COMMITTEE ON FAMILY RESEARCH (CFR) (RC06)

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (ISA)

CFR GAZETTE

Volume 41, Issue 1, 2015

Contents

1.   President's Column

Dear colleagues,

For the Committee on Family Research (RC06, ISA), the year 2015 formally started in June at the beautiful University of Syracuse, USA. An international conference on "Aging Families/Changing Families" took place from June 3rd to 6th which attracted more than 100 participants with more than 20 from CFR.

From the perspective of International Sociological Association, the co-sponsorship of RC11 (Research Committee on Aging) and RC06 is certainly welcome. From our side, this conference perhaps launched the first collaboration between two research committees in recent years. Chair of the local organizing committee – Prof. Merril Silverstein, who is currently the vice president of RC11 and also Cantor Professor in Aging Studies and professor at the Maxwell School Department of Sociology and Falk College School of Social Work at the University of Syracuse, deserves a big applause for the success of the conference.

I first met Merril back in 2003 when our member Ruth Katz introduced him and Vern Bengtson to attend the RC06 conference on "Intergenerational Relations in Families' Life Course" held in Taipei. His talk utilizing the intergenerational solidary model was very impressive. Merril attended the 2013 spring conference in Taipei again and expressed an interest to host an international conference in family studies. So when we met that summer during the ASA meeting, I approached him for the possibility of co-sponsorship and received his gracious endorsement. As I stated in the last column, to hold joint meetings with other RCs not only provide opportunities for learning/expanding related knowledge and recruiting new members, most importantly, it may lead to important collaboration for the future.

In the Aging Families/Changing Families conference, each day started with a keynote speech and followed by three parallel sessions in the same venue. Three prominent speakers are Andrew Cherlin (USA, "The Missing Working Class"), Ingrid Connidis (Canada, "Commitment and Change: Constants of Family Ties Over Time"), and Martin Kohli (Germany, "Generational Linkages in Aging Family"). As an audience, I was inspired by their talks and still ponder their arguments (selectively, of course). Prof. Cherlin proposed that as population structure changes, generational conflict may replace the class conflict in the future. Prof. Connidis emphasized while change is the non-changing constant in family changes, family relations indicated by commitment and ties maintain their continuity. Prof. Kohli substantiated his argument on linkages among generations with European data, and suggested that generational contract needs to expand from two generations to three.

With Merril and Virpi Timonen (RC11 President)

Other sessions basically centered on various significant aspects of aging family issues, such as grandparenthood, caregiving dynamics, intergenerational relations in family and social context, as well as welfare state and family policies. The diversity of family forms elderly experience and the problems transnational elderly families face aroused interesting dialogues throughout the meeting.

Perhaps, what is most noteworthy is a substantial proportion of reports revolve around the cross-societal comparison. Specifically, cross-country or cross-regional comparisons in co-residence patterns, intergenerational exchanges, kin relations, family and support attitudes, etc. The introduction of several longitudinal datasets from England, Germany, Japan, and East Asia, in addition to individual research projects on Turkey, Korea, East Europe, Sweden, Philippines, China and Taiwan highlight the international nature of this conference, a typical characteristics of ISA meetings. For most US scholars, the exposure of many international aging studies in a brief period could be a valuable experience. For 50 or more international scholars, to learn different research resources in the world provides fruitful experiences as well.

The local organizing committee comprised of Merril and his colleagues from the aging institute and other related fields. Besides wonderful meals, two outing social events were arranged which greatly help informal interactions. For all attendees, especially 1st timers, this special arrangement was much appreciated. Mark, Barbara, Susan and I had a partial board meeting during the break and discussed current logistics and upcoming conferences in Dublin (Aug. 2015), Beijing (May, 2016 tentatively) and the Sociological Forum in Vienna (July, 2016). Please make an effort to participate and to enjoy together meeting friends as well as engaging in scholarly exchanges.

Here is a picture of the Syracuse campus with RC06 board & members: Barbara, Mark, myself, Rudy, and Fumie.

Best regards,

Chin-Chun Yi
chinyi@gate.sinica.edu.tw

2. Honorary President's Column

"Must a name mean something?"

That is what Alice doubtfully asked. "Of course it must", Humpty Dumpty said with a short laugh: "*my* name means the shape I am — and a good handsome shape it is, too. With a name like yours, you might be any shape, almost". (Lewis Carroll: Alice in the Wonderland, 1871.)

