*Committee on Family Research (ISA RC06) and the Department of Sociology (UNISA) conference:*

**Families and Patterns of Care, 24 – 26 April 2017**

**Abstracts**

Title: Exploring the role of family as care giver for child delivery in poor resources settings of north central Nigeria

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Abstract: Maternal death is common in sub-Saharan Africa and is mostly preventable with the use of skilled birth facilities. However, in settings where health facilities are unavailable, the family plays a crucial role in providing delivery care. Literature is replete with studies assessing the role of the family in the care of people with special illnesses (autism, downs syndrome, mental illness, etc.); however, there is no systemic understanding of the care-giver role of the family in child delivery in resource-poor settings. This paper drew from a population-based survey of 413 women in North Central Nigeria to assess the role of the family in child delivery care.

This exploratory study utilised a three-stage cluster random sampling technique to select 413 houses where questionnaires were administered to women who gave birth in the five years preceding the study. Simple descriptive statistics were used to analyse the study data.

The analysis shows that in settings where health facilities are unavailable, the family plays a substantial role in child delivery. Specifically, while doctors and nurses attended about 90% of all births in settings with availability of health facilities, family members took delivery of approximately 52% of all births in settings where there were no health facilities. Traditional birth attendants assisted with only about 12% of births in settings where there were no health facilities, compared to just two percent in settings with availability of health facilities.

The findings emphasised that the role of the family in care giving is not limited to providing social capital and emotional support but they also act as key caregiver especially in poor resource settings. This has crucial implications both for scholarship and policy.

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Title: Gender and work-family conflict: a study of women in print journalism in Zimbabwe

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Abstract: This paper is based on a study, focusing on the gendered experiences of women journalists in the print media in Zimbabwe and examines the challenges they face in balancing work demands and family care responsibilities. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 12 female journalists aged between 20 and 55 years working in different media houses in Harare, Zimbabwe. The study demonstrated that by its nature journalism entails long working hours and unpredictable work schedules. The profession can thus be described as ‘greedy’ in that it demands commitment from employees in terms of time and energy. This has more implications on women journalists who play dual roles through participation in the labour market as well as being responsible for majority of the domestic care work (housework and child care). Participants in the study described their job as strenuous, pressurised, and incompatible with their identities as wives, mothers and daughters. This inability to conform to the typical gender roles assigned to women highlighted the implications on both family and work where women are often forced to choose between the career and the family. The study highlights the importance of support at the workplace and from family in managing work-family conflict. The main recommendations from the study were that there is need for further exploration on the policies that guide operations within this profession as a way of addressing challenges faced by women. In particular, research should be conducted to assist in the formulation of polices and measures that need to be implemented to enable journalists to achieve work-life balance. These policies can be at institutional level and governmental level.

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Title: Implications of diabetes in the family research in Mexico

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Abstract: The main objective is to analyze the impacts of diabetes on poverty, inequalities, practices of violence in the Mexican population, analyzing gender relations as well as strategies against them. The research innovation is based on the comparative analysis of the diabetes problem, which is a public health problem, the relevant issue in the agenda of public policies on health of the Mexican population. The prevalence of diabetes is on the rise worldwide. According to the WHO (2016), 422 million adults worldwide had diabetes in 2014, compared to 108 million in 1980 and in 2012 diabetes killed 1.5 million people. Mexico is a country with a growing number of diabetes disease persons very fast. The impact of the diabetes will be studied, looking for the interaction between poverty and unequal conditions of living, gender relations, care issues and quality of life of patients with diabetes.

In addition, the research innovation is based on the comparison among Mexican states with the opposite social development and poverty level. This comparison will give more insight views on the complex problems of the people living with diabetes in different locations and conditions. The methodology will be mostly qualitative, based on oral interviews, focus groups and direct observations. The results of this study will create agenda for the public health and social policies in Mexico and in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean countries. Moreover, the agenda proposes creating the care programs for diabetic persons, especially for women, who are in the situation of vulnerability, poverty and inequalities. Persons with diabetes are victims and suffer the conditions of greater exclusion. This contribution will make agenda for public health policies not only applied in Mexico, but also in Asia and Africa.

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Title: Elderly care for bereaved parents following the death of an only child in mainland China

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Abstract: Children have long been seen as the primary caregivers for elderly parents in China. Thousands of years of Confucian family values have routinized filial piety as a core factor of inter-generational relationships; furthermore, the Marriage Law of 1950 and subsequent laws and regulations have legislated care giving as a duty for adult children. Therefore, children in China are both socially and legally obliged to provide care for their parents, including financial assistance and physical care as well as emotional and social support. Consequently, parents tend to refer to themselves as receivers of care and to define the latter part of their life largely through interactions with their children and other core family members.

