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1. **President’s Column**

Have you been in Japan? If not, you have missed something. Of course I do not mean in this editorial of a scientific body the impressive landscape with steep hills full of green trees, the mystical and inspiring Japanese gardens, the busy and overcrowded cities, the futuristic trains, I of course mean our seminar in Kyoto, organized by Emiko Ochiai. We had an impressive variety of presentations, from big projects of organizing local family Asian value studies and comparisons of global development of families to local case studies.

We call our events seminars, though they tend, in the last couple of years, to resemble more a conference in scale. About a hundred people were present in the lectures and the fruitful discussions. Many thanks to Emiko Ochiai and her assistants who organized this conference so smoothly.

These events strengthen the weak ties of scientists globally, coming together discussing issues of their scientific work - one of the goals of an international organization. Join them! We would like to strengthen this communication even further. Barbara Neves organized a blog on our webpage and Tessa LeRoux started the first one in August. It was about the practical use of family sociology and the functions we could play in society. It reminded me of a local discussion we had at my university (University of Vienna, Austria) about scientific and social impact. Though we are measured by scientific impact we always fight for recognizing the social impact sociology should have. We lack measurable indicators though, we lack scientific quality assurance for the applied work. Participating in our conferences might at least improve individual performance.

So hopefully we shall meet in Belgium next year. And we have plans for 2013 – but that will be in the next gazette.

Rudolf Richter

2. **Honorary President’s Column**

During the last weeks I have had a course in qualitative methods in our Master Program at Uppsala University. Students are coming from various parts of the world, for example one from Bosnia, one from the USA, one from Romania, a couple from Russia, about a dozen from China and about ten from Sweden.

We have especially been speaking about observations, sociometry and qualitative interviewing. And all students have exercised these three variations of qualitative methods, meaning that they have all trained to observe social reality, all have been collecting data via sociometry, and all have done a number of qualitative interviews.
When we came to the interview training I told them that the interviews should all be about family and the basic question for the interviews was “Who are members of your family?”

There were two reactions from quite a few of the students. One of the reactions was that the topic for the interviews was too sensitive. “You just can’t ask people about their families! That’s to go too far ethically!” The other reaction was that “Everyone in our culture means the same with family; there are no variations!”

The first reaction: I told the students to do what I required or they will fail on the course – after all they had chosen to take a course learning, understanding and using science. They all did and came back to class telling us all that there was no problem in interviewing about family. The "sensitivity" of interviewing on the topic of family did not exist when used in practice.

The second reaction: With the requirement, still as the background, they realized after interviewing that even within the same culture in social reality and in people’s minds there are varieties in family patterns.

We all should know all this as family sociologists – so, why do I repeat what everyone knows?

All this reminds me about Peter Laslett who in the 1970s showed us that families including several generations had never as far as could be found existed as a social system at least not in the Western world. They had existed as social reality but not as social institutions or social systems. Many decades have passed since then and still you can hear some family scientists claim that they had existed as social systems in the Western world.

Some of us have argued and shown that to study people’s family is no sensitive topic for those involved. Still you can hear not only students but also colleagues say and write as if it were. The same with the question about people’s family: you still can hear not only students but also colleagues say and write as if people’s definition of their own family would be fully culture bound.

Myths are living almost forever. The “truths” I have been writing about above might also become myths in a while.

JT
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3. From the Secretary

Dear Members

(a) In the latter part of this year, the first of the monthly blogger contributions became available online on the CFR website. We received such a good response from our members, that we have decided to include these bogs in this issue of the Gazette. Thank you to both Tessa LeRoux and Emiko Ochiai for their thought provoking contributions.

(b) What a stimulating CFR seminar we had in Kyoto, Japan! I would like to express the Board’s gratitude towards Emiko Ochiai and her team for organising this seminar with the support of both the Japanese Society of Family Sociology and Kyoto University. During the seminar, a total of 52 participants joined as new CFR members. Welcome to all of them.

Some pictures taken during the seminar in Kyoto:
(c) Allow me, once again, to bring a few matters to your attention:

- Please inform me if any of your contact details have changed. You are welcome to send me an email, using the following address: rsmi@uj.ac.za
- Currently the CFR has 388 members, of which 169 are also ISA members in good standing.