When I was newly born my parents decided that my name should be Jan Lennart Eugén Trost. No problems for me until I was about five years old. At that time, when World War II had started, a ship with bananas came to my home town, Gävle. There were not many bananas aboard the ship so it was decided that all children under the age of seven would have banana for free. My oldest brother took his bike, went down to the harbor and got a banana for me.

In the meantime we democratically decided that we should split the banana in six pieces, one for mother, one for father, and one each for us four children. Before my brother came home one of my aunts came to visit us, she came together with one of her daughters and her baby. When my brother came home my aunt grabbed the banana mashed it and gave to the baby. As with babies a lot, maybe most, of what is put into their mouths comes outside.

That way our (and in fact my) banana was destroyed. We had to wait several years after the war before we could taste a banana. Worst of all was for me that that ugly little baby was named Lennart. Since then I can hardly stay that name. Not until my mother had died I applied to the authorities to change my name by dropping the ugly name. Furthermore, for years I could not eat bananas.

Another example of the importance with names: my father came to my hometown when he had finished his education in Germany. He found a good job in Sweden and my mother and he found each other. One of my uncles in Germany heard about the good country. He moved temporarily and found a job for a while in a tiny village. There he met a nice woman, suddenly she was pregnant. He left and went back to Germany.

The woman gave birth to a child. Now the child's family name was of importance for the new mother. The system worked to the effect that a child born to an engaged-to-be-married couple had the right to take the father's surname. For the mother this was important: she was not a loose woman and the child was not "illegal" (only born to an unmarried but engaged mother). With the support of my parents she could

prove that she and my uncle had been engaged to be married. Her surname was Andersson, a very common name in Sweden. She gave her son the name Trost after his father (who had disappeared). Her honor was granted.

For the son his surname was not nice. Trost was a very uncommon name in Sweden, in fact only four persons had that name: my parents and my two siblings (I was not yet born). When the son grew up Hitler and his gang had taken the power in Germany and World War II started soon. People asked the little boy from where his very strange and unusual name came. Not nice to be the son of a German father who furthermore had left him and his mother. For most Swedes to be German meant to be a Nazi.

Immediately after the son had reached majority he had his name changed to Andersson.

I fully agree with Humpty Dumpty that names have a meaning.

Jan Trost
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3.   *From the Secretary*

Dear members,

We had a wonderful time in Syracuse at the *Aging Family/Changing Family* Conference, co-organized by our committee and RC11. Merril Silverstein and his team provided us with a stellar opportunity to discuss interdisciplinary research that intersects family and aging studies; but also an excellent social program, which allowed us to interact in a stimulating scientific environment.

The conference counted with 120 attendees, 17 sessions, and 78 presentations of research on aging in the context of family life. Our next scientific gathering will be in Dublin for the 2015 RC06 seminar and you can find our exciting program in this newsletter. Renata Kaczmarska, the United Nations Focal Point on Family, will also be attending the seminar. Additionally, please check in this Gazette the list of other conferences including the call for papers for the ISA Forum. Finally, we also welcome our new and returning members. By the end of June 2015, our membership total stood at 310 of which 207 are ISA members in good standing.

Best regards,
Barbara Barbosa Neves
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barbara.barbosaneves@utoronto.ca

4. RC06 Dublin Seminar: Program

Thursday 20 August

Session 1 9.30 am – 11.30 am
Individualization and Social Security: Change of institutionalized family relations in European social security schemes
Patricia Frericks, Ralf Och, Nicola Schwindt
Changing Families, changing policies: on effective family policy measures
Rudolf Richter
Intergenerational Transfers between Midlife Parents and Adult Children in China
Lingxin Hao and Emily Agree
Familialization and de-familialization policies in Asia at the beginning of the 21st century
Emiko Ochiai

Session 2 12.00 – 1.00
The meaning of marriage and the role of family: A study of never-married women in Bangkok, 1997 and 2012
JooEan Tan

Early Marriage in Taiwan: A Panel Study
Tsui-O Tai and Chin-Chun Yi

Session 3 12.00-1.00
Eligibility, Responsibility, and Advocacy: The Tension between Recognizing the Individual and Relevant Family and Intimate Ties
Barbara H. Settles & Karen Doneker Mancini

A comparison of middle-aged women in providing social support and depressive symptomatology across countries

Chi Chiao and Yun-Yu Chen

Session 4 2.00-3.30
Fertility, Employment Status, and Share of Housework: Comparing Japan and Taiwan
Chin-fen Chang

