



CFR COMMITTEE ON FAMILY RESEARCH
ISA INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

CFR-GAZETTE

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As I write this article for the Gazette, I am unsure of my emotions. Today is my birthday and while it is a happy event it also reminds one of the speedy passage of time. It has been a great year for the CFR. Our meeting in the spring here in Delaware was well attended with many interesting papers speaking to important issues about the roles of families in care giving and families relating to other care giving institutions. We continue to have new members and many renewals. Rudolf Richter and his program committee have had a wonderful response for the upcoming ISA World Congress in Australia in July 2002. Our sessions are filled and we look forward to an excellent program and collegial experience. Chin Chun Yi is organizing our conference for 2003 in Taiwan and we have an invitation to Brazil for the following year. Certainly the interaction and support we all receive from the group is one of the great accomplishments of the CFR.

Here in Delaware we have had a sense that the year brought a major turning point for our students and families in the region. As I started out for school on September 11, my husband was coming in from getting a newspaper at a local market and he shouted out to me that the day was going to be very different than I thought. An airplane had crashed into the world trade center! As I drove to work I searched the radio for bulletins and it was on the TV in the student affairs office in our building so I saw the second attack. Our administrators could not make up their minds about a response so we were told to have class anyway. My first class was a freshman honors class that featured writing papers and focused on the Family in International Perspective. They had just done a genealogy project to look at the influences in their own families and it was time for them to begin their first research paper. Being an honors class they were all in attendance, but being kids some were just up in time to get to class. I recognized that I would need to make some adjustments so I asked them to write a few sentences about what they were thinking about just now and that the paragraph would be kept by them not turned in to me. Several puzzled looks came my way. I then started writing on the board an alternative assignment. After they had written one asked what was going on and the other students were quick to bring them up to date. I was asked if they could leave their cell phones on and I agreed but suggested they go into the hall if they needed to talk. I suggested that they keep a diary for the next two weeks about their reactions and how they came to have their own opinions about the 9-11 incident. They

also were to read some articles about disasters and family and community response. Xuewen Sheng who is a graduate student in our doctoral program is working with our university's Disaster Research Center and not only visited the ground zero and reported to us, but helped the students with their research. The resulting papers were extremely affecting as well as quite insightful.

My second class that day were seniors who were actually supposed to be discussing life course theory and turning points, so of course it was possible to get through the lecture and discussion. By that time in the afternoon however, they were stunned and highly anxious. Some had not been able to check in with family or friends who were at risk, rumors were flying about the bridges being closed not just in New York, but elsewhere on the Delaware River. Many of our students and faculty are closely linked to New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC, so every new announcement affected someone in the group. While the university eventually got together a formal response and some counseling for students the ripples from the events continued to shape the semester. At some level the meaning of the items on my syllabi were changed by the context. I always talk about love, attachment, grief and loss in the early part of the semester instead of keeping grief for the final week and we had discussed those concepts the week before the Twin Towers incident. Family science classes always hit close to students' lives but this fall it seemed absolutely incandescent. The secondary effects of the declining economic scene, job losses, stress-related illnesses, needs to comfort and respond to ambiguous loss, and continued anxiety about emerging threats of other types of terror such as anthrax continued to stoke the floating sense of anxiety. We always have a little trouble in the lazy gorgeous days of Indian summer in Delaware getting down to the semester's work and for most students the 3 weeks after September 11 simply disappeared with out a trace. Our counseling center notes that more good students have turned up in a panic because they had never fallen behind so far. In class and with special projects, students and colleagues seemed stunned and low in energy to deal with issues. I was very happy last yesterday to turn in my grades with relatively few incompletes and reasonable grades for most students. One thing nice about academic calendars is that we are offered fresh starts several times a year.

