structure, Stress & Mental Health**

Single parenthood is largely a female experience and as such, most of the research has centred on women's lives. It is clear from this research that a substantial proportion of lone mothers suffer from significant socio-economic disadvantage and elevated levels of stresses and chronic strains. Fundamentally, these characteristics are rooted in gender inequality. Almost two decades ago, McLanahan and Booth (1989) understood this inequality when they said, "...single mothers face a threefold disadvantage: They are women, they are mothers, and most are formerly married." Most recently the visibility and numbers of single fathers have increased, leading researchers to investigate how variations in family structure affect men's lives. The purpose of this paper is to untangle the relationships among family structure, social and economic stress and psychological distress among single mothers and fathers. In so doing, we recognize that family structure reflects and creates inequalities among women who are disadvantaged by gender inequality, and men who are privileged by gender inequality (Calasanti, 2004). Therefore, we attempt to understand the distribution of stress by gender and family structure and its effects on distress, within structured relations of inequality.

### **Walter S. DeKeseredy**

#### **Thinking Theoretically About Separation/Divorce Sexual Assault in Rural Communities**

Rural crime research has yet to develop a critical theoretical framework that synthesizes current scholarship on gendered violence in rural North American communities. Further, the limited theoretical work that does exist on this topic ignores separation/divorce sexual assault. Guided by male peer support theories,

feminist perspectives on woman abuse and research on rural social and economic transformations that have occurred since the end of the last century, this paper offers a new multi-level theory of separation/divorce sexual assault in rural areas.

**Molly Dragiewicz**

**Father's Rights vs. Family Safety: Gender, Custody & Intimate Partner Violence**

Father's rights rhetoric pits fathers' rights to post-divorce access and control of their children against women and children's right to live safely free from violence. Many claims are made about the harms that children allegedly suffer when deprived of regular contact with their fathers, however, the harmful impact of being forced into repeated contact with an abuser has been largely ignored outside of violence prevention circles. This paper will argue that we need to rethink our concept of healthy families to focus on what we mean by "health" rather than a single-minded focus on traditional family forms.

**Ann Duffy**

**Mid-Life Women: A Life Course Perspective on the Health Implications of Juggling Paid Work & Family**

Research on the paid work/domestic labour conflict has generally focused on young mothers with young children. This research, based on in-depth interviews with 63 middle-aged women living in Ontario, provides a very different vantage point. Here, women (all of whom have 'mothered' children and most of who are currently partners in an intimate relationship) both look back on their efforts to manage home and paid work responsibilities and also consider their current situation. This vantage point allows them to comment on the health outcomes of the typically, most stressful period of women's lives as well as the long-term health implications.

**Kirsty Duncan**

**Pandemic Influenza and Women: Vulnerability & Resistance**

An influenza pandemic is possibly imminent warns the World Health Organization, which suggests that we are closer to a pandemic than at any time since 1968. Gender significantly affects the lives of women and men, before, during, and after a disaster. In most societies, men tend to have greater access to survival and recovery strategies leaving women more vulnerable to events, such as pandemics. Gender-specific health impacts include: mental stress as a result of providing emotional care during and after the crisis, and increased violence. Women must therefore be included in disaster prevention, mitigation, and recovery strategies to build resilient communities.

**Patrick A. Edewor**

### **Wife Battering in Southwest Nigeria: Prevalence, Determinants & Consequences**

Wife battering is a common form of domestic violence in most countries of the world. Domestic violence encompasses all acts of violence within the context of the family or intimate relationship. In the case of wife battering, such violence is directed at women by their husbands or male partners and it involves such aggressive acts as kicking, slapping, hitting, punching and beating. This paper is based on a survey of 1,063 respondents made up of 641 ever-married women aged 15 – 49 years and 422 ever-married men aged 20 – 60 years. It examines the prevalence, determinants as well as the social consequences of wife battering in Sango and Ota in Ado-Odo Ota Local Government Area of Ogun State, southwest Nigeria. The results show that about 30% of the women or wives of men in our sample has experienced wife battering. Age, level of education, form of marriage, alcohol consumption, extramarital relations and adequacy of funds for family upkeep are major determinants of wife battering. Financial reason was the most frequently mentioned cause of quarrels and cause of wife beating. Verbal assault by wives was significantly related to wife battering. The social consequences are discussed and recommendations are made for policy.

**Patrick A. Edewor**

### **Sexual Behaviour of In-school and Out-of-school Adolescents in the Contexts of STDs & HIV/AIDS in Sango-Ota, southwest Nigeria**

This paper examines the sexual behaviour of young persons in the contexts of STDs and HIV/AIDS in Sango-Ota, southwest Nigeria. It utilized data collected from a sample of 1,203 in-school and out-of-school adolescents in the study area together with information from Focus Group Discussions. The results show that both in-school and out-of-school adolescents have high knowledge of STDs and HIV/AIDS. However, there is high level of sexual networking including the keeping of multiple sexual partners and high level of partner change. Condom is used at the early stage of relationships mainly to prevent pregnancy but its importance is jettisoned the older relationships become owing largely to the importance attached to premarital pregnancy as a way of ensuring fertility before marriage. Recommendations are made based on the findings.