Role conflict and sense of fairness as mediating between division of labor and life satisfaction: An international perspective
Neta Cohen, Yoav Lavee and Ruth Katz

Socio-cultural and personal factors leading to the change of practices and attitudes from gendered into egalitarian ones on the example of Polish migrants in Norway
Magdalena Żadkowska

Session 5 2.00-3.30
Variety of Patriarchal Values among Asian Societies: A Comparative Study using Comparative Asian Family Survey Data
Heiwa Date

Decline of Patriarchal family values in Southeast Asian societies
Ki-Soo Eun

Shrinking of the Japanese Uniqueness: Differentiation and Individualization of Women's Life Course
Hachiro Iwai

Session 6 4.00-5.00
Conflicting family norms and elite life course: Gender inequalities and couple coordination between elite spouses
Bernadett Csurgó – Luca Kristó

Money matters: Family finance management and marital relationship
K.F. Ting

Session 7 4.00-5.00
Fully involved fathers: which fathers share all aspects of childcare?
Ursula Henz

Fatherhood and fathering changes across cultures: impact on balancing employment and family
Rudy Ray Seward and Michael Rush

5.15 pm Seminar Drinks Reception – Ardmore House

Friday 21st August

Session 8 9.30-11.00
The Impact of Institutional Changes and Family Policies on Fertility in Taiwan
Yu-Hua Chen
How many children do we want? Does housework participation matter? Evidence from China, Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea
Man-Yee Kan
Trends in Social Inequalities in Children's Family Contexts in the United States, 1940-2012: Where Does 'Individualisation' Fit In?
Tony Fahey

Session 9 11.30-1.00
Responsibilization discourses in Australian welfare and child support policy: Gendered alignments and contradictions
Kay Cook

Who cares? Shared residence and how family policy is coming to shape the post-separation family

Alexander Masardo

The multiple rationalities of money and care: single mothers' engagement, resistance and compliance with a post-separation agency
Kristin Natalier

Session 10 11.30-1.00
The Functions of the Family: A cumulative approach
Tiberiu Crisogen Disca

The contradictions of the family change
Sandra Obiol Francés

Intimate Justice Theory
Brian Jory

Dublin Tour 2.00 – 4.00

Key Note Speech 6.00-7.00 pm Radisson Seaview

Göran Therborn

Dinner Radisson Le Panto 7.15 pm – 9.00pm

Saturday 22nd August

Session 11 9.00 – 10.30
Structural intersectionality and precarity: Gendering poverty among Palestinian families in Israel
Sylvie Fogiel - Bijaoui
Did consumerism replace citizenship for wealthy South Africans?
Marlize Rabe
Hedging against precarity in daily life in intercultural relationships between Tongans and white Australians: Incomplete individualization
Kate Johnston-Ataata

Saturday 22nd August (continued)

Session 12 11.00-1.00

How Mexican parents promote or not autonomy and Individualisation in Mexican adolescents?
Rosario Esteinou

Family, Neighborhood, and School-based Networks of Black and White Adolescents: Effects on Individuation and Identity Development
Michael P. Farrell

The concept of the broken home: death-divorce hypothesis of male juvenile delinquency in Nigeria/Ghana
Suleman Ibrahim

Individualization in a web of kinship system among nigerian families: an emerging urban phenomenon
Innocent V. O. Modo

Session 13 11.00-1.00

Individualization, child care policy, and mothers' experience
Rhonda Breitkreuz and Kay Cook

Who is responsible for care of the elderly and children, families or governments? The Japanese case
Noriko Iwai and Kuniaki Shishido

Parental leave: individualization, parental choice and cash for care schemes
Michael Rush

RC06 Young Scholar Award Winner

Managing Contingencies: Parental Strategies and Elite University Enrolment in China
Yi-lin Chiang

Session 14 2.00-3.00

Between the countryside and the city. Family, labor and gender paths in different social and territorial contexts in the region of Bío-Bío, Chile
M. Julia Fawaz Y, Paula Soto V. and Rosana Vallejos C.