In ones personal reaction we found ourselves completely immersed in the news. There is a bad joke that wars are the only way Americans learn geography. To some extent it is true that we were somewhat taken aback to see how much linkage there was to painful events around the world in the past few years and

now they are interwoven with this moment of intense attention being paid to one round of terrorism a little closer to our own lives. Even small personal moments seem bigger. My husband Andy had an infection around his eyes this fall that needed IV antibiotics in the hospital at about the time everyone was worried about germ warfare and we found ourselves answering intensive questions both at the hospital and from our friends. Luckily he responded well to treatment and nothing important resulted. Similarly we have found ourselves connecting with many friends and family who are far away and not so often in touch. Of course one needs the sweep of history to know the real significance of any social and economic events, but clearly as our family research has often reported family and fictive kin provide for the support that is flexible, loyal and available when other institutions are stressed. May I invite commentary and reaction from other locations and perspectives in CFR?

I wish you all a wonderful and productive New Year 2002 and expect to see many of you in Brisbane, Australia, for the ISA World Congress.

HONORARY PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

In November this year I participated at the annual meeting of the North American organization National Council on Family Relations and especially its International section in Rochester, NY. We had a round table about the history and the future of the section. Historically, the section was founded in 1977 at the annual meeting that year in San Diego. The initiative came from the at that time member of the CFR Constantina Safilios-Rothschild, who had done a great job in convincing enough members of the NCFR board to accept a new section. She was supported by Bron Ingoldsby (who is also a member of the CFR), me and some others; she also took responsibility for the new section during the first two-year period as chair. (I took care of the next two years.) Since then the section has published a newsletter with varying frequency and quality as well as organizing a number of sessions at the annual meetings of the NCFR. The CFR and the NCFR has also co-organized sessions as well as seminars.

During the discussions at the round table I was asked about how I perceived the differences between the CFR and the NCFR International section. According to my view the main difference lies in the fact that the CFR through its members represents a very wide variety of countries or nations. The International section consists of mainly North Americans – and some few of us are foreigners. In its

turn this means that the variety of perspectives is greater in the CFR than in the International section. My observation during the years, as a member of both organizations, is that the CFR represents not only more countries but also more true comparative studies, for example, by comparing two or more cultures or countries.

During these years the CFR and the NCFR International section have cooperated both at annual meetings of the NCFR and at the CFR international seminars. I hope we will renew this cooperation in the future since we all can gain from such a joint venture.

FROM THE SECRETARY

CFR has by December 2001 316 members. Out of these there are some who have not paid since 1999. You will find if you belong to them by looking at your name on the envelope. If the year 1999 occurs next to your name your payment is due. If I do not receive the USD 40.- (USD 10.- for students) for the following four year period before the end of February 2002, your name will be excluded from the list.

If you do not want to continue your membership in CFR, please contact me directly by e-mail (Irene.Levin@oks.hio.no) and I will delete your name from the list. But I hope all will remain members.

Time runs fast and we are soon getting into the year of the World Congress. I wish you all a very GOOD and peaceful New Year. I am looking forward to see you in Australia!

FORTHCOMING SEMINARS

The XVth World Congress of the International Sociological Association will be held in Brisbane, Australia, July 7-13, 2002

The general theme of the World Congress is *The Social World in the Twenty-first Century: Ambivalent Legacies and Rising Challenges*. Among of a lot of other activities there will be five plenary "thematic sessions":

Inequity and Exclusion
Knowledge, Creativity and Communication
Sexuality, Families and Forms of Intimacy
Ambivalence of Social Change
Difference and Politics.

The CFR organizes the following sixteen sessions.

Session	Organizer(s)
1 Sociological theory and family sociology	Bernhard Nauck & Thomas Voss Bernhard.Nauck@phil.tu-chemnitz.de
2 New Family Forms	Jan Trost & Irene Levin Irene.Levin@oks.hio.no Jan.Trost@soc.uu.se
3 Female Work and Family linkages	Chin Chun Yi chinyi@gate.sinica.edu.tw
4 Work, family and gender roles	Ria Smit rsm@lw.rau.ac.za
5 Work and family interactions	Christine Millward chrism@aifs.org.au
6 Gender, work and family issues in predominantly male occupations	Mady W. Segal Joint Session, RC 01 & 3 msegal@soey.umd.edu
7 Transnational families	Cora Baldock baldock@central.murdoch.edu.au
8 Migration and family	Bernhard Nauck & Ursula Mehrländer Bernhard.Nauck@phil.tu-chemnitz.de