**Margrit Eichler**

### **Overcoming Biases in Family Research**

This interactive presentation will introduce the *BIAS FREE* Framework, applied to health research affecting families. *BIAS FREE* stands for *B*uilding an *I*ntegrative *A*nalytical *S*ystem *f*or *R*ecognising and *E*liminating in-*E*quities in Research, Policies

and Programmes. It is the statement of a goal, not of an achievement. The audience will be invited to present examples for some of the identified problems from their own research, and we will jointly consider ways to address problems that were identified

**Chad Gaffield**

**The Canadian Century Research Infrastructure & Canadian Research**

The presentation will provide an overview of the biggest Social Science/Humanities project in Canadian history. It will suggest why and how this research infrastructure can be viewed as the backbone for research on Twentieth Century Canada.

**Brenda J. Gamble**

**Canadian Stakeholders' Views on the Boundaries of Publicly Funded Healthcare: The case of community-based services**

The debate about the sustainability of Canada's health care model has focused on updating what services should be publicly funded. Full public coverage is only guaranteed for services delivered in hospitals or by physicians. Many reports have recommended a shift in the site of care from hospitals to the community, while expanding full public coverage to include community-based services. A national survey of 2,523 policy elites demonstrated that implementation of this policy direction may prove difficult. The inability to implement policy that supports publicly financing community-based services could result in 'passive privatization' and a higher reliance on informal caregivers.

**Karen Giffin & Sônia Dantas Berger**

**Neoliberal Globalization, 'Gender Transition' and Intimate Partner Violence**

Neoliberal globalization, including the privatization of public services and the 'flexibilization' of labour and financial markets has increased inequalities between and within countries, and created new constraints for human and social reproduction. At the same time, women's labour force participation and radically decreased fertility reveal a crumbling of the patriarchal division of labour and of reproductive constraints on women's sexuality. This paper proposes a concept of "*gender transition*" and a focus on pregnancy and reproductive health to capture this historically configured and complex situation, which potentializes both old and new sources of conflict in intimate relations.

**Cristina Gomes, Marisol Luna & Nelson Flores**

**Sexual and Reproductive Behaviours and Ethnicity Patterns & Divergences in Mexico**

In developing countries, the definition of the age limit to define 'adolescent pregnancy' has to be analyzed from a multicultural point of view. Trajectories of

sexual experiences and marriages, the educational and family trajectories, as well as practices in use of contraceptives, inequalities in welfare, spatial distribution and ethnic status are important. In Mexico most of the indigenous populations live in rural areas. Indigenous groups have a special 'cosmovision' that values early practices of courtship, sexual relationships, marriage and pregnancy. These events mark the passage to an adult life and give social status for youth. In this article we analyze data from the National Reproductive Health Survey (2003) to compare the reproductive behavior of indigenous and non-indigenous women in Mexico. The objective is to study how young Mexican women from different social groups conciliate important events in the life course: continue in school, begin sexual relationships, use of contraceptive methods, marriage and maternity. We explore patterns and divergences in women reproductive trajectories, according to the ethnic status, area of residence, educational level and civil status.

### **Clare Holdsworth & Jude Robinson**

#### **Parental Smoking Practices & Children's Exposure to Smoke within the Home**

Smoking is recognized as one of the most significant causes of preventable disease in developed societies and as such programs for smoking cessation are a key aspect of public health education. More recently some industrialized countries/states have introduced bans on smoking in public to reduce the harm of second-hand smoke. Yet critics of these bans have argued that the increasing marginalisation of smoking will led to further health inequalities and in particular could be detrimental to the health of children whose parents smoke, who continue to be exposed to smoke within the home. While the risks of parental smoking for children's health are well documented, little is known about smoking practices within the home and how parents who smoke attempt to reduce children's exposure to tobacco smoke. This paper will explore smoking practices within the home and how parents associate smoking (including that of other family members) with health risks for children. The paper will draw on analysis of in-depth interviews collected using a Biographic-Narrative Interpretative method with a small group of families, who all have at least one smoking parent and children under five, from a socio-economic disadvantaged neighbourhood in Liverpool, UK.

### **Clare Holdsworth & Jude Robinson**

#### **Smoking Neighbourhoods & Children's Exposure to Smoking Practices**

The relationship between socio-economic disadvantage and smoking behaviour is well established in industrial societies, as is the generational inheritance of smoking. As recent contributions to tobacco control literature have argued, in order to understand the concentration of smoking behaviour in marginalised groups it is important to consider the social and cultural context of smoking. This paper will

develop the concept of smoking neighbourhoods in a socio-economic deprived community in Liverpool, UK to understand the centrality of smoking practices in this neighbourhood. Based on analysis of in-depth interviews collected using a Biographic- Narrative Interpretative method with a small group of families, who all have at least one smoking parent and children under five, this paper will explore how difficult it is for family members not to smoke and how children become normalised to smoking behaviour in the home. Key questions to be considered are the consequence in these families and neighbourhoods of access to cigarettes, opportunities and places to smoke. This paper will contribute to growing literature on the social context on smoking through furthering understanding of how collective practices are shared within families and neighbourhoods, and the significance of with whom, where and when people smoke.

**Hugo Kamyia**

**The Impact of War on Children & Families: Implications for Practicioners**

Stories of immigrant children and families portray many different worlds. Children are targets and perpetrators of war. Children experience torture, loss and are often caught fighting on various sides of different conflicts. They suffer several forms of exploitation, serving as laborers, sex slaves, and often are involved in ritualistic abuse. They often carry out killings at the bequest of adults. All these experiences internally create isolation from their own psychic integrity. Using reported accounts from these children, this paper will present some clinical approaches in engaging these children and their families. Implications for research, policy and practice will be discussed.