Best wishes,
Ria Smit

4. CFR Blogger Contributions

Families and the Matthew Effect
by Tessa LeRoux

Some years ago, in his opening remarks at the CFR seminar in Boston, CFR President Rudolf Richter talked about how family sociology is or should be involved in public debate, and he concluded with the following words of C. Wright Mills“…the sociological imagination has its chance to make a difference in the quality of human life in our time.” As the first CFR month blogger, I want to pick up on that theme, and would like to continue the conversation about whether and how family sociology should be involved in public debate. Please post your comments and thoughts on this issue – the new media gives us the wonderful opportunity to engage in discussion outside of the regular face-to-face seminars.

In reflecting on current events in the world, like Richter, I also find myself returning to the classics. It somehow seems appropriate, having celebrated the 100th anniversary of his birth last July, to remember the work of Robert Merton, who coined the term the Matthew Effect (after the Biblical reference that to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away). As a family sociologist I tend to focus on how family shapes, and is shaped by the world – and at present it seems that the accumulation of advantage (power, social capital, wealth) that Merton wrote about is a constant theme.
Of course we cannot oversimplify and ascribe all social ills to the growing gap between the rich and the poor. But neither can we underestimate its effect. Take the recent unrest in Great Britain as an example. Explanations for what happened abound. Not surprisingly, these can be divided into the to-be-expected ideological lines; on the one hand those who, like Cameron, emphasize personal responsibility, and blame the actions of those who participated in the riots and/or looting on a lack of morality (or in Cameron’s words a “moral collapse”) – thus, in sociological terms, a sense of anomie, or normlessness. On the other hand the social critics blame the social structure of society, the growing gap between rich and poor. They reference a disenfranchised underclass, and recognize in many a sense of disengagement – or in more classical sociological terms alienation.

As a family sociologist, what really struck me was the way in which “family” was referenced in these discussions. Not surprisingly, the anomie-school blamed families for the behavior of the young people – dysfunctional or absent parents, families who do not socialize their offspring properly. In a variation on this theme some ascribed the looting to a consumer culture (perhaps societal values were too well taught!)

This reminded me of the old issue of family ideology – the traditional family seen as the ‘basic unit’ in society, or in Parsonian terms the institution responsible for primary socialization of children and stabilization of adult personalities. And if something goes wrong, family has somehow not fulfilled its obligation to society. Why does this old ideology persist? As family sociologists understand that there is a much more complex relationship between poverty and social problems. We realize that family is an institution to be supported and protected, rather than to be blamed for social ills. We understand, for example, that divorce and single parenthood are consequences of social and economic dislocations, and that in the neoliberal and minimalist state vulnerable populations are the ones most affected by social conditions – immigrants, women, the poor. Yet in society at large, except in a small handful of countries, the care of children and the elderly is constructed around conservative views of families, and if something goes wrong, families are blamed.

The theme of the 2012 ISA Forum is “Social Justice and Democratization” and the 2014 World Conference Theme is "Facing an Unequal World: Challenges for a Global Sociology." In his vision of utopias for a global sociology, Eric Olin Wright, President-elect of the American Sociological Association pleads for a critical sociology which, he says, have three central tasks: first, the diagnosis of the social causes of the harms of society; second, the elaboration of alternative institutions and structures; and third, the development of a theory of transformation which tells us how to get from here to there.
So here are a few questions for discussion:

- Do you agree with Wright about the need for a critical sociology? Should we become engaged in macro-level sociological work? To what extent is a more critical view of family and household included in contemporary sociological models of society? As Jan Trost rightly points out in the last newsletter, RC06 is one of the most active research committees of the ISA – but does our work spill over to general sociology, or to theory-building on a more macro-level? Some of the most innovative work comes at the intersection of disciplines (as anyone who attended the seminar on Family and Memories will attest). At this point in history the intersection between family and collective behavior/social movements seems particularly relevant – or the intersection between family and modern media. What about the intersection between family and human rights? The list goes on…

- There has been much discussion about a public sociology – what is your view on this? Should family sociologists contribute to this discussion? How can we bridge the gap between our academic discourse and the public discourse of social policy, or should we, as Mills suggested, remain independent researchers? Do we have to be more vocal in our critique of views of family that are rooted in romantic notions of a mythical past? In England Cameron pledged to “mend society” – what role can and should family sociologists play in governmental attempts at social engineering around the world?