Social cohesion and the limits of household. Mexico 2008-2012
Gilberto Aboites, Enrique Minor, Aracely Sanchez

Session 15 2.00-3.00

Legalized Families in the Era of Bordered Globalisation: Transnational Reproduction Services as a Case Study
Daphna Hacker

"Nobody wants a public debate about abortion": Can fetal futures be imagined as anything other than an individual undertaking?
Niamh Stephenson

Session 16 3.30-5.30

The Interplay of Work and Family in the U.S. Context: Ideals, Realities, and Social Policies
Bahira Trask

Generations, Individualization, and Family Ideologies in Contemporary China
Hong Xiao

Pressed and Stretched from Mid Life to Later Life: The Coming Clashes
Susan A. McDaniel, Amber Gazso and Karen A. Duncan

Individualization of intergenerational relationships between married children and their older parents in Japan
Reiko Yamoto

5. Other Conferences

i. Call for Papers

Third International ISA Forum of Sociology, July 10-14, Vienna, 2016

We are very excited about our diverse RC06 program at the ISA Forum of Sociology and would like to invite you to submit an abstract (300 words).

The **call for papers** is now **open** at the ISA Forum website: http://www.isa-sociology.org/forum-2016/

Abstracts have to be submitted online.

Deadline: 30 September 2015 24:00 GMT

Here is a list of our RC06 sessions; you can find the description of each session on the ISA Forum website or by clicking on each one:

1. Connecting Families? Family Life and Communication Technologies
2. Contemporary Families in Urban Asia
3. Convergence or Divergence of Asian Family Values and Practices: Comparative Studies Based on Cross-National Datasets in Asia
4. Family Change in Western and Non-Western Global Contexts: New Gender Models and Praxis
5. Future Perspectives on Work and Family Dynamics in Southern Europe: The Importance of Culture and Regional Contexts
6. Intersectionality and Intergenerational Family Relationships
7. Nannies and their Families: The Impact of Transnational Migration
8. New Policies for Gender Equality? the Role of State and Employer-Provided Work-Family Policies in Promoting a More Equal Division of Work and Care
9. Reflections on Qualitative Research Methods Used in Family Sociology Social Policy, Feminism and the Decline of Patriarchal Fatherhood
10. Stages and Transitions in the Family Life Cycle in an International Comparative Perspective
11. The Families We (Do Not) Want: Constructing the Past, Present and Future Families through Rituals
12. The Social Reproductive Worlds of Migrants
13. Transition to Adulthood: Longitudinal Data Analyses
14. Troubling 'families'? Global Futures for Family Discourses and Practices.
15. "Time out": Families and the Criminal Justice System

5th International Annual Research Conference "Cultural and Economic Changes Under Cross-National Perspective", November 15-20, Moscow, 2015

Laboratory for Comparative Social Research (LCSR NRU HSE) announces a call for the 5th International Annual Research Conference "Cultural and Economic changes under cross-national perspective", which will take place from November 15 - 20, 2015 in Moscow. The conference aims at developing empirical quantitative comparative (cross-country and cross-regional) studies in social science.

The conference topics are:

- Social Well-Being and Happiness
- Social Solidarity and Welfare States
- Trust and Social Capital
- Nationalism, Ethnicity and Migration
- Gender Attitudes and Work
- Family Formation and Values
- Religiosity and Tolerance
- Bribery and Corruption
- Democracy and Voting Behaviour

Deadline for application: August 15, 2015

Registration is required.

The application should meet the following requirements:

1. Author(s) name(s) including affiliation and e-mail;
2. Title of proposal, 3 – 5 keywords and abstract (250 words);
3. The paper should be empirical and analyze processes of social change in a comparative perspective (more than 5 countries) using quantitative methods;
4. The paper should address one or several topics of the conference.

Accommodation will be provided by LCSR.

Conference fee is Euro 100.

The notification of acceptance will be given by ***August 25.***

For more information: http://lcsr.hse.ru/en/conference2015

ii. Conferences and Symposia

International Conference on Intermarriage and Mixedness, Paris, November 12-13, 2015

Research on intermarriage has existed since the beginning of the 20th century. Depending on the country, it was part of different research fields: migration, family, religious or racial studies. Existing empirical studies generally circumscribe their analysis to one minority group in one country. But what are the common aspects of all these case studies on intermarriage? This international conference aims to review and discuss contemporary research in order to build up our stock of common knowledge and develop our theoretical conceptualization on intermarriage and mixedness.