**Hugo Kamyia**

**Granny-headed households: The Stresses & Strengths of HIV-affected Ugandan Grandmothers**

Using experiences of Ugandan grandmothers, this paper examines themes of family, caretakers and wellbeing following death of a parent due to HIV. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the highest HIV infection and mortality rates are in women, especially in child-bearing years, leading to a tremendous number of orphaned HIV-infected and affected children. In Uganda, extended family members, especially grandmothers, provide general orphan care, AIDS care and care for HIV orphans. The burden of HIV-affected orphan care is enormously heavy. Custodial grandparents are enormously challenged spiritually, socially, emotionally, financially, physically, and mentally. Recommendations for research, practice and policy will be offered.

**Ruth Katz, Ariela Lowenstein & Nurit Gur-Yaish**

**Intergenerational Family Solidarity & Quality of Life (QOL) among Three Elderly Population Groups in Transition in the Multi-Cultural Society of Israel**

The study illuminates the links between familial and personal resources and quality of life (QOL) of elders 65+ in 3 population groups in Israel: Kibbutz members, Russian immigrants and Arabs—who are undergoing social transitions. Seventy respondents in each group were interviewed regarding QOL (measured by the WHOQOL-BREF) and family relations (measured by the family solidarity paradigm). Findings reveal that QOL was highest in the kibbutz, followed by the Arabs and lowest among the immigrants impacted mostly by restricted personal resources. Among the solidarity dimensions, emotional relations were the strongest. The discussion highlights the distinctive family culture of the groups, their transition and differential resources.

**Mustafa Koç & Fernando Nunes**

**Immigrant Status & School Challenges: Newcomer Youth at Risk in the School System in Toronto**

This paper examines the settlement experiences of recent immigrant youth, aged 16 to 25, from ten sending regions, who are studying in the Toronto District School Board and who were identified as being at risk of academic and career failure. The purpose of this study was to identify and analyze: •Information on the current situation and needs of newcomer youth who were at risk. •How and where this group of youth accessed support towards their initial settlement. •The resources that they utilized to assist them both academically as well as personally, and •The types of information and support that these youth feel they would need to help them to better resolve their settlement-related issues.

**Hong-kin Kwok & Cheung Richard Lam**

**Gender Differences in Response to Cross-border Work in China: Its Consequence Towards a Healthy Family**

Cross-border work may have a damaging effect on the health of a family, especially for male workers. This paper is based on in-depth interviews of 25 Hong Kong workers who are working in China, to study the gender differences in response to cross-border work and its consequences towards family health. It will concentrate on: (1) Why do workers choose cross-border work? (2) Why are “cross-border” and “distance” important factors which affect the health of a family? (3) How do cross-border workers assign mothering and fathering duties to their children? (4) why are there gender differences in response to work and family?

**Cheung Richard Lam & Hong-kin Kwok**

**Gender-Role Division of Labor in Elderly Caregiving in Hong Kong: Caregiver's & Care Receiver's Perspectives**

Many research findings show that there is a gender role division of labor in elderly caregiving and daughter perform more caregiving than sons. Various perspectives and hypothesis such as the socialization hypothesis has been advanced to explain these gender role differences. However, in Hong Kong more and more women are participating in the labor market and the upsurge of dual career families has had a significant impact on these gender role differences. This paper integrates two research findings, one is from the caregiver's perspective and the other from the care receiver's view, to examine these gender role differences in elderly caregiving. It was found that there is no significant gender role difference across different types of caregiving, nor is there a gendered division of labor. However, there are significant differences in the perception of gendered responsibilities for the elderly from both the caregiver's and care receiver's perspectives. The significant mismatch between the actual caregiving performance and the perceived responsibilities of caregiving provides hints to explain the common perception that there is a gender role division of labor in elderly caregiving and that daughters perform more caregiving than sons.

**Marie-Clémence Le Pape**

**Parental Strategies for Avoiding Health Risks: A Gendered Approach**

Whereas some diseases such as cancer are a source of worry for parents of children of all ages, other health risks cause particular concern among parents of young people: Sexually transmittable diseases, tobacco, drugs... After considering parental strategies for minimising and combating these dangers, this paper will focus on demonstrating that such strategies are profoundly influenced by the effects of gender. Do fathers and mothers have the same conception of the risks that their children are exposed to? Do they react in the same way in situations where the health of their children is put at risk? We will analyse the effects of gender in the light of the beliefs and practices of parents, and also in variations resulting from the sex of the child. As regards to the health risks under consideration, do parents fear that their sons are more likely to be at risk than their daughters? Are different prevention practices adopted, according to the sex of the child? By comparing several different health risks, we will analyze the effects of father /son father /daughter, mother/son mother/daughter cross-pairings. Our investigation will use the results of a qualitative survey of young persons, aged between 12 and 25, and their parents. The sample totaled 90 individuals from 40 families. Our aim is to draw out a typology of family practices regarding health risks.