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|----|--|---|
| 9 | Family in countries of the Third World | Maria Christina Siquiera
mccampos@usp.br |
| 10 | Intergenerational Relationships | Jennifer Kunz
jkunz@mail.wtamu.edu |
| 11 | Youth and the family | Chin-Chun Yi & Rudolf Richter
rudolf.richter@univie.ac.at
chinyi@gate.sinica.edu.tw |
| 12 | Business Meeting | |
| 13 | Families and later life relationships | Rachel & Ben Schlesinger
Maximiliane Szinovacz
rachels@mailrelay.yorku.ca
maxres@visi.net |
| 14 | Family Policy | Wilfried Dumon
wilfried.dumon@soc.kuleuven.ac.be |
| 15 | Welfare state and the family | John Eriksen
John.Eriksen@isaf.no |
| 16 | Family sociology and intervention | Barbara Settles
settlesb@udel.edu |
| 17 | Families, Social Capital, and Community Involvements | Mark Hutter
Hutter@rowan.edu |
| 18 | Fatherhood | Rudy Ray Seward
seward@scs.cmm.unt.edu |

More information on the World congress can be found at:

<http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/congress2002>.

Chin-Chun Yi will organize a CFR International seminar with the preliminary dates of March 12–14, 2002.

MISSING ADDRESSES

We do not have correct addresses for

Philip Newman

Anne-Dorthe Hestbæk

Jin-Hi Hong

Maria Helena Matarazzo

Fiona Nelson

Jean Francois Stassen

If you know the address for someone of these, please contact me. Thanks.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Linda Haas, Indiana University-Indianapolis, IN, USA, was awarded this year's *Jan Trost Award for Outstanding Comparative Family Studies* during a ceremony at the annual meeting of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR), November 9, 2001, in Rochester, NY, USA. This is the third year of the award.

Fred Deven (CBGS, Population and Family Study Centre, Brussels) recently acted as co-editor of two volumes:

Diversity in Family Formation. The 2nd Demographic Transition in Belgium and the Netherlands (J. de Beer & F. Deven, eds., 2000). Kluwer Academic Publishers (series ESPO – vol 8) (ISBN 0-7923-6461-9)

Parental Leave: Progress or Pitfall? Research and Policy Issues in Europe (P. Moss & F. Deven, eds. 1999), NIDI/CBGS –Publications – vol.35 (ISBN 90-403-0106-9)

He also co-authored a *State of the Art Review on the Reconciliation of Work and Family Life for Men and Women and the Quality of Care Services* (Deven, Inglis, Moss & Petrie, 1998, ISBN 0 85522 713 3), at the request of the European Commission (DG V, Equal Opportunities Unit),

At present, he likes to draw the attention of CFR members to the recent “Call for Papers” in the journal *Community, Work & Family* (2001, vol.4, # 2) for the special issue on Parental Leave (Moss & Deven, Guest eds.). They plan to update the state of the art published in 1999.

Fred Deven still has a number of spare copies for interested scholars who wish to familiarize themselves with the existing work.

Lorne Tepperman organizes a session of RC 07 on The social world of the XXI century: the future of family and kinship culture.

This session will explore the ways that family and kinship relations, and the value systems supporting them, are going to change in the 21st century. In particular, papers are invited on: (a) variations in ethnic, religious and other subcultural groups; (b) the effects of new technology on family and kinship; and (c) the changing roles, and meanings, of marriage, parenthood, siblinghood, and extended kinship (grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, etc.)

Irene Levin and **Jan Trost** have published *Samlivsmønstre – konflikter og koalisjoner. En Simmelinspirert formalanalyse*, *Sosiologi i dag*, 2001, 31, 29-43.

Irene Levin has published “Taushetens tale”, *Nytt Norsk Tidsskrift*, 2001, 18. And “Diskurser i og om sosialt arbeid” Mona Sandbæk (ed.): *Fra mottaker til aktør*, Oslo: Gyldendal akademiske forlag, 2001.

NEW MEMBERS

The CFR welcomes the following new members:

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