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President’s Column

Dear colleagues,

Time flies! This will be my last column for this term (2014-2018). On behalf of all RC06 board members, I thank you again for your continuing support and active engagement that contributed to the growth of the Committee on Family Research.

As I stated in my first column, there were two immediate goals to put our efforts in: to strengthen the scientific engagement and social solidarity of family scholars; and to expand RC06/CFR’s scientific involvement in the ISA. Through various conferences organized by our members as well as from CFR website, formal and informal intellectual engagement contributes to mutual understanding and lively interests in concrete academic products. As to expanding the ISA involvement, we joined most RCs in participating the Sociological Forum held in Vienna in 2016. We have also collaborated with other ISA research committees, such as RC11 on aging and RC41 on population for joint meetings with the latter having the highest member attendance ever. Regarding regional sociological collaborations, in addition to universities and research institutes that co-sponsored our annual conferences, I know that most members actively attended international meetings on the individual bases.

A brief recap of the academic activities from 2014-2018 for RC06 will show the dedication and enthusiasm from our members who deserve our sincere gratitude:

2015.05 RC06/RC11 joint conference on “Aging Families, Changing Families”, organized by Merril Silverstein at University of Syracuse, USA.
2015.08 “Individualisation, Internationalization and Family Policy”, organized by Michael Rush at University College Dublin, Ireland
2016.05 “Social Change and Family Developments”, organized by Zhang Yi, at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China

2016.07 The 3rd ISA Sociological Forum, program coordinators: Margaret O’Brien and Barbara Neves, at the University of Vienna, Austria

2017.04 “Families and Patterns of Care”, organized by Marlize Rabe at the University of Pretoria, South Africa

2017.11 “Inequalities and Families: An Interdisciplinary Approach”, organized by Lukasz Czarnecki at the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

2018.05 RC06/RC41 joint conference on “Changing Demography ↔ Changing Families”, organized by Jean Wei-Jun Yeung at the National University of Singapore.

2018.07 The 19th ISA World Congress, program coordinators: Mark Hutter, Barbara Neves, & Ria Smit at Toronto, Canada.

In addition, ISA RC06 also collaborated with the international section of the National Council on Family Relations (the premier family association in USA) for an invited symposium on “Families and Human Rights: The Migration Experiences” in 2016. Organizers are our members Yan R. Xia (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) and Mark Hutter (Rowan University).

Clearly, conference themes proposed covered a broad range of family research subjects, ranging from classical issues such as family change, family policy to emergent family problems on family care, family migration. The pattern revealed from our recent meetings actually coincides well with the ISA’s core mission to encompass geographic and cultural variations of global sociological studies. I had the privilege to be present at all of these meetings and am impressed by family researchers’ ability to act and react to new emerging social phenomena from the family perspective. Let’s continue to carry on this honorable tradition!
Another point I’d like to share is while most of us are heavily influenced by western sociological ideology and research training, I have tried to emphasize a relatively less attended aspect which, I consider, remains a fundamental mechanism accounting for family values and family behaviors in a non-western region, such as East Asia. For those who did bear with me by reading three end-of-year columns, you’d have noticed the scientific evidences raised still support the significance of cultural norms in the continuity and change of contemporary families in various geographical regions. While the advancement of globalization process brings diversified social constituents in almost every society, a more urgent need for greater civil tolerance has certainly become apparent. Perhaps a good solution is to respect the particular historical and cultural root of each society at the face of universal family changes such as trends toward egalitarian gender ideology, low fertility, or alienated kin relations.

Lastly, let’s welcome again the in-coming new board led by Susan McDaniel (Canada). Joined by Bahira Trask (USA), Barbara Neves (Australia) and Michael Rush (Ireland), Jean Yeung (Singapore), Anja Steinbach (Germany). The new board is certainly vibrant, competent, well-represented (and lovely). I have full confidence that RC06, Committee on Family Research, will continue to grow within the ISA and will benefit different generations of family scholars in both scientific endeavor as well as social networks. Old trunk and new branches together always produce the best fruits! I also sincerely thank the out-going board members (Mark Hutter, Barbara Neves, Susan McDaniel, Margaret O’Brien, Sylvie Fogel-Bijaoui) for your dedication and collegial support. Indeed, it has been a pleasant experience and I have fond memories!

We will have a formal board transition during the business meeting at the World Congress (July 16th, Monday 7:30-8:50pm, Room 714A). Please come and celebrate with all of us, also for the reception afterwards.