**Marie-Clémence Le Pape**

**Families & Campaigns to Raise Awareness of Health Risks: A Gendered Approach**

The demographics of young people between the ages of 12 and 25 is known to be particularly vulnerable to a certain number of health risks: Sexually transmitted diseases, conditions linked to the use of tobacco and other drugs and the excessive consumption of alcohol. In France, this state of affairs has given rise to a plethora of health awareness campaigns, which have mainly targeted young people and their parents. Drawing on 40 family monographs, which involved both young people and their parents (a total of 90 individuals), we will show that all these questions are closely linked to gender. Who do the authorities assume to be the individual best placed to influence young people? What beliefs about families and authority figures within families lay behind these assumptions? We can also investigate whether the language used in such campaigns varies according to whether they mainly target men or women. Finally, we conclude that a gendered analysis of the reception of such campaigns warrants further investigation.

**Tessa leRoux**

**Caring for Caregivers: An Exploratory Study of Family Ideology & Care of People with Disabilities**

This paper will present the first phase of a study on best practices in caregiving for individuals with acquired head injury. I will give an overview of the professional (neuroscience, social work and rehabilitation) literature, sociological research and advice provided to caregivers by various providers (insurance agencies, therapists and support or advocacy groups). This literature will be compared to "common knowledge" from the point of view of caregivers, as reflected in internet chat rooms, discussions during support groups, biographies and individual interviews. I will focus in particular on the gendered use of the concept "family" in these various arenas.

**Irene Levin**

**Stepparents—A Gendered Understanding**

Most research on stepfamilies uses gender as an explanation of why relationships can be difficult and not as a starting point for understanding. Gender becomes the answer, an end of the research and not a beginning. This project shows how the women's role regardless of whether they are mothers or stepmothers, is more or less the same. Women do housework and take care of relationships anyway. For a stepmother, this can be a dilemma since the stepmother's role suggests a distance while the female's role the opposite. For men, there is no such a dilemma since both the father's role and the male's role go in the same direction. They are both distant.

**Jianghong Li & Fiona Stanley**

**‘Modernity’s Paradox’: Structural Determinants of Child Health & Wellbeing**

The increase in measures of poor human development and their rising social inequalities, despite unprecedented economic prosperity in post-modern society, has been described as “modernity’s paradox” (Keating & Hertzman, 1999). Such scholars of developmental health suggest that influences on human development from the social, economic and psychological circumstances in early life at a micro level could explain social inequalities across the lifespan. However, explanations as to why we are witnessing an increasing trend in poor outcomes for children, despite economic prosperity are incomplete. This paper reviews recent changes in political and economic environments, demography, technology and culture in developed countries and suggests how they might have had an impact on the recent trends in poor outcomes in children and youth, including mental health, behavioural problems and increases in the prevalence of children who enter into the State protection system as a result of maltreatment and abuse. The paper concludes with policy recommendations to reduce social disparities in child outcomes.

**Willa Lichu Liu**

**Migration & Health in Chinese Immigrant Families in GTA**

This paper examines the impact of immigration on the mental and psychological well-being in Chinese immigrant families in the Greater Toronto Areas (GTA), Canada. Based on in-depth interviews with 20 recent immigrants, mostly women, from Mainland China in GTA, this paper examines how immigration changed the family dynamics and the gendered division of labour in the family and how such changes affect the psychological well-being among different family members, especially women. As part of an SSHRC project on unpaid housework and lifelong learning, I also intend to explore what the new immigrants learn and how they learn in order to cope with the impact and/or changes, both mentally and psychologically, brought about by immigration.

**Dan Mahoney**

**Parenting as Active Engagement: Exploring the Role of Strength-based Parenting in Families with Resilient Lesbian & Gay Youth—Pilot Study**

Although strength-based parenting has been examined in the family literature, surprisingly little is known about the properties and processes through which this style of parenting influences resiliency, competency and other protective factors in lesbian and gay youth. This paper explores the results of a recent qualitative investigation into the role of parenting in families with resilient lesbian and gay youth. In doing so, this pilot study stories two important dimensions of parental care: (1) The values, belief systems and resources associated with particular parenting

styles and (2) The sets of everyday parenting practices which facilitate growth and capacity in lesbian and gay youth. This is particularly important if we are to understand how sexual minority youth manage their sexual identities in more resilient ways. Data was collected from 5 parents using a multi-staged, collaborative storytelling methodology; which focuses on the dynamic processes between the researcher and their collaborators, who construct meaning out of social experience in the context of a developing fieldwork relationship. The results from this empirical investigation speak to the storied experiences of parents with lesbian and gay sons and daughters and the important connection between supportive parenting styles and healthy outcomes for lesbian and gay youth within family, peer group and community contexts.

**Margaret M. Malone**

**Theoretical Perspectives on Gender, Emotions & Knowledge: A Focus on Adults as Children in the Context of Marital Separation**

Shifting the centre of our thinking, making the health and safety of children our top priority is essential to the work of creating a truly just and caring world. Critical analysis of research data from in-depth, life-history interviews conducted during the process women's and men's marital separation forms the basis for this argument. Framed by feminist theories of the social organization of gender, emotion and knowledge, the lack of support for children and the implications that this can have in their childhood and adult lives are critically examined. Recommendations for future research and strategies for healthy social change are outlined.

**Kathryn McPherson**

**Defending the Public Health: The Public Health Work of Canadian Armed Forces Nurses (1945-1980)**

This paper examines the public health work of nurses who served in Canada's Armed Forces since 1945. In the Post-World War II years, Canada created, for the first time, a permanent "peace-time" military service and recruited nurses to provide health care to enlisted men and their families. Whether posted overseas or at Canadian bases, Armed Forces nurses delivered public health services to military personnel and often provided much-needed maternal and child health care to members of under-serviced local communities. This paper analyzes the bio-medical and social service work of Armed Forces nurses and interrogates the influences of nationalism and militarism in defining that work.