Multiple theoretical concepts have been used to refer to mixed couples or their children: intermarriage, identity, integration, assimilation, multiculturalism, etc. New concepts have also been used, such as "mixedness" in the UK (Edwards et al. 2012) or "mixité" (Varro 2003; Collet et al. 2008) in the French context. A common definition of the phenomenon is that these unions involve distant social groups which are constructed in time and place through specific categories: "nation", "race", "culture", "ethnicity" or "religion" (Merton 1964; Achard 1998) and that their children construct their personal identity taking their parents' belongings into account. Previous research was done from two standpoints: from outside or inside the couple or family. The first has looked mainly at the others' (persons and institutions) perception of these unions, families or children and social norms. They are considered as different, and inspire more or less disapproval. The second approach has dealt with intercultural management inside these families (Varro 1984; Collet and Santelli 2012), and with specific family or personal identities (Unterreiner 2015). Thanks to the meeting of researchers specialized in the field, we intend to get beyond these basic definitions of mixedness and establish a new common theoretical ground based on contemporary innovative research findings.

Intermarriage or conjugal mixedness is a complex phenomenon, not a simple cause or consequence of migration. "Mixed" couples are the consequence of geopolitical, economic, racial and gender power relations beyond the citizen / foreigner opposition, which also exists within multicultural societies between persons from different ethnic, racial or religious groups. Nevertheless, marriage migrations (Constable 2003) and transnational families (Charsley et al. 2012) have become the centre of attention in recent years. In the European Union and every member state, but also in countries like the US or Canada, the idea that marriage migration serves other reasons than love or founding a family has surfaced. The union of nationals and foreigners have become "suspicious", a political issueleading to new interest in this research field. How can such State logics be analyzed and how do couples and the children of these unions deal with this specific constraint?

Several studies on mixedness have shown that the intercultural arrangements couples work out together do not necessarily promote integration in the mainstream (Song 2010; Rodríguez García et al. 2014). Since contemporary societies are becoming more and more multicultural, it is difficult to decide who integrates whom to what (Safi 2011). Mixedness is thus not a simple question of cultural assimilation. As individuals, couples or parents, they develop their own ways of dealing with potential national, ethnic, racial, cultural or religious differences, and have educational projects for their children (Collet 1998; Varro 1998; Caballero et al. 2008). It is thus essential to study each partner's and the children's points of view (Unterreiner 2014).

Research on mixed "unions" generally implies long-lasting heterosexual relationships, which could be materialized by marriage. However, as historians have shown, these unions did not always legally materialize. In addition, the birth of a child is not synonymous with being raised by a mixed "couple" transmitting a mixed identity. Family life is changing: one might be raised within a single parent family, a blended family, or an extended family. Genetics and education are not synonymous either. It is thus essential to take this complexity into account.

New challenges in the study of mixedness Mixed partnerships experience specific challenges; it is not only a question of mutual understanding. Their ways of managing difference within the couple might depend on the external perception of these families and the different institutional obstacles to overcome. When group boundaries are strong, entrenched in power relations -- slavery (Da Costa 2007), an Empire (e.g. Saada 2007; Aspinall 2013) or war (Blackshire Belay 1996; Virgili 2009; Caballero 2012) for instance -- mixed unions and their descendants face strong external opposition, to say the least. In our democratic societies, how do these past power relations influence current "mixed" unions and the descendants of these unions?

Since September 2001, the belief in a "clash of civilizations" between the Westernized world and the Middle East or Muslim countries has emerged. In this context, Muslim populations in many immigration countries face growing islamophobia (Scott 2007; Bunzl 2007; Taras 2012). Given country based past power relations (e.g. the French Empire, the British Commonwealth), migration waves (from Turkey to Germany, the Maghreb to France, or Pakistan to the UK for instance), and state conceptions of religion within society (i.e. the French ideology of "laïcité"), how do "interreligious" couples (in terms of background, beliefs or practices) deal with the external perception of their marital and family choices and how do they overcome potential conflicts?

Parallel to contemporary issues of race relations, gender and the evolution of gender relations are the main research questions related to mixedness. If past research focused on gender relations within heterosexual couples (Streiff-Fenart 1989; Collet

2010), new research directions have cropped up in recent years. Binational, same-sex unions (Salcedo 2013) and the descendants of these unions, blended families, or the international marriage market connecting foreign women and Western men (Bottero 2015), all raise the question of the intersection of "race", "social class", and "gender".

Organisation: Dr. Beate Collet, associate professor, Université-Paris Sorbonne, GEMASS et Dr. Anne Unterreiner, Post-doc OSC, Sciences Po, Paris.