Reconstruction of the Intimate and Public Spheres in a Global Perspective
by Emiko Ochiai

A seminar for the International Sociological Association Research Committee on Family Research was held at Kyoto University from the 12th to the 14th of September 2011. This year it was hosted by the Japan Society of Family Sociology and the Kyoto University Global COE, with the theme of “Reconstruction of the Intimate and Public Spheres in a Global Perspective.” Over its three days we had eight presentation sessions, three poster sessions, two special sessions, and a
Dr. Todd’s special lecture (“Traditional Family Systems and Recent Demographic Differences in Eurasia: Is There Such a Thing as Modernity?”) was on his bold hypothesis on the historical development of the family that he developed in his new work: “L’origine des systèmes familiaux”. His idea that the nuclear family is the primitive one and the joint family is the newer was extremely stimulating. In the special sessions, we heard reports on the results of international comparative projects between families in Europe, from the KASS (Kinship and Social Security) Project, and in Asia, from the EASS (East Asian Social Survey 2006) and GCOE Family Survey Project. The presentation sessions covered a wide range of areas such as “Social Policy and Family,” “Gender and Work,” “Migration, Family and Community,” “Marriage Migration,” “Changing Families and Society,” “Intimacy in Varieties of Modernity,” “Parents and Children in Society,” and “Elders in Society.” Reflecting its large theme and the geographic location, the seminar served as a place of encounter for the researchers in various fields and from various regions of the world.

Professor Rudolf Richter (University of Vienna), President of the CFR, graciously gave us a lecture (“Family Sociology between Scientific and Social Impact”) at the Annual Meeting of the Japan Society of Family Sociology, which was held right before this seminar. I am happy that the seminar has deepened our ties with researchers around the world. If we can use this seminar to encourage even greater participation by family researchers from Japan and Asia in CFR and contribute to family studies on a global scale, then I believe that this seminar will have been a true success.
Dear colleague,

We have the pleasure of sending you the call for papers for the upcoming international seminar of the Committee on Family Research (CFR, International Sociological Association) that FaPOS (Family and Population Studies, www.soc.kuleuven.be/fapos) organises on 12-14 September 2012 at K.U.Leuven, Belgium.

The theme of the seminar is

New Family Forms following Family Dissolution: Consequences in/on Postmodern Society

This seminar focuses on the intertwined transitions in demographic regimes and family structures the past three decades. These transitions are both cause and consequence of the dramatic increase in family dissolution, and subsequently on new repartnering patterns and processes. The aim of the CFR-seminar 2012 is to shed light on the specific dimensions of these changes and the mechanisms behind them. For possible themes, please check the call for abstracts included in attachment.

For more information on the programme: www.soc.kuleuven.be/cfrseminar2012. On our website you will find a full project description, as well as the application procedure and the online submission form.

The deadline for submitting your application is 10 February 2012. The selection of participants will be communicated by the beginning of April 2012.

Thanking you in advance for your interest and for the wider dissemination of this information. We remain at your disposal for all further questions (cfrseminarleuven@soc.kuleuven.be).
6. Call for Papers: Conferences & Seminars

Call for Papers: Interim Meeting of the European Sociological Association (ESA)
Research Network “Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives”

To be held in Milan (Italy), on September 13-15, 2012. The meeting is organized by Giovanna Rossi, Catholic University of Milan, (IT) and Isabella Crespi, University of Macerata (IT).

Families, care and work facing the challenges of a globalized world: policies, practices and services
organized by
Giovanna Rossi, Catholic University of Milan, Athenaeum Centre for Family Research and Studies, Italy
and
Isabella Crespi, University of Macerata, Dept. Education, Italy

The ESA research network on Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives organizes an interim meeting in Milan, Italy, on September 13-15, 2012.