**Andjelka Milic**

**Wars, Transition & Family Health in Serbia (1991/2006)**

In the last fifteen years, Serbia experienced its most difficult crossroad and survived the deepest social disturbances since its existence as a modern state

(1804). In the period under observation, the Serbian society and its inhabitants have been under the influence of several tectonic strokes which have occurred in short successions: The disintegration of the former state of Yugoslavia, several wars and conflicts, several flows of close to a million Serbs and other minority immigrants surge to Serbia and emigration of almost half a million young people to the developed countries in the world. Moreover, there has been hyperinflation, economic destruction of society, enormous impoverishment of the population, a rise in criminal activity, a transitional change of the institutional frame of the state. This turmoil has had a great impact on the society, population and family health. This paper is based on empirical data gathered from three sociological surveys as well as secondary statistical analysis I shall review about some very disturbing trends in family life in Serbia such as low fatality, very high mortality of persons in middle ages, impoverishment, conflicts and divorces, violence in the family, rise of suicide rates, problems with children (aggression, drug and alcohol dependence, etc).

**Ami R. Moore**

### **Gendered Norms & Expectations in Ghana & Togo**

The influence of gender on behavior has been an important area of study among social scientists. However, past studies have mainly focused on women. This study examines the gendered norms and expectations in family related areas in Ghana and Togo across three generations: 18-29; 30-54; 55 and over. Using data derived from in-depth interviews, we found: (1) Differences in views on gendered norms and expectations by sex, (2) Differences by age groups and (3) Differences by religiosity. Furthermore, younger females reported that they would not settle for things their mothers settled for in their marriages. Thus, these women believed that having economic and social independence will help them have more egalitarian unions compared to their parental unions.

**Ami R. Moore**

### **Informal Caregivers of Children with HIV/AIDS in Togo: Measures & Concepts**

This study presents measures and concepts of informal caregiving to children with HIV/AIDS in Togo. Informal caregiving has become an important outlet for people living with AIDS since AIDS is a chronic disease that may eventually incapacitate its victims. From a qualitative methods perspective, the experiences of informal caregivers of children with HIV/AIDS in Togo were assessed. Then concepts and measures of caregiving were generated. The present study discusses the concepts and measures and presents the psychometric estimates of the reliability and validity of the measures.

**Bill O’Grady & Stephen Gaetz**

**Health among Toronto Street Youth: An Analysis of Immigrant & Non-Immigrant Youth**

This paper explores levels of mental and physical health among a sample of 360 street youth from Toronto, Ontario. Framed within the social determinants of health perspective, the presentation will explore the interrelationships among family backgrounds, housing status and economic survival strategies that impact the health of immigrant and non-immigrant street youth. The paper will conclude with a discussion of the policy implications associated with the health needs of immigrant and non-immigrant street youth.

**Rachel L. Panton, Robert Downie, Tran Truong, Leslie D. MacKeen, Winston S. Yong, K. Wong, Stefane Kabene, Qi Yi, Patricia Branco, Elise Héon, Helen S.L. Chan & Brenda L. Gallie**

**Using a Graphical Timeline to Inform Parents About Complex Medical Care for Retinoblastoma**

Retinoblastoma (Rb) is an infant eye cancer often requiring complex, long-term treatment. Parents/guardians of these children are expected to rapidly assimilate complex clinical information when the child is diagnosed, in order to provide informed consent. Education has a critical and wide-ranging impact on individuals, including imparting cognitive and interpersonal skills necessary to comprehend complex medical information. Anecdotal clinical reports revealed that many parents prefer some type of visual representation of their child’s treatment protocol. To test the impact of graphics on parental comprehension of complex medical information, we developed a graphic tool (called DePICT) to display the entire course of Rb treatment. Using real-time clinical data from a disease-specific database, we created cards containing 9 DePICT graphics of affected eyes at different stages of the disease. Forty-four parents volunteered for evaluation of their comprehension of the DePICT cards and completed a 14-item questionnaire. Multivariate analysis showed that understanding Rb treatment from the graphical timelines was significantly related to proficiency in English but not parental education level. The use of disease-specific graphics like DePICT may facilitate informed consent in the treatment of complex diseases like retinoblastoma, and be of special benefit to parents having lower levels for formal education.

**Ito Peng & Tracy Matsuo**

**Health Status and Health Needs of Older Immigrant Women: Individual, Community, Societal & Policy Links**

This preliminary study examines the impact of social policy on the health status of older immigrant women and the health and social service seeking patterns of older

immigrant women living in Toronto. The research is based on individual in-depth and focus group interviews with 60 elderly immigrant women, and interviews with front line workers working in community health clinics and other immigrant social service agencies from three ethnic communities in Toronto. The study asked women about their health status, health concerns, quality of health care they receive, and access to social and health care services. It also explores the role of community health centres (CHCs) in addressing the health and social service needs of these women. The study shows the importance of approaching health of elderly immigrant women from the perspective of triple jeopardy, and the importance of developing cultural competence amongst health care and social service providers.