Sincerely yours, Chin-Chun Yi
From the Secretary

We started 2018 with the sad news that our colleague and Honorary President Jan Trost passed away. His passing, in February, meant for so many of us the loss of an extraordinary friend, mentor, and scholar. In this newsletter, we celebrate his life and achievements. We will also host a celebration during our business meeting and social event at the ISA World Congress in Toronto. We hope to see you there.

This Gazette includes our report on the recent joint-conference (with RC41, Sociology of Population) in Singapore, organized by Wei-Jun Jean Yeung and team at the National University of Singapore (May 17-19). We would like to thank Jean Yeung and the Singaporean LOC for an extraordinary conference – members participating were elated with the sessions, organization, and opportunities for informal discussion and networking.

Our next event, the XIX ISA World Congress in Toronto (July 15-21), is fast approaching and we are delighted with the number of outstanding sessions (see page 14 for list of sessions and timetable). Please join our business meeting on the 16th of July (Monday) at 19:30. The meeting will acknowledge the stellar service of the RC06 board, welcome the new board, share financial and membership reports, discuss future activities, celebrate Jan Trost’s life, and announce the winner of the RC06 Early Stage Family Scholar Award (ESFSA). After the meeting, we will continue our celebration at the ‘The Pint Public House’ from 21:00 (North building, 277 Front St. W., Toronto).

Additionally, this newsletter lists publications of our community (2018), awards, honors, and grants secured by our members, as well an exciting job opportunity. Finally, we welcome our new and returning members.

Looking forward to seeing you in Toronto,
Barbara
In Memoriam: Jan Trost

Jan Trost was an internationally recognized family sociologist. He was a Professor of Sociology at Uppsala University, Sweden, where he established and led several research groups. Jan served as President and Vice-President of the RC06 and was nominated Honorary President in 1994. He was also a founding member of the International Section within the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR), which established in 1999 the ‘Jan Trost Award for Outstanding Contribution to Comparative Family’.

Memorial note by Chin-Chun Yi

With great sorrow, I am here to inform you that our honorary president, Jan Trost, passed away on February 27th, 2018.

The memorial service for Dr. Jan Trost was on March 29th at Uppsala, Sweden. On behalf of RC06, the board sent our condolences to his family and friends.

Dr. Trost had a long and important involvement with Committee on Family Research at ISA. He had served as vice-president (1978-1982), president (1986-90-94) and honorary president since then. Jan had shared his thought on family studies through his honorary presidential column in the Gazette which will be missed in the future.

I first met Jan when attending the 1990 World Congress in Madrid. He approached me about the possibility to sponsor an international family conference in Taiwan. With the help of my former colleague, Dr. Ramsay Shu, the very first CFR conference in Taiwan
was held in Academia Sinica in 1992 and a book entitled “Family Formation and Dissolution: Perspectives from East and West” was published in 1995. I later joined the CFR board and at the encouragement of Jan had sponsored another two conferences in Taiwan: “Intergenerational Relations In Families’ Life Course” (2003) which resulted in three special issues in Current Sociology, Journal of Family Issues and Journal of Comparative Family Studies. However, for the last CFR conference in Taiwan “Demographic and Institutional Change in Global Families” (2013), Jan was unable to participate regretfully. But he was certainly remembered in the occasion.

While I served in the board, I was often impressed by Jan’s concern for future generation family scholars. Over the years, Jan had inspired many young family researchers in Europe and in other parts of the world.

In grief, we have lost a dear colleagues and friend who was full of enthusiasm and innovations about family research. There will be a memorial time during our business meeting at ISA World Congress in Toronto (July 16th, 7:30-8:50pm, room 714A). Those who know or learn about Jan are welcome to speak.

Let’s remember Jan Trost as our long-term research partner who had made significant contribution to CFR’s growth!

Collection of Jan’s RC06 columns


Amongst the interesting contributions, please check the column “On presentations at scholarly meetings” (page 28) a propos of our ISA World Congress.