The meeting titled Families, care and work facing the challenges of a globalized world: policies, practices and services, will address the “hot issue” of managing care and work in everyday family life and on the societal level of policies, cultural patterns, and welfare regimes. Families are always under pressure as they are involved in economic, social, cultural events characterising the contemporary world and thus have to manage the challenges prompted by the conditions of global crisis. Further, families are facing every day life, with the managing of educational and care tasks and the balancing of internal and external requests during all the family life-cycle. Indeed, each stressful event, as the impairment of a family member, challenges family life and compels the subjects to act some reflexivity on their everyday life. The redefinition of gender roles, the need for reconciliation between family and work, the presence of immigrants taking up the role of caregivers and the second demographic transition are profoundly changing the taken-for-granted negotiations among genders and generations. In a rapidly changing world a multitude of new challenges are emerging and affecting families and individual life; at the same time the welfare state is subject to crisis in many parts of the world. A globally encompassing capitalism is deeply involved and the consequences of the recent financial crisis are felt worldwide. Due to this, many countries are struggling to develop new policies to maintain good level of social welfare; the need for an in-depth understanding of social problems is urgent and
requires an updated rethinking of causes, mechanisms and solutions, applied to policies and services as well. Recent literature and researches indicate some potentially fruitful indicators.

The focus of the conference is to shed light on the role of different agents (state, market, third sector), relationships and social policies in combining care and work within the families; for example, to identify services of excellence as for quality, efficiency and efficacy and programs promoting to empower family’s capability to keep on generate social capital. What is relevant is not just a “service provision” perspective but also the true impact of policies and practices in shaping the society and the families as a whole, while trying to address its most crucial needs.

There will be seven sessions as follow:
1. The changing meaning of care and work in the families experience
2. Care, work and intergenerational relations
3. Care, work and migration processes
4. Gender, care and work
5. Social policies, care and work: the different role of state, markets, third sector and families
6. Care and work services: case studies
7. Special session: Ph.D Session

All abstracts should be completed in English. They should include six distinct sections, in the following order:

1) **Title + authors:** institutional address (email, fax, office phone).
2) **Content:** A description of the theoretical framework, the main hypotheses that are tested, some of the findings and their relation with the literature.
3) **Method:** A description of the data and the methods (either qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods) that are used.
4) **Keywords:** Five keywords describing the main contributions of the paper should be included.
5) **References:** a brief list of references (10 maximum).
6) **Sessions:** indication about the session in which your contribution fits best.

Ph.D candidates should also indicate in the abstract: 1) the relevance of the issue discussed, 2) hypothesis 3) the stage of the research curried out 4) the methodology and the main findings emerged or expected.

The best Ph.D paper, among the 7 accepted, will be awarded with a reimbursement for the conference expenses (such as travel, accommodation) for a maximum of 500 euro.

No contribution will be accepted unless it fits the six sections. Individuals may submit a maximum of two abstracts to the conference but should not be the first author (i.e. the presenter) of more than one paper. The abstract length should be between 3000 and 9000 characters (all sections and spaces included). Tables and figures should not be included in your abstract. We kindly
request authors to send their abstracts (pdf or doc files) no later than **January 30th 2012** to esaRN13.2012@unicatt.it with email subject reading “ESA Milano 2012” and naming the file with surname_name (ex. rossi_giovanna)

Authors will be communicated about acceptance of their papers on **March 1st 2012**. All selected papers must be sent to the conference organizers no later than **15th June 2012**.

The conference organizers cannot pay for travel expenses, however attendance is free of charge and beverage will be provided in coffee breaks. The conference can accommodate 22 papers at the maximum and 7 Ph.D presentations. No parallel session will be hold. Each paper will be granted 30 minutes (20 minutes for presentation, 10 minutes for discussion).

The contributions are planned to be published in an edited book or journals after a reviewing process and agreement by the authors.

**7. Call for Papers: Journals**

**7.1 Call for Papers:**

**Contemporary Perspectives in Family Research**

Emerald Publishing is pleased to announce the renewal of Contemporary Perspectives in Family Research. This annual series focuses upon cutting-edge topics in family research, with each volume addressing a specific topic of interest to family researchers around the globe. Dr. Sampson Lee Blair, from the State University of New York (SUNY-Buffalo), is the new series editor for CPFR.