The Changing Face of Relationships, October 30-21, 2015

6. Recent Publications by RC06 Members

i. Books

Experiencing Cities (3rd edition)

Mark Hutter

December 2015
Routledge

The book utilizes a social psychology perspective integrated within a political economy framework to provide a micro level and macro level examination of city life. Particularly attention is given to gender and family issues in communities and cities.
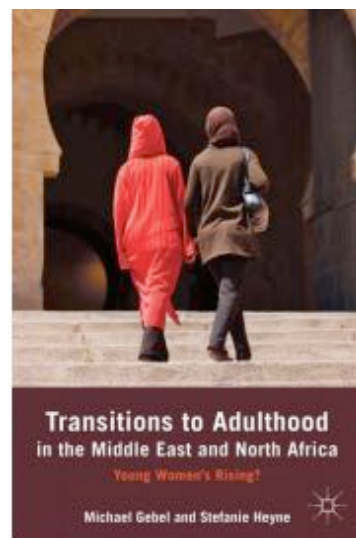

Transitions to Adulthood in the Middle East and North Africa: Young Women's Rising?

Michael Gebel and Stefanie Heyne

2015
Palgrave Macmillan

This book offers new insights on young women's situation in the Middle East and Northern Africa. Adopting a life course perspective Gebel and Heyne develop a general micro-macro theoretical framework for understanding the chances and barriers young women face in their most crucial life period, namely the transition to adulthood.

Drawing on large-scale individual-level longitudinal data from Egypt, Iran, Jordan, and Syria, the authors describe the incidence, timing, and characteristics of central transitions in the education system, the transition from education to work and family formation. They find that there is no standard pathway to adulthood, yet rather a great variety of individual early life courses inducing a high level of social inequality among young women. The book identifies a set of individual-level, familial, and contextual factors that hinder or pave young women's way in the different life domans and shows strong interrelationships between early life course conditions and transitions.
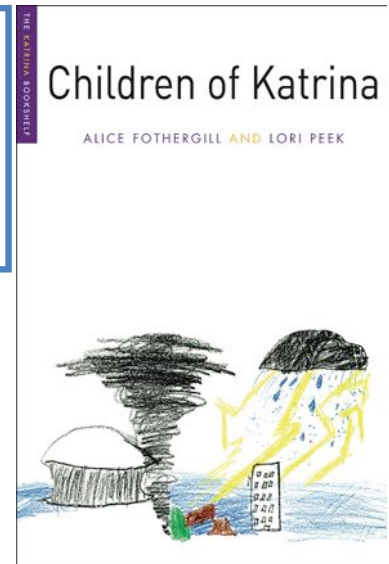
Children of Katrina

Alice Fothergill and Lori Peek

2015
University of Texas Press

When children experience upheaval and trauma, adults often view them as either helpless or as resilient and able to easily "bounce back." But the reality is far more complex for the children and youth whose lives are suddenly upended by disaster. How are children actually affected by catastrophic events? How do they cope with the damage and disruption? *Children of Katrina* offers one of the only long-term studies of young people following disaster.

Sociologists Alice Fothergill and Lori Peek spent seven years after Hurricane Katrina interviewing and observing several hundred children and their family members, friends, neighbors, teachers, and other caregivers. In this book, they focus on seven children between the ages of three and eighteen, selected because they exemplify the varied experiences of the larger group. They find that children followed three different post-disaster trajectories—declining, finding equilibrium, and fluctuating. The children's moving stories illuminate how a devastating disaster affects health and well-being, families, housing and neighborhood contexts, schooling, peer relationships, and extracurricular activities. This work also demonstrates how outcomes were often worse for children who were vulnerable and living in crisis before the storm. Fothergill and Peek clarify what kinds of assistance children need during emergency response and recovery periods; moreover, they identify the individual, familial, social, and structural factors that aid or hinder children in getting that support. Throughout, *Children of Katrina* provides inspiring examples of how young people helped themselves, other youths, and adults recover from one of the most destructive disasters in modern US history.

Routledge Handbook of Families in Asia

Edited by Stella R. Quah
2015

The 31 chapters of this comparative and multi-disciplinary volume are organized into nine major themes: conceptual approaches, methodological issues, family life in the context of culture, family relationships across the family life cycle, issues of work and income, stress and conflict, family diversity, family policies and laws, and the environmental setting of homes. Each chapter examines family life across Asian countries, studying cultural similarities and differences and exploring how families are changing.

ii. Articles

Cheung, A. K. L. & Yeung, W. J. J. (2015). **Temporal-spatial patterns of one-person households in China, 1982-2005**. *Demographic Research,* 32, 1209-1238.