However, as an unforeseen consequence of the nationwide ‘One Child Policy’, over 1 million families, bereaved following the death of an only child, are in a position of having no primary caregiver for parents in their later years (China National Committee on Aging, 2013). These families are often called “Shidu” (loss of the only child) families. Furthermore, since the One Child Policy was implemented from the late 1970s and early 1980s, the first generation of Shidu parents has reached an age at which those parents need elderly care. As a consequence, these parents are faced with various challenges related to the aging process without support from their children. By overturning established expectations of a “good” elderly life, the loss of an only child may be accompanied by social and self-stigmatization. This situation may profoundly threaten parents’ physical, emotional and social well-being.

This paper reports on a qualitative study that has found elderly care to be the main concern for Shidu parents’ everyday life. Based on findings from 9 individual interviews and 1 group discussion with Shidu parents, the paper identifies and discusses the concerns raised by these bereaved parents about different aspects of their elderly life. These concerns relate to the prospect of having nowhere to turn at a time of increased need for financial, physical, social and emotional support. More importantly, the paper also identifies an interactive process between Shidu parents and the wider society through which Shidu parents find support to deal with these concerns and to re-define meanings for their elderly life by rebuilding a sense of ‘family”.

Aging, C.N.C.o., 2013. The elderly lost their only child: who can provide old age support for us? Beijing.

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Title: Care packages in long-term care in Slovenia

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Abstract: The literature about elder care systems classifies countries according to the mode how they manage the rising costs of provision of care services which may be internalised by the public sector (the social service model), sustained by the families (the family model) or provided by (migrant or local, employed or undocumented) care workers (the market model). While the mode how society organizes care impacts the prevalent type of care resources employed in the family (formal, informal, commercial), we claim that in practice different combinations of resources and the mixture of different types of care prevail in order to provide sufficient amount of care services. This is even more so for Slovenia (a European Union, post-socialist, former Yugoslavia country), where aging population largely overtook care system and families face absence of long-term care policy, insufficient public care services, too expensive market solutions, work/care conflicts of mostly full-time ‘working daughters’ and inadequate financial provisions. Therefore, families in Slovenia combine mixed modes of care and care providers (i.e. informal care of female family members and neighbours; a care worker in black market; limited public care services; specific market offers; volunteers) all at the same time in order to meet the needs of the users. Based on individual interviews (64 interviews were conducted all over Slovenia and 8 ‘care packages’ were included), we analyze how these very different care providers interact, how different modes of care (heavy care, lighter care, informal helping) is distributed between them and if their cooperation can represent a care partnership between formal and informal care. Proceeding from the Patsios and Davey (2005) classification we pay special attention to hierarchical, substitutional, task specific, supplementary and complementary relationships between diverse care actors who meet in one household and their effects for the users.

Keywords: care systems, elder care, care networks, care packages, family, postsocialism.

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Title: National and local childcare policies – support or obstacle for gender equality?

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Abstract: The reconciliation of paid employment and childcare responsibilities is one of the corner stones of gender equality. Child day care services and parental leave policies are the main policy tools for supporting reconciliation. In Finland, statutory parental leave with income-related benefit and universal, high-quality childcare services with subsidized, relatively low fees are provided. The sharing of leave between mothers and fathers as well as children’s participation in early childhood education are encouraged. However also child home care is supported with cash-for-care benefits that are mainly used by mothers.

While in principle the Finnish national policy model aims at promoting equality between men and women as well as between families, in practice it includes contradictory elements. In addition, local childcare policies have become more varied between municipalities. The present variation in childcare services and benefits in suggests marked inequalities between families, parents and children according to their place of residence.

In this paper, the interaction of policies and parental choices is analysed from gender equality perspective. We ask how gendered childcare patterns are conditioned by national and local childcare policies. The analysis is based on a survey data collected in 2016 by the CHILDCARE project (https://www.jyu.fi/edu/tutkimus/tutkimushankkeet/kotisivut/childcare/en) in ten municipalities in Finland. Around 2000 mothers and fathers with a 1-year-old child replied to our questions about their childcare preferences and arrangements. The information on local childcare policies is based on policy documents and interviews collected in the participating municipalities.