The 2012 volume of CPFR will focus on the theme of ‘Economic Stress and the Family.’ Understandably, the decidedly sharp downturn of the worldwide economy over the past few years has had a substantial impact upon families. The 2012 volume will have four sections, each of which will address a particular area of these economic effects: 1) families in poverty, 2) unemployment and family relationships, 3) work and parenting, and 4) financial stress and marital quality.

Manuscripts should be submitted directly to the editor (slblair@buffalo.edu), preferably in MS WORD format. Manuscripts should not exceed 40 double-spaced pages (not including tables, figures, and references). Submission of a manuscript implies commitment to publish in CPFR. Manuscripts should adhere to the APA format. Authors should make every effort to ensure that the manuscript contains no references by which the authors could be identified. Manuscripts should represent previously unpublished work. An abstract of 150-200 words should be included at the beginning of each manuscript. All manuscripts will undergo peer review.
The deadline for initial submissions is January 15, 2012. Any questions may be directed to the editor at slblair@buffalo.edu.

Dr. Sampson Lee Blair
Editor, Contemporary Perspectives in Family Research

7.2 Call for Papers: Cultural Sociology of Divorce: An Encyclopedia

Robert E. Emery, Ph.D. General Editor
Published by SAGE Reference
Produced by Golson Media

STYLE AND SUBMISSION GUIDELINES
The following are guidelines for contributors. Please follow the specifications closely as we will not be able to include your contribution if these guidelines are not met.

Project Summary
While the formal definition of divorce may be fairly concise and straightforward (the legal termination of a marital union, dissolving the bonds of matrimony between parties), the effects are anything but, particularly when children and other family members are involved. The Americans for Divorce Reform estimates that "probably, 40 or possibly even 50 percent of marriages will end in divorce if current trends continue." And outside the United States, there are markedly increased divorce rates across developed countries—divorce and its effects are a significant social factor in our culture and others. In fact, it might be said that a whole "divorce industry" has been constructed, with divorce lawyers and mediators, family counselors, support groups, etc. As King Henry VIII's divorces showed, divorce has not always been easy or accepted. In some countries, divorce is not permitted and even in Europe, countries such as Spain, Italy, Portugal, and the Republic of Ireland only legalized divorce in the latter quarter of the twentieth century. This multi-disciplinary encyclopedia covers curricular subjects around the world ranging from marriage and the family to anthropology, social and legal history, developmental and clinical psychology, and religion. Three volumes, comprised of over 500 articles, illuminate what has become a culture of divorce and its impact on society.

Deadline
All articles must be received by the deadline in your contract. Any articles received after the deadline may not be accepted unless prior arrangement is made. Contact the Author Manager, Lisbeth Rogers at divorce@golsonmedia.com
if you have any problem meeting your deadline. If you miss your deadline without notification your articles may be immediately reassigned.

7.3 **Call for Papers:**

*Families, Relationships and Societies: An International Journal of Research and Debate*

Co-Editors Tess Ridge, University of Bath  
Brid Featherstone, The Open University

*Families, Relationships and Societies* (*FRS*) is a new social science journal designed to advance scholarship and debate in the growing field of families and relationships across the life course. It will explore family life, relationships and generational issues from interdisciplinary, social science perspectives, whilst maintaining a solid grounding in sociological theory and methods and a strong policy and practice focus. The title 'Families, Relationships and Societies' encompasses the fluidity, complexity and diversity of contemporary social and personal relationships and their need to be understood in the context of different societies and cultures.

International and comprehensive in scope, *FRS* covers a range of theoretical, methodological and substantive issues, from the complexities of time, space, mobility and social change, to debates around family forms, practices and resources, intergenerational care and support, intimacy, individualisation, interdependency, identity, gender and generation. Encouraging methodological innovation, a life course perspective and dynamic approaches, the journal will transcend traditional boundaries that typically focus on one life course stage, one configuration of families or relationships, or one society.

Articles and contributions will be drawn from disciplines and subject areas across the social sciences and related lifecourse disciplines. The applied focus of the journal will embrace a diverse global field and encourage a critical engagement with policy and practice developments and issues within and across welfare regimes.