### **Rudolf Richter**

#### **How Public Health Genetics Vision Healthy Families**

Genetic diagnosis, counselling and therapy are currently a constituent in the public health system. One of the major concerns is reproduction genetics, especially prenatal diagnosis. This is a central link to the family system, effecting women deeply. The paper will focus on that link. Public health genetics and reproductive genetics are seen as social institutions, meaning that a set of social norms and general rules guide the use of genetics in the health system. The implicit and explicit connections to the concept of family will be analysed. From an interactionist point of view, we will question the images of health, healthy body and even a healthy family and a healthy population appearing in public health genetics. This interpretative approach can focus on the doctor -patient interaction including counselling. Further, it has the ability to analyse the transfer from this interaction to the system of the family. The role of social capital and social networks in making decisions might also be incorporated in the analysis. This will allow a thorough analysis of the multidimensionality of the images and attributions public health genetics make to a healthy family. We will first discuss the concept of public health genetics, particular prenatal diagnosis, than show empirically the images produced referring to studies in that field and integrate the results into a sociological theoretical concept of how public health genetics and the family system intertwine.

### **Donna Rochon**

#### **Discrimination & Stigma as Barriers to Healthcare for Pregnant, HIV-positive Women**

The medical management of HIV infection has increased survival rates, but pregnancies in HIV positive women continue to garner debate. Discrimination and stigma by healthcare workers might disincline positive women to seek prenatal care. In a qualitative study, positive women discussed how they were treated by providers when they became pregnant and providers discussed their feelings toward the

pregnant positive women. Overall, women had negative experiences, but that the situation improved when they sought care from a provider who was familiar with HIV infection. Further research is needed to determine what effects such discrimination might have on prenatal care outcomes.

**Joanna Anneke Rummens**

**Exploring Ethnic & Canadian Identities: Factors Associated with Personal Identification Choices among Newcomer Visible Minority Children in Canada**

This paper will examine personal identification patterns among newcomer visible minority immigrant children and determine associations with familial, social and contextual factors. The objective is to determine which factors are associated with choice and relative strength of 'ethnic' versus 'Canadian' identifications. Associations with sense of belonging and links with child mental health and wellbeing will also be explored. Data analyses will use cross-national data from Wave I of the New Canadian Children and Youth Study (NCCYS) for 11-13 year-old newcomer pre-adolescent youth from the Mainland Chinese, Hong Kong Chinese and Filipino communities of Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, Edmonton, Calgary and Winnipeg.

**Rachel Aber Schlesinger & Ben Schlesinger**

**Later Life Relationships: Changing Family Patterns**

We present the findings of two investigations. In the first group we researched seniors aged 65 or older, who either live together, or remarried after the age of 65, residing in Toronto and Florida. The second group of subjects is in first time, long lasting marriages (30 years to 60 plus years) who live now in Palm Springs, California and Toronto, Canada. A profile of men and women who remarry/ live together is developed. The positive and problematic outcomes are discussed, and the pathways to re-coupling are explored. We also attempt to examine the ingredients of a positive, long term relationship among couples in a long lasting marriage. Our subjects were interviewed in their own homes. The findings include suggestions for long term relationships made by our sample. We compare similarities and differences among relationships of seniors that are long term or newly formed, including social dimensions, family variables and the impact of extended families.

**Mark Sciegaj**

**Comparison of Health Indicators between 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% increase from the 2.2 million in 1970. Approximately 39% of children in grandparent households live in the urban environments and 19% 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.

**Aysan Sev'er**

### **Missing Daughters: Propensity to Eliminate Female Pregnancies & Girl Children in India**

India is a 1.1 billion population State that increasingly boasts a burgeoning role on global markets. Although the increasing economic presence of India is a given, the gendered sociodemographic aspects still remain as human rights concerns. The unnatural elimination of female pregnancies, endemic female malnutrition, female infanticide and dowry related crimes against women have created the worst gender skew in the sex-ratios of men and women (47.4% vs 52.6%). In this paper, I will explore the causes and consequences of this skew as crimes against women.

**Barbara H. Settles**

### **Navigating Private and Public Care Systems: Whose responsibilities? Which style?**

Health care systems are increasing in complexity and in the requirements for the family to understand, advocate and consent to courses of action and provide support to family members. In the USA, private, public and quasi-private care has made it difficult to find, access and monitor appropriate prevention and care for both dependent and adult members of the family. Families have limited access to relevant information, are isolated from others with similar challenges, and carry into the current planning situation many burdens from previous experiences and choices. A model for helping families deal with these challenges will be presented.

**Mona Sharma**

### **War, Conflict & its Side Effects (India)**

There are no positive consequences of external or internal wars. Internal war situations are more dangerous. Both sides involved in wars show their strength and power, whenever they get a chance. Ironically, governments say they are engaging in arms conflict to stop terrorism or crime, and to create an environment of peace and unity. Others claim they are trying to claim their rights and to assure their safety. Families are caught in the middle and get affected negatively. Especially women get more affected. Many women end up with physical or mental problems due to exposure of armed conflict. Some of them are injured, many get raped or lose their

lives. The question is how do women get back to a routine after wars? This research focuses on women's suffering and health of families in wars through an in-depth analysis of AFSPA (Armed Forces Special Power Act (1958)). As I will show, sometimes army personnel misuse or abuse war like situations for their personal power and gain. They rape women or slaughter innocent families. These abuses not only affect the families but also become a black stain on the society as a whole. Numerous case studies will be presented.