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Title: Balancing childcare and work roles: Views of mothers and fathers in South Africa

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Abstract: Using data from the “Family and gender roles” module of the 2012 South African Social Attitudes Survey, this paper explore the chapter explores the experiences and views of South African mothers and fathers of preschool children on work-family conflict. Particular focus is placed on the respondents’ work-family fit which is defined as an individual’s overall assessment of how well she or he has been able to integrate paid work and family life. In addition perceived sources of work-family conflict and views on plausible interventions to enhance work-family balance are also explored. The analysis reveals that in South Africa parents of young children generally have poor work-family fit, a finding that can be explained by various factors including the gendered division of labour that is persistent among all population groups in the country, presence of young children in the household, and the extent of spousal support. The paper argues that these findings underscore the need for to develop more comprehensive provisions to support working parents with young children. Support for paid parental leave, in particular, emerged from the analysis with majority of the respondents being of the view that paid parental leave of about five months (compared to the current 12-14 weeks) must be provided for all employees in South Africa. The majority view was also that the parental leave must be funded by employers, and to a lesser extent by employers together with the government. Drawing from its pertinent findings, the overall conclusion of the paper is that while policies such as parental leave will not necessarily be a panacea for the poor work-family fit reported by most respondents, available evidence suggests that the provision such leave can have an important role in enhancing the country’s efforts to attain work-family balance among its working population. The creation of public and private sector policies that will support South African men and women with childcare responsibilities to reconcile work and family obligations as a way of strengthening families and contributing towards a stronger economy is the paper’s overarching recommendation.

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Title: The anathema of black African family structure and ilobolo debacle in the ‘post-colonial’ era: A South African township context

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Abstract: This article alludes to historical evidence that tracks invention of tradition in South African societal sphere since late 1600s. It looks briefly in summarising aspects of both cultural alterations since 18th century and ilobolo, a bride price exercise in relation to the current township experiences of black African community. At this juncture the ilobolo practice aligns with the aspirations of the labour market. It is argued in this instance that because the present social policies ignore the historical social arrangements, this tend to continuously impact negatively the development of the authentic black African family structure in the ‘post-colonial’ era. Perhaps, the retention of the township spatial planning is essential especially when it comes to the industrial labour supply. This acumen challenges the promise that espouses to “heal the divisions of the past” colonial injustices to all. The notion of invention of tradition will be explored in understanding the black African development patterns of socio-cultural values in relation to modern forms of livelihood security and ilobolo practice. This article poses that the prevailing material conditions limits the prospects for development of authentic family structure and intends to bring about a better understanding of challenges that relates to gender perspective and township poverty in South Africa, both historically and the contemporary period. In particular, challenges that focus on the lack of access to natural capital, land and a shift from traditional, establishment of receptive social relationships. In addition, aspects that rendered ilobolo tenet to be aligned to a colonial defined social transaction based on monetary value of which contributes to a genocide of indigenous cultural ethos. Furthermore, this cultural shift comes at a cost as this ancient ilobolo act has been distorted, as other quarters of our society tend to advocate that women has been reduced to a commodity. Thus, tantamount to the decrease of established candid household structures, increase of cohabitation families, rise of single parenting and children living in the streets. In conclusion, it is recommended that relevant stakeholders such as traditional leaders and community members including government agencies should formulate strategies and policies that facilitate the restoration of the indigenous moral mystery behind ilobolo principle and limits imposed by consumerist tendencies that hover over the black African family structure.

Keywords: Nightmare, black African, family, structure, township, ilobolo, ‘post-colonial’, South Africa, livelihood

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Title: Relationships between Parenting Behavior and Character Strengths among Chinese Adolescents in Hong Kong

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Abstract: This study investigates the relationships between parenting behavior in the aspects of parental care and parental control and adolescents’ character strengths in the areas of authenticity, bravery, perseverance, kindness, love, social intelligence, fairness, and self-regulation. We use survey data collected from a territory-wide sample of 2,010 secondary school students recruited from 17 secondary schools located in different districts of Hong Kong. The results support our hypotheses that parental care and parental control have significantly positive and negative effects, respectively, on the above character strengths. They suggest that high parental control, whereby parents are over-intrusive and controlling, together with low parental care, indicated by coldness and indifference, tend to interfere with the autonomy of the child, resulting in poor character strengths. Moreover, our results indicate that gender has significant effects on the relationships between parental care and parental control with character strengths. These findings echo previous research on Chinese adolescent development, suggesting that because of male gender preference, Chinese parents tend to have higher expectations of and exert more control over sons than daughters, which limits character strength development among boys compared to girls. Accordingly, a change in child-rearing behavior in Hong Kong would be especially beneficial for male adolescents growing up in this socio-cultural environment.