Open Space, co-edited by Professor David Morgan and Dr Jacqui Gabb, is a unique feature within the journal which provides an opportunity for debates across domains. It provides a dynamic space for critical engagement with contemporary debates, policy and practice initiatives, empirical research and recent publications in the fields of families, relationships and societies. This dialogic section will draw together different viewpoints on a topic, bringing authors into conversation with one another and providing up-to-date perspectives on local and global contexts.
Call for papers
Submissions to the journal are invited from subject areas across the social sciences and related life course disciplines. Papers will be expected to have relevance to academic, policy and practitioner audiences, enabling a wide range of perspectives to be brought together in one place to foster innovation and development within disciplines and advance interdisciplinary research and practice. For further information or to submit a paper please email the Editors c/o frs-journal@bath.ac.uk.

Contributions to the Open Space section are invited from all subject and disciplinary areas. They can explore any topic that falls within the key themes of the journal and may include Debate articles, Practice and policy review and Review articles. For further information and to submit proposal or contribution, please contact David Morgan at morgdav389@aol.com or Jacqui Gabb at j.a.gabb@open.ac.uk.

For further information about Families, Relationship & Societies, please visit www.policypress.co.uk_frs.asp. Sign up for a free trial for 2012 to view all the available content as it is published. This trial is available for both individuals and institutions. Email: tpp-frs-trial@bristol.ac.uk with your full name and contact address. You will receive an acknowledgement and an alert when the trial begins in March 2012 when the first issue is published.

8. Journal of Comparative Family Studies

JCFS was established in 1970 to promote a better understanding of inter-ethnic family interaction that is essential for all multicultural societies. It is a leading journal whose focus is to exclusively specialize in cross-cultural family studies drawing articles from social science researchers around the world. It contains invaluable material for Sociologists, Anthropologists, Family Counselors, and Social Psychologists.

2012 subscription rates effective January 1 through to December 31. SUBSCRIBE NOW for SIX (6) annual issues. Vol. 43, Issue No’s: 1,2,3,4,5,6. (ISSN #0047-2328).

RATES:
Individual: US $275 (one yr.); US $470 (two yrs.) – includes airmail.
Institution: US $525 (one yr.); US $950 (two yrs.) – includes airmail & online*
*Note to paid up “INSTITUTIONAL” Subscribers Only: To access the online JCFS issues from 2007, please email jcfs@ucalgary.ca and request your “access number.”*

**PAYMENT:** Please make your USD cheque payable to the Journal of Comparative Family Studies, and mail to the above address. No refunds for cancellations during the publishing year. *We do not take any credit cards.*

**NOTE CHANGE:** For **ALL CANADIAN** (only) subscribers you **MUST** add 5% GST to your subscription.

**Note to “INSTITUTIONAL” Subscribers Only:** To access the online JCFS Issues from 2007, you must email jcfs@ucalgary.ca and request your “access number”.

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9. **Recent Publications by CFR Members**


Special Issue of Journal of Comparative Family Studies, 42(5). Edited by: Barbara Barbosa Neves & Fausto Amaro
Title: “Family Diversity & Gender”

Contributions:

- “Arranged Marriages in Western Europe: Media Representations and Social Reality” by Roger Penn
- “Reconstruction of Gender Role in Marriage: Processes among Chinese Immigrant Wives” by Yan Yu
- “When Men Become Fathers: Men’s Identity at the Transition to Parenthood” by Claudia Höfner, Cornelia Schadler, and Rudolf Richter
- “Social Perceptions of Sibling’s Sexual Composition: Evidence from Portuguese Youth” by Margarida Martins Barroso
- “Intergenerational Coresidence in China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan: Comparative Analyses based on the East Asian Social Survey 2006” by Tokio Yasuda, Noriko Iwai, Chin-chun Yi, and Guihua Xie
- “Family-to-Work Conflict: Gender, Equity, and Workplace Policies” by Jia Zhao, Barbara H. Settles, and Xuewen Sheng
- “Migrant Domestic Work and Changes in the Ideas of Childcare” by Magdalena Díaz Gorfinkel
10. New Members

The CFR welcomes the following members:

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