### **Xuewen Sheng**

#### **Over Time Dynamics of Monetary Intergenerational Exchanges**

Using data from 9,674 individuals in three waves of the Health and Retirement Study, we examined: 1. What are the over time patterns of monetary transfers to adult children, receipts from adult children, and what are the over time interactive patterns of intergenerational exchanges? 2. What are the over time transition probabilities? 3. How are the probabilities of state membership related to both time invariant and time variant predictor variables? We found a high degree of stability in over time transition patterns. Giving or receiving assistance in earlier years was predictive of similar behavior later, but exchange behavior was not predicted.

### **Ria Smit**

#### **Sexuality, HIV & AIDS: The Perceptions of Married Women on Safeguarding the Health of their Families**

Living in an age of HIV and AIDS, the health of families has become a source of concern to many in South Africa. This paper explores the perceptions of South African married women (who are HIV negative) with regard to sexuality and HIV and AIDS. The focus falls *inter alia* on: (1) The woman's perception of both self-risk in being infected with HIV and the risk of her child/spouse becoming HIV positive, (2) Her views regarding sexuality, (3) The extent to which she discusses sexuality and HIV and AIDS related matters with her family members and (4) Her views regarding ways in minimising her family's vulnerability to HIV.

### **Karrie Ann Snyder**

#### **Infertility and Cancer: How Parents & Children Make Healthcare Decisions**

Advancements in cancer treatment have led to many more children surviving cancer, but those who survive often face infertility in adulthood due to aggressive treatments. Drawing on focus groups with female survivors of childhood cancer and their parents, this paper explores the concerns regarding infertility and how families decide whether or not to undergo additional procedures to help maintain a child's fertility. This paper compares the concerns of mothers and fathers and examines how parents and children discuss these issues. Moreover, I examine how possible

infertility and the healthcare decisions made in childhood affect women who survived cancer in adulthood.

### **Kara Somerville**

#### **Transnationalism & the Quotidian Healthcare Practices of Migrant Women**

Previous studies on migrant communities have highlighted the importance of health related issues for the adjustment of immigrants in the receiving society, but this literature has not been connected with transnational literature and the border-crossing activities of migrants. Examining health related issues through a transnational lens opens up the spectrum of migrant settlement concerns and research possibilities. This research examines the importance of the transnational social field in women migrants' daily provision of health related care for their families. People, medicines and medical advice are regularly traversing borders so migrant families in Canada can access health related care and services. Understanding women migrants' reliance on cross-border flows for their families' health concerns is crucial for understanding the wellbeing of Canada's diverse population.

### **Leslie Stanley-Stevens & Rudy Ray Seward**

#### **First Time Expectant Fathers' Attitudes, Actions and Wellbeing in Regard to Current, Future Work & Family Issues**

This study explores how expectant fathers conceptualize the role of father and how the domains of the role shape men's attitudes, decision-making processes and sense of well-being in relation to the challenges of work and family life. A purposive sample of twenty-five first time expectant fathers from central Texas in the U.S.A. were surveyed via a questionnaire regarding their thoughts about work and family and wellbeing in the spring of 2000. Fourteen of those fathers agreed to also be interviewed. All of the men held the concept of "breadwinner" as the highest priority regarding roles for fathers. The majority of men expressed the belief that childcare and domestic duties should be shared equally if both parents worked full time. However, the interviews revealed that only 2 of the 14 actually put those beliefs into action, describing truly egalitarian households. An additional seven of those interviewed were classified as "traditional" regarding their expectations of mothers and fathers. The remaining five was a combination of traditional expectations of fathers with reporting increased responsibility in a helper capacity with regard to domestic responsibilities and child rearing. The fathers' often conflicting expectations with practice and comments about their wellbeing have implications for the couples' relationships after the baby is born.

## **Tania Halber Suarez**

### **Women's Work, Family & Neighbourhood Conditions in a Cuban Community**

Writing against a background of my Cuban heritage and family connections in Cuba, I explore in this paper the problematic experience of women and their support networks in a Cuban neighbourhood (Casino de Deportivo) in the context of severe economic conditions and the emerging themes and impact of the lack of transportation and adequate housing on their lives. The aim is to better understand the problematic in order to provide a starting point to help my respondents to form further knowledge of the social that includes “beyond-the-everyday” knowledge in addition to their own experiences of the community in which they are a part. Using Dorothy Smith’s Institutional Ethnography to examine the everyday experiences of the interviewees explicates the role of the ruling relations, that is, “...how power is exercised in local settings to accomplish extra-local interests” and by whom (Campbell, Gregor: 36). By beginning inquiry from the standpoint of women, a subject position to begin research is provided that is rooted in the “local particularities of bodily existence” (Smith 2005:228). Specifically, this paper argues that although not readily evident, it is the conscious strategic planning of government that provides women in Casino de Deportivo with the necessary social, educational and medical support that plays a critical role in their continued physical and psychological wellness. The everyday experiences and practices of interviewees are coordinated by the Cuban government and are reinforced and reproduced through a number of communal activities and indeed in the way in which Casino de Deportivo is itself is physically structured.

## **Lorne Tepperman**

### **Does family Support Make a Difference?**

There is the evidence that family ‘support’—defined broadly to mean caregiving of various kinds by family members in the home—has beneficial effects for family members: namely that it promotes good health and prevents new illness, aids in the recovery from acute illness and/or contributes to the maintenance of good-as-can-be-expected health for people with chronic health problems or disabilities. I propose to survey the relevant literature abstracted in Medline, Psychinfo and Sociological Abstracts to determine the size of this relationship between family support and good health and the conditions under which it holds, paying particular attention to the gendered effects of caregiving—whether caregiving has different benefits if it is provided by male versus female family members. Following a brief survey of this literature, I will particularly discuss the literature on conditions which require family caregiving in connection with cognitive disability: notably, TBI (traumatic brain injury), aphasia, mental retardation, Alzheimer’s disease & other dementia & autism.