Keywords: Character Strengths, Parenting Behavior, Gender Differences, Chinese Adolescents, Hong Kong

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Title: Intergenerational care of older persons amidst changing times in rural Uganda

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Abstract: Due to continuous aging of the world's population, family sizes and structures are changing with resultant challenges to intergenerational relations, social support and care giving involving mainly older persons. This is particularly prevalent in developing countries such as Uganda that has inadequate systems of old age care and support. Such a nation will in future be ill-equipped to meet the needs of its growing number of older people if it does not comprehensively document circumstances and experiences of older persons for enhanced planning and programming. The paper therefore explored how older persons in rural Uganda experience intergenerational relationships.

Since the study was directed by the social construction philosophical worldview, a qualitative research approach was utilised. The associated social exchange theory, intergenerational solidarity - conflict framework and ambivalence concept guided the research. 45 purposively selected rural based research participants were therefore asked through in-depth interviews to describe: the situation of older persons, nature of changing family structures and how these are influencing intergenerational care and support provided to older persons in Uganda. Observations were used as the secondary data collection method. In conducting analysis, data was organised and prepared, read through, coded into themes, described and interpreted for meaning.

Preliminary results show that most of the older persons were farmers and their lives revolved around participating in farming and community based initiatives in their areas of residence. The main source of care and support to older persons were found to be their children and relatives. These children and relatives transferred money, visually monitored older persons and helped with farming, house maintenance and repairs. They also helped with household chores such as fetching water, laundry, yard cleaning and purchase of groceries. However, some older persons reported giving assistance to their grandchildren. Financial support was mainly for school fees, materials and books. These are done especially when some older persons sell proceeds from their farms or receive government supported social assistance cash grant or when some older persons receive their pension. The quality of life of some older persons reportedly improved due to state provision cash grants. Other contributors were rural infrastructural devolvement. Older persons were also considered as sources of wisdom.

Despite older persons receiving or giving out support and care plus some reporting improved quality of life, ongoing changes were found to generally and negatively affect support and care giving involving older persons. Results show that these undesirable results are caused by recent global and national economic downturns, rising costs of living, bad governance, rising population, and weakening family tradition and solidarity arrangement of intergenerational care and support to older persons. Civil strife result in property loss, climate change, rural urban migration of adult children, death of siblings and partner further affected older persons negatively. Family life is therefore generally strained and older persons as a consequence reported becoming lonely, stressed, poorer and miserable.

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Title: Social Construction of Manhood and Male Prerogatives in Fertility-Caregiving Decisions within Northern Nigeria

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Abstract: Economic growth and development of nations had been conceived to be connected to the size of national populations and the quality of care, for especially the elderly. In the past few decades, the persistent high fertility rate and neglect of the elderly within States of Northern Nigeria has occurred in manners that set social and economic development in reverse within the region. In Northern Nigeria, there are normative principles, institutions and beliefs that determine decisions concerning who resolves: when to have sex, to use contraceptives, spacing of children, number of children to have, and the person to be cared for at old age. Through the engagement of 1000 households in in-depth interviews across Kibiya Local Government Area of Kano State Nigeria, this study examines the role of men in fertility and caregiving decisions and how this influence persistent high population rates and the care of the elderly within Northern Nigeria. Findings confirmed that men dominantly decide when to have sex, when and how to use contraceptives; decide on spacing of children, the number of children to have, and who should be cared for at old age. It is concluded that the drive towards improving maternal-reproductive health and gender equity in caregiving within Northern Nigeria depend largely on the active co-operation and participation of men. This is because men as heads of households and major sexual and maternal health decision makers, they occupy a strategic place in the reproductive health and care of women. Thus, non-formal educational programmes that foster men’s commitment and joint responsibility in all areas of sexual-reproductive health and caregiving should be organized by governmental, non-governmental and community-based organizations for men within Northern Nigeria.

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Title: The psychosocial needs of wives as caregivers to husbands living with HIV and AIDS

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Abstract: This study explored the psychosocial needs of wives who are caregivers for their husbands who are living with HIV and AIDS residing within the Mangaung Metro area of The Free State Province in South Africa. The husbands of the participants in this study were beneficiaries of home based care services rendered by Non Profit Organizations (NPO’s) in the area of Mangaung.