Background: The number of one-person households (OPH) in China has risen over the past few decades, but there are few examinations of the patterns and trends in this rapidly growing family type. The changing composition and regional heterogeneity of Chinese OPH have important implications for family and individual well-being, and for the country's resource allocation.

Objective: We examine the temporal-spatial patterns of OPH in China between 1982 and 2005, and address three research questions: 1) To what extent have the prevalence and composition of OPH changed? 2) How have the geographical distributions of OPH in China changed? 3) What are the local demographic and socioeconomic contexts related to the changes in OPH?

Methods: We analyse data from the 1% sample of the 1982 and 1990 censuses, and a sample of the inter-censual 1% Population Sample Survey in 2005. Descriptive analysis at the provincial level presents the trends of the changing distribution and composition of OPH. Fixed-effect models at the prefecture-level examine how three sets of factors (i.e., demographic trends, socioeconomic development and internal migration) are related to the changing prevalence of OPH over time.

Results: OPH have become increasingly heterogeneous. They are, particularly for the non-widowed who live alone, increasingly clustered in developed areas. Results show that industrialisation and internal migration largely explain the changing spatial variation of OPH. Lengthened life expectancy and a decline in fertility help to explain the increase in widowed OPH, while industrialisation and migration are associated with the rise of non-widowed OPH.

Cheung, A. K. L., & Lui, L. (2015). **Hiring Domestic Help in Hong Kong: The Role of Gender Attitude and Wives' Income**. *Journal of Family Issues*, Online First Version, 1-27.

The associating factors of hiring domestic help have not been thoroughly studied in a non-Western context. Using household survey data (N = 974), this article investigates the interactive role of gender attitude and women's income on the decision to hire domestic help in Hong Kong. Some previous studies fall short in finding a significant association between respondents' gender attitudes and the hiring of domestic help, while wives' income is a consistent factor in the hiring of domestic help across a number of studies. In this study, we found that husbands' traditional gender attitudes and wives' high income sharply increase the likelihood of hiring domestic help. However, their associations with the hiring of domestic help are conditional on each other. In addition to women's socioeconomic status, ideational factors should

be taken into account in projecting local demand for domestic help and in understanding the increasing trend of domestic outsourcing.

Cheung, A. K. L. (2014). **Hiring Domestic Help and Family Well-being in Hong Kong: A Propensity Score Matching Analysis**. *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, 45(4), 475-495.

Outsourcing household tasks has become an important strategy for couples to avert the conflict between work and family roles. There is an increasing trend of domestic outsourcing, including the use of hired domestic help, in post-industrial societies. Despite the increasing popularity of outsourcing domestic tasks, the possible impact of hiring domestic help on family relations remains an important hole in our knowledge. Contributions of hiring domestic help to the employers' family, such as averting marital conflict and improving marital quality, are often assumed in the literature but are rarely examined with empirical data, especially in a non-western context.

This paper investigates the effects of hiring domestic help on two indicators of employers' family well-being: marital conflict and marital quality. Analyzing data from a territory-wide representative household survey in Hong Kong (N = 974) with propensity score matching method, the current study only finds weak positive effects of hiring domestic help, and none of which are statistically significant. Contrary to previous claims, the data from this study suggest that the effects of hiring domestic help on employers' family well-being are far from substantial. These findings are consistent with the previous research suggesting that a paid domestic helper does not substantially change the division of domestic labor and reduce work-family stress. Studies which previously assumed that hiring domestic help enabled middle-class families to enjoy a better family life may have been overly optimistic.

Neves, B. B. (2015). **Does the Internet matter for strong ties? Bonding Social Capital, Internet Use, and Age-based Inequality**. *International Review of Sociology,* Online First.

As the Internet becomes pervasive in western societies, social capital emerges as a valuable sociological tool to analyze the social effects of Internet use. Thus, a growing body of research has been looking into the relationship between social capital and Internet usage. This research has been showing a positive relationship between them; however, results are not as conclusive when we consider one of the main dimensions of social capital: bonding. Bonding relates to resources that are embedded in one's strong ties (i.e., family members and close friends). The study of bonding is of particular sociological interest, since the discussion around the social effects of the Internet still suggests that it takes time away from strong ties and that is more useful to connect with weak ties (i.e., acquaintances). This study examines the relationship between bonding and the Internet, using representative survey data and semi-structured interviews from Portugal. Findings show that bonding is predicted positively by Internet use but negatively by age. On one hand, the Internet seems to compensate for the negative age effect because

older adults who use it are more likely to have a high level of bonding. On the other hand, the Internet reinforces accumulated social advantage.

iii. Special Issues

"Living Alone: One-person households in Asia" (2015), edited by W.J. Jean Yeung and Adam K.L Cheung, *Demographic Research*, V32.