**Lea Tufford**

**Women & Infertility in the 3<sup>rd</sup> World**

Infertility has long been considered a disorder of the developed world and one managed through the advent of modern medical technology. However, infertility is ubiquitous and exists worldwide. The impact of infertility on women in the 3<sup>rd</sup> world is especially devastating given the social construction of gender and motherhood in the developed world. Women may have no alternatives to the domestic roles of wife and mother and some cultures allow men to either divorce their wife or take a second wife when infertility surfaces. Women's social and financial wellbeing are dependent on having children to give them legitimacy in the present and sustainability in the future. This paper will examine the social construction of infertility in the 3<sup>rd</sup> world, the impact of infertility on women and the availability of medical technology.

**Seong Gee Um**

**The Fertility Crisis in South Korea: The Causes of the Fertility Rate Decline & the Role of Family Policy**

South Korea is facing a fertility crisis since its fertility rate has fallen drastically within a few decades. In order to cope with low fertility, Korean government has introduced various family policies. However, my qualitative research results question the effectiveness of the current government's policy and also suggest that fertility rate decline is actually aggravated by the government's residual welfare provision. In this paper, I explore the causes of low fertility, with a special concern on the impact of the Korean welfare state on fertility rate decline and question the limitation of the current family policy and newly introduced *Saeromaji* plan.

**Chin-Chun Yi, Chyi-In Wu, Ming-Yi Chang**

**The Developmental Outcome of Taiwanese Youth: Contextual versus Relational Effects**

The role of adolescence in a typical Chinese family is rigorously prescribed. Youth is considered a transitional stage and serious responsibilities at home are not expected. In contemporary Taiwan, social norms continue to expect diligence in learning and obedience toward elders. Whether drastic social change brings fundamental changes of values and behaviors among youth is a subject worth investigating. This paper will examine two major domains of the developmental context and their possible impact on the academic performance as well as the psychological wellbeing of youth. Family, school and community as well as the interplay among them will become the loci of the analyses. Within each area, various indicators of stable physical environment and changing subjective evaluation of interpersonal relations will be constructed. For family, relatively indicators such as

parental SES, family composition and geographical advantages will be compared with family cohesion, parent-child relations and family strategies toward entrance examination. Data are from the Taiwan Youth Project year 2000-2005. In six waves of this panel study, 2500 adolescent students and one of their parents in northern Taiwan were followed annually since the first year of junior high school (7<sup>th</sup> grade).

## **5. UPCOMING INTERIM CONFERENCES: CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Boston, May 19 – 23, 2008**

**Call for papers**

### **AGING: FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**

A Research Seminar of the Committee on Family Research  
Boston, May 19 – 23, 2008, hosted by Lasell College and the Fuss Center for  
Research on Aging and Intergenerational Studies.

This seminar of the Committee on Family Research will focus on the sociological implications of global aging. The number of people over the age of 65 is projected to increase from 500 million to one billion world-wide by 2030. This trend, in conjunction with lower birth rates, is impacting demographics all over the world. For the first time in human history the number of people over the age of 65 will be greater than those under age 5. Family structures are changing, and with it the availability of informal care support, leaving elders more reliant on outside public or private systems of care. The growing number of older adults world wide is also challenging existing social support and pensions systems, forcing difficult intergenerational social policy decisions regarding economic transfers.

Proposals for papers discussing research with a clear focus on family and aging or intergenerational issues are welcome. Themes could include (but are not limited to): Changing family structures; Family and intergenerational relationships; Care giving; Economic transfer; Labor supply and dependency ratios; Work and retirement; Policy, Elder abuse and neglect; Poverty, HIV/AIDS and other disease; Conflict, and Migration.

Abstracts of between 100 and 200 words are invited.

**Deadline** for submission of abstract: October 15, 2007

**Decision date**: December 1, 2007

**Submission of full papers**: April 1, 2008

Subject line of e-mailed submission should be: CFR ABSTRACT PROPOSAL

Include in the e-mail the following information: Name, Institution, Mailing address, Phone number

Please send submissions to [aging@lasell.edu](mailto:aging@lasell.edu)

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## **Lisbon, September 9 – 13, 2008**

### **Call for papers**

### **“FAMILY DIVERSITY AND GENDER”**

This is a call for papers for the ISA-RC06-Lisbon Conference to be held at the Institute of Social and Political Sciences of Technical University of Lisbon from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2008.

The theme of the conference “Family Diversity and Gender” will be an opportunity to explore theoretically and empirically the contemporary multiplicity of family forms and gender issues.

#### **Deadlines**

The deadline for proposals of thematic sessions is 30<sup>th</sup> of November, 2007.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 31<sup>st</sup> of January, 2008.

The deadline for acceptance decision of abstracts is 15<sup>th</sup> of March, 2008.

#### **Conference fees**

200€ for non-ISA-RC06 members

150€ for ISA-RC06 members

50€ for students

Conference fees include registration package, welcome reception and closing dinner, 3 lunches, coffee-breaks, a Lisbon (Sintra)-based-trip and lunch.

#### **Tours**

The conference offers a day tour to Sintra.

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## 6. NEW MEMBERS

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