The study utilised a qualitative research approach, with an exploratory and descriptive design. Purposive sampling was used to select caregiving wives between the ages of twenty-seven (27) and sixty-two (62) years. Members from the management of NPOs were also included in the sample to find out their views. Interviewing was used as a method of data collection.

The study revealed that wives who act as caregivers to their husbands living with HIV and AIDS need psychosocial support services. This is necessitated by the fact that caregiving is a physically and emotionally draining task, and psychosocial support would assist them in continuing with their tasks as caregivers.

The study concluded that there is a need for caregiving wives to be included as direct beneficiaries of psychosocial support services when in the context HIV and AIDS care.

Key terms: Caregiving wives, psychosocial support, person living with HIV and AIDS.

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Title: Caring relationships within precarious living conditions

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Abstract: We held 24 individual interviews and three focus groups with young people (between 15 and 30 years) living on the streets, in shelters or in other precarious living conditions in Pretoria during 2015 and 2016. All the research participants discussed their family relationships in some detail and caring relations towards children, siblings, parents, grandparents and other family members came to the fore. In these relationships financial responsibilities, emotional and physical care as well as complicated household arrangements emerged. Different forms of support flow from the research participants to their family members and they are seldom recipients of support unless they are younger than 18 years. Moreover, drug dependency is a major influence on family relationships in a subgroup of the sample. In many of the other cases the relationships between participants and their partners are of particular importance as they are characterised by friction and often short-lived. Despite the instability of many relationships, a heteronormative middle class lifestyle is still envisioned for future relationships. These results reiterate findings in the South African literature on families and are thus not surprising. The discrepancies between lived experiences and ideals also resonate with South African family policy directions. Such notions of idealised family lives are further reflected upon in this paper.

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Title: Pathways to Manhood of Young Urban Black Men: Implications for family life in Urban African Settings

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Abstract: Traditionally pathways from being a boy to become a man was connected to socio-cultural rituals and values (Roets 2014; Pathways Foundation 2017; Ouzgane & Morrel 2005). This included a stage in the boy’s life where he has to undergo some kind of ritual in order to be recognized as a man and then could partake in decision-making. Due to cosmopolitan nature of urban settings most young men are exposed to a diversity of beliefs and values including the understanding of masculinity and socioeconomic values which define them as a man (Connell 2005). This has also serious implications to the structure of family life in most African countries including South Africa as it may cause delay in starting family life and/or even see some sociopathic disorders like gender-based violence and family murders.

A qualitative explorative research was conducted among young Black adults between the ages of 20-35 years who are living in the Gauteng urban areas of South Africa. Three group interviews were conducted using a purposive sampling technique with these young adults who also participated in various social empowerment interventions and programmes for same ages in their different communities.

From the research findings it was evident that some of the sociocultural pathways to manhood were still present in urban settings but often more from a socioeconomic value perspective. Older men, women and social status were still important but the ability to work or being employed has become one of the critical pathways to the urban Black man. It provided a fundamental base to receive acceptance and validation as being a man in a political economic environment as well as often redefined the other traditional pathways to manhood like sexual expression. Even the pathway through women of the same age has become predominately socioeconomic which often led to intergenerational relationships.

These pathways for the young urban Black man needs to be analysed as consequences of the social history of family life in South Africa including the role of absent fathers, migrant labour and socioeconomic status of family life in urban settings. The researcher will share some of the findings in the context of implications to the structure of family life in South Africa and draw some recommendations for possible interventions.

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Title: The challenges of eldercare among South Asian Keralite Immigrants in the Canadian Diaspora

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Abstract: South Asians have been coming to Canada since the early 1900s. My research focuses on the Malayalam speaking Keralite community and their experiences with eldercare. The majority of Malayali immigrants entered Canada post 1967 as a result of specific changes to immigration policy. The 1967 changes in immigration focused on education, skills, and work experience of potential applicants, to which nurses, in particular, responded in large numbers. This first generation of nurses has now retired and entered into their latter stages of life. Many in this community, who have been in Canada for over forty years, have not planned /prepared for the care of their aging population.

Despite the initial loss of support of close family members back in Kerala, these immigrants were able to create and sustain new forms of community in Canada. The contemporary literature on transnationalism examines the ways in which immigrants, having left their homelands, have not only created new forms of community, but have maintained strong social, economic and cultural contact with both their sending and receiving countries. Yet, entering into their senior years many elder immigrants have been unprepared for the lack of elderly care. Traditional forms of elder care in India which relied on adult children to provide intimate care have not been realized in the diaspora.