> This special collection, edited by Wei-Jun Jen Yeung and Adam Ka-Lok Cheung, adds new knowledge about the fastest growing type of household in Asia – one-person households (OPH). The 11 papers in the collection examine OPH in 15 countries in East Asia (China, Japan, and Korea), Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand, and the Philippines) and South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan). The collected papers analyze the historical trends, the policy implications and impact on individual well-being of OPH. They were first presented at a conference convened by the guest editors at the Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore in December 2013. This collection is the first body of literature that systematically investigates one-person households outside of Western societies. The papers use data from censuses and large-scale household surveys, many with longitudinal or comparative analyses. Together, they provide an excellent basis for international comparison and future investigation. They illustrate both similarities to and differences from Western societies. The papers also reveal significant inter- and intra-national heterogeneities among those living alone in Asia. OPH will continue to increase in Asia in the next few decades due to rapid aging, declining marriage and fertility, and increasing divorce and migration. More theoretical and empirical research is needed to understand the complexity of this living arrangement and its impact.

"Marriage in Asia" (2014) edited by W.J. Jean Yeung and Gavin Jones, *Journal of Family Issues* 35(12).

> This special issue gives readers a taste of the diversity of Asia, by including articles on countries from Turkey in the west to the Philippines in the east, two of Asia's three largest countries—China and Indonesia—and a country in South Asia—Sri Lanka. The articles examine the trends in marriage and explore the possible factors contributing to these trends in different national circumstances. We explore why, although similar forces continue to shape changes in Asian societies, including the institution of marriage, sharp differences in marriage patterns and systems persist throughout the region. Finally, we note limitations in extant literature and speculate about future marriage trends in Asia.

7.   Other announcements

- Rudolf Richter, our former RC06 president, is writing about family sociology on the following blog:

      www.europeanfamilies.co

In this blog, curated for a wider audience and not just for academics, Rudolf also reports on the studies conducted by the "Families and Societies" project (www.familiesandsocieties.eu).

Check his interesting latest post on "How parents acquire managerial skills".

- In 2014, Prof. Solodnikov V. (Russian State University for Humanities: http://rggu.com) received a grant of the Vladimir Potanin Foundation (http://english.fondpotanin.ru) to develop a Master's program on "Sociology of family, childhood and gender relations". The first stage of development of this MA program has been successfully completed and the next deadline is September 2015. One of the directions of the program is internationalization, which will include inviting visiting professors and promoting students' exchange.

- *Regular Call for Associate Researchers*

The Laboratory for Comparative Social Research announces the next call for associate researchers. The main idea is to attract young scholars to work on their own projects under the guidance of the LCSR experts (Ronald Inglehart, Eduard Ponarin, Christian Welzel). The successful candidates will be invited to present their research proposals at the Fifth International LCSR Conference. LCSR is looking for collaboration with everyone interested in the comparative quantitative studies on:

- Social Well-Being and Happiness
- Social Solidarity and Welfare States
- Trust and Social Capital
- Nationalism, Ethnicity and Migration
- Gender Attitudes and Work
- Family Formation and Values
- Religiosity and Tolerance
- Bribery and Corruption
- Democracy and Voting Behaviour

In order to apply for the research membership you need to submit:

1. Curriculum Vitae (2 pages max),

2. Project description: main goal, brief literature review, main hypothesis and data description (5 pages max),
3. Project abstract (250 words).

Please, comply with the following requirements while writing an application: MS Word, 12 font, Times New Roman, 1.5 spacing, standard margins.

Applications are accepted electronically via e-mail (hse.lcss@gmail.com) till **August 15, 2015**.

Results of the competition will be announced by August 30, 2015.

The successful candidates will be invited to present their research proposal at the annual 5th LCSR Conference 2015: "Cultural and Economic changes under cross-national perspective" which will take place in November 15 - 20, in Moscow.

8. New Members

We welcome the following new (or returning) members:

Sudhanshu Dadu India	Hong Xiao Singapore
Sirin Sung United Kingdom	Jianghong Li Germany
Randi Wardahl Norway	Sylvia Trnka Austria
Ying-Hwa Chang Taiwan	Akane Murakami Japan
Tessa Leroux USA	

9. Board of the CFR (2014-2018)

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