While many in the Malayali community have had fulfilling careers, and have succeeded in home ownership and in educating children, they are not prepared for life alone during their elder years. My research brings attention to the ways in which the process of aging is unfolding as the first generation of Malayalis enter into the latter stages of life. This research, grounded in 64 face to face interviews, provides a examination of the ways in which the community has been responding to this demographic shift. The narratives presented highlight the complex (and at times conflicting) nature of families, immigrant communities, immigrant churches, and the need for national social policy that addresses the growing needs of the aging immigrant elderly population.

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Title: The interplay between health care and families

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Abstract: Family comes out of the womb of society regulated by the state; therefore pattern of care depends mostly on socio-economic fibers of the state. This almost applies to country like India where traditions dominates the scene for traditions die hard. Besides the emerging pattern of politico economic policies of a nation they serve as a guiding principle for setting patterns of family care. The same framework hardly applies to western nations for they have a little room for joint families.

In India a secular country still having a separate room for Islamic traditions, have different set of pattern care especially when they practice polygamy. Therefore the pattern of care flexes and unsettled as the Muslim Law puts no restrictions about the number of children as the size of family. Most of the programs in India about family pattern and their care have the least desired target and policies.

With the launching of social development programs about the last man in Indian societies, the pattern of family care is reported vitally changing towards a progressive stage.

Methodology: For the study of the subject we have to choose certain families from various levels as- economic and status levels, living conditions, rural and urban levels etc. So, answers of questionnaire would be helpful for assessing the conclusion.

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Title: Caring for the elderly – effects of caring on family and children

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Abstract: Focusing on an underresearched topic in elder care, this paper reviews the effects of family caregiving to an elderly family member on the family system and especially on children in the family.

Life expectancy and aging of the population have continuously increased during the last decades, resulting in an increase in the number of older persons with age-related restrictions or disease. As a consequence, the number of multigenerational families with an elderly care recipient is also growing in Europe. This paper specifically focuses on the changes in family life and in family roles and on the development of children/adolescents that are caused by providing informal care for an older relative. Adolescents who live in caregiver families not only have to cope with typical developmental tasks such as forging their own identity; they also have to cope with changes in family structure and family life, with the redefinition of their social role, with new family rules and relationships as well as with additional duties that will have an impact on their development. To date, research and scientific literature on informal caregiving widely neglect the role of children or adolescents living in caregiver families.

In most cases of informal caregiving by family members, one person, (usually the daughter or daughter-in-law of the elderly person) takes care of the mother, father, or even mother- or father–in-law. This is why research on informal caregivers frequently focuses on the role and needs of these primary caregiving persons. Often, however, the whole family is involved in and affected by giving care to an elderly family member. This is especially problematic for informal caregivers who themselves are mothers or fathers and have “children under age 21 still at home … who are simultaneously caring for a parent” (Siskowski, 2001, p. 4). They are denoted the “sandwich generation” and experience twice as much stress: They are confronted with multiple competing demands due to caring for the older person (care recipient) on the one hand and to the education and care demands for their own children. How do caregivers cope with this situation? Spill –over effects take place and affect the care giver, the needy person, all family members, and especially the children.

Childhood and adolescence are developmental periods which place enormous demands on the young. Children and adolescents have to cope with difficult developmental tasks which include adopting new roles and developing their own identity. How do they cope with a completely new family situation, new routines, new time schedules, new parental roles, and new expectations concerning their own role in a caring family? The main purpose of this paper is to identify and discuss the changes in family life and family dynamics and the consequences for young family members in caregiving families. We establish a theoretical model of the effects of family caregiving on adolescents, regarding stress factors as well as enabling factors of the care situation and their potential outcomes in form of positive or negative effects. Children and adolescents of today will be the future caregiver of tomorrow. The experience gained by the younger generation today will not only have an impact on their personal development but also on their attitude toward and their future behavior with respect to caregiving. With this paper we intended to provide new impetus on the basic theoretical approaches and models of the often overlooked role of children and adolescents in caregiving families to get a more holistic approach to the system “caring family”.

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Title: Family’s transfer to the divorced elderly

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Abstract: Within the aging of population the question of care and financial support of elderly become increasingly relevant. Meanwhile the spread of divorce and separation becomes a very strong trend in the modern society. Divorced elderly cannot get support from their partner, they do not work anymore and thus their income consists only of pensions which are often not enough to provide the adequate standard of living. Transfers were significantly described in scientific literature (P. Samuelson, R. Baker), but not from point of view of marital status. In this research, based on data from the «Comprehensive monitoring of living conditions of the population» conducted in Russia in 2014, author examines how children in Russia help their old parents and how this help varies depending on gender and marital status.

The main factor here is the fact that life expectancy of men about 11 years less than of women. Due to this fact the rate of lonely women above 55 years old is much higher than the percentage of lonely men. Also men tend to remarriage easier than women, that’s why they more often find a new family. It is a common practice in Russia that after divorce or separation children stay with mother and this make the remarriage for women more difficult. On the other hand this tight connection with children provides women more support than men.

Percentage of population in Russia in the retirement age, % (left) and divorce rate (right)

For example through all marital statuses the biggest gender differences in material transfers are observed among divorced and separated people: the percent of men who get material support from their children is much lower than the percent of women (19,5% against 35,9% among divorced and 10% against 37,9% among separated). On the other hand the average income of men during working period of life is higher than income of women, due to this fact they more often have savings.

Another question is intangible help – housekeeping and care during illness – which cannot be earned and depends only on the relationship with children. From this point of view divorced and separated elderly men is the most vulnerable group: only one third of them get help from children.

At last when we analyze elderly people who do not get help from their children because of the termination of the relationship, we see that “separated group” is presented only by men and 80% the “divorced group” is presented by men only.

To sum up the results Russia there is a big gap between elderly man and women in getting help from their children. Tight connection between children and mother after divorce or separation leads to more intensive transfers from this children when the woman gets retirement. Men make more savings than women which can help them to overcome the lack of the material support from their children, but they cannot help to overcome the lack of intangible help. This problem can be solved with the development of institutions with which men can get such services, but unfortunately this sphere is still not high-developed in Russia.

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Title: Till Debt do us Part? Family Care, Household Debt, and Inequality

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Abstract: In addition to population aging and the deinstitutionalization of patients with mental disabilities, neoliberal restructuring of the welfare state in many developed nations has compelled the family to take on greater responsibilities for care. This includes care for elderly parents, disabled children and adults, and other family members. However, in many cases any additional resources made available by the state to help families with the attendant care expenses fall far short of the actual costs involved. In Canada the latter mostly involve income tax deductions that provide fewer benefits for lower-income families. While there is a growing literature on the impacts the downloading of care responsibility to families, as of yet insufficient attention has been paid to how families are paying for rising costs, and particularly how this affects family balance sheets. Like many other developed nations, household debt levels in Canada have risen rapidly over the last 15 years, and have continued to do so after the global financial crisis. Is the downloading of care pushing families into debt? My paper answers this question via analysis of the raw data in the Survey of Financial Security (SFS), a nationally-representative survey conducted by Statistics Canada of roughly 20,000 households from across the country. I received special permission to analyze the data in Statistics Canada’s Data Research Centre, and so have analyzed the full raw data and not a public-use sample. The results show that increased care responsibilities are a factor leading to higher debt levels among Canadian households, particularly those with lower incomes. I demonstrate, furthermore, that the effects are not only uneven with respect to socio-economic status, but also geographically even as they are felt more strongly in slow-growing regions. Thus, neoliberal restructuring of family care regimes not only pushes Canadian families into debt, it also implies a socio-spatial redistribution of financial vulnerability, with already-strong metropolitan areas benefitting relative to places with weaker economies, therefore exacerbating regional financial inequalities.

Keywords: Family care, eldercare, childcare, expenses, debt, inequality, financial vulnerability

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Title: Family Structure, Family Process, and Children's Wellbeing

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Abstract: Approximately 2 million children have experienced a parental deployment since 2001 (de Pedro et al. 2011). Their well-being continues to be significantly challenged by the experiences of wartime deployment as well as by combat mortality and morbidity. Military-connected children are a unique group of young people, who are simultaneously coping with the developmental milestones of childhood and adolescence (Milburn and Lightfoot 2013) while learning and adjusting to the challenges of military life, including high residential mobility from multiple moves and relocations and temporary parental absence from deployment(s) (see de Pedro et al 2011 for a review). Many of these children report high levels of emotional and behavioral problems as well as substance use (Gilreath et al. 2013).

Most studies of military-connected children focus on the impacts of military connectedness and deployment on children but ignore the impacts of changing family structures and processes. Military families with deployed parent(s) are like single parent families; one parent may be periodically absent due to deployment. With one parent missing from parental activities, the family structures are comparably similar. These two types of families are also different. Children from single-parent families may experience parental conflicts and other family dysfunctions due to divorce, which negatively impact their well-being (Amato 1986, 1993; Amato and Booth 1997). Moreover, parents who divorce may have unobserved qualities that make them less competent at family life (Booth 1999). This selection bias perspective does not apply to intact military families. Military-connected children may be proud of their parent(s) who serve the country and develop resiliency, which positively impact their self-esteem (Huebner et al. 2007). Therefore, the family processes are fundamentally different.

Several theories make competing predictions about the effects on children of single-parent families produced by divorce and parental deployment(s). The family structure perspective argues that it is the number and roles of parents that make a difference for children’s outcomes. Responsibility overload on one parent leads to inconsistent parentings, less supervision over children, and parental authoritarianism, which undermine the healthy development of children. Given similar family structure, children from divorced families and military families with deployment may have similar outcomes. However, family process perspective and selection bias perspective predict different outcomes for children of the two types of families. Children from divorced families may have prolonged exposure to parental conflicts, and divorced parents may be incompetent at family life and childrearing; both lead to negative effects for children’s development. Intact military families do not share similar experiences; in contrast, military-connected children are proud of their deployed parent(s), and the homestay parents do not choose to be single parents. Both family process perspective and selection bias perspective predicts that single parenthood produced by divorce have more negative consequences for children than single parenthood produced by military deployment. The capital deprivation perspective makes ambiguous predictions. Financial capital deprivation theory predicts that children from divorced single-parent families fare worse than children from military families with a deployed parent. Social capital deprivation theory suggests the opposite, since relocating and re-entering constitute the irregularity in children’s lives, which result in disengagements from activities, friendships, and responsibilities.

This paper compares military families with single parent families, asking whether single parenthood produced by divorce has more negative consequences for children than single parenthood produced by military deployment. It studies differences in children’s outcomes across the two types of single-parent families, one permanent and one temporary, using the 2011-2015 National Health Interview Survey. By comparing single-parent families with military families with deployment, I examine the impacts of family structures and processes on children’s internal and external welling. The preliminary results show that family processes, in terms of lower levels of parental psychological and physical wellbeing, such as depression and exhaustion, and higher levels of parental alcohol and cigarette use, negatively impact children’s psychological wellbeing and school attendance and produce diverging results between the two types of single-parent families.

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Title: Attitudes toward Elderly Support in Taiwan: Does Filial Piety still Matter?

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Abstract: The drastic increase of aging population in Taiwan has been accompanied by the serious decline of marriage and birth rates as well as the decrease of stem family structure. A concomitant change has been observed in that family values vary depending on the specific issue raised. As a result, elderly care is considered the most urgent social need to be solved in Taiwan. This study will focus on attitudes toward elderly care among Taiwanese with its relations to changing family values. Data will be taken from the 2016 Taiwan Social Change Survey which contains an island-wide stratified random sample of 2024 adults aged 18 and above. Elderly support is examined by living arrangement and living expenses. Moreover, attitudes toward elderly parent’s support were explored by two different standpoints: from the perspective of being parents versus of being children. Our preliminary analyses show that different attitudes regarding parental support are expressed in that when taken from the view of being children, more traditional attitude such as co-residence with parents and sharing the cost of parental expenses received higher endorsement. This coincides with previous reports which implies that the normative expectation of elderly support remain strong in contemporary Taiwan. As to changing family values, filial piety and other relevant attitudes (e.g., attitude toward divorce, the priority of parents in comparison with spouses or children) will be included. Previous studies have documented that filial piety as a core family value can be categorized into authoritative and reciprocal expressions. An attempt is thus made to compare the relative significance of traditional authoritarian versus modern reciprocal values in its effects on attitudes toward elderly care in Taiwan. Moreover, whether holding other modern gender role or marriage attitudes may have greater influence on elderly care will also be examined. Our findings will confirm the importance of family values in explaining attitudes toward supports of elderly parents in Taiwan with a specific illustration on the significant effect of filial piety. It will also contribute to our understanding of different viewpoints on elderly care in that co-residence and living expenses are not considered the same, especially when different generational perspectives are taken into account.

Key words: elderly care, filial piety, family values, co-residence, sharing living expenses

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