Messages:

Mark Hutter:

Some years ago, Jan, at a Memorial service held at an academic conference, whispered in my wife’s ear in comment to a long-winded and inappropriate speaker’s remarks: “I thought memorial remarks were to be about the person who died and not about the speaker’s achievements.” With that admonition, my remarks follow:

Ernest Burgess was a leading family sociologist in the first half of the twentieth century. He utilized the symbolic interaction framework to anchor his theoretical perspective on the study of American families. Jan Trost served a similar position in the second half of the twentieth century. Jan most notably, extended the theoretical and research agenda
of symbolic interactionism to embrace a global comparative perspective to the field of family studies. Through his extensive research publications, that covered more than a half-century of scholarship, our discipline has benefitted, prospered and thrived. In addition, Jan was most active in fostering his international orientation through his utilization of his organizational skills, through involvements and services to the family research section of the International Sociological Association and to the International Section of the National Council on Family Relations. He was a pivotal figure in the development of RC06 and served as president along with holding other organizational offices. He was a founding member of the NCFR International Section. He was the first recipient of the NCFR International section award based on an individual’s lifetime achievement in research, teaching, and service to international families. And, most fittingly, in his honor, the award was subsequently named the Jan Trost Award. On an academic note, I very much appreciated his intellectual creativity and knowledge.

On a personal note, I valued his quick and sparkling wit and good humor. He was fun to be with. My wife, Lorraine, and I very much enjoyed the many occasions when we shared good times with Jan. This was especially true when we combined conference time with leisure time. He was a man with many interests. We observed him chopping wood, whittling, and baking and cooking. He enjoyed good food and nice restaurants. He liked bargain shopping for his grandchildren and watching them at play during a summer solstice festival. We liked travelling with Jan and sightseeing in off-the-beaten-track places. He made us laugh. He dressed distinctively in his own style from his unusual glasses, to his linen shirts, his shorts, and sandals. In fact, the only time we saw him more formally dressed was at his 75th tribute birthday party in Uppsala that was attended by dignitaries from the university and the town, and by relatives and friends from far-away places. We will very much miss him and the always present twinkle in his eye.

Irena Juozeliūnienė:

I met Jan in 1991 at the CFR seminar in Norway. Since then we have cooperated in organizing CFR seminars (1993; 2013), editing special issue of the JCFR (2013), collaborating within Jan’s initiated Nordic Family Research Network (NFRN), which connected family researchers from Nordic and Baltic countries, namely, from Sweden, Norway, Finland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia. I want to emphasize Jan’s weighty contribution to the creation and strengthening of relations between the Departments of Sociology at Vilnius and Uppsala Universities. Jan brought the ideas of Symbolic Interaction and the spirit of family discourse to sociology at Vilnius University. He was teaching my students about dyadic analysis of family configurations and organizing...
informal get-together groups on performing qualitative interviews. Building on Jan’s way of supervising and tutoring students at Uppsala University, the Department of Sociology at Vilnius University proposed to create an environment for the community of students-scholars generating the ideas on the topics, tools, field work technics in family sociology. To have Jan as a friend and as a tutor was a very enriching experience. Since we met he became a part of my academic biography. Jan’s contribution to family sociology in Lithuania inspired me in 2003 to publish a book about him titled ‘Jan Trost and Family Sociology: new trends in research studies’. I am missing him very much.

Rudolf Richter:

We have lost a sociologist, full of enthusiasm and engagement in the European tradition of enlightenment. An inspiring teacher and creative thinker. This is how I will remember Jan.

Bert Adams:

Jan was a good scholar, and a good friend. He and I enjoyed working together on the Handbook of World Families, published in 2005. His broad knowledge of sociologists around the world made it possible to contact scholars to describe family systems in their countries. The 25 countries in the book reveal differing and similar theme: family formation, gender, fertility and socialization, marriage, stresses and violence, divorce and re-marriage, kinship, and aging. Jan and I agreed on the authors and the outline, and we worked in a truly collaborative manner for about 3 years until publication. I appreciated his calm and thoughtful approach. I will miss him.

Rudy Ray Seward:

I met Jan in 1971 while a graduate research fellow at Stockholm University. He was highly recommended as a key expert to contact on family sociology, my dissertation focus. A gracious invitation to discuss my research led to meeting with Jan and his colleagues at the Family Study Center that he founded in the 1960s at Uppsala University. The seminar’s valuable exchanges were just the beginning of the support Jan and his research networks provided. The study group initiated my long term association with the ISA’s Committee on Family Research. The Uppsala conference in 2000 organized by Jan had an immeasurable impact on my career and life. Unlike most large and impersonal academic conferences, we were a small group that actively engaged in dialogue during, between, and even outside the conference. The very stimulating yet comfortable setting
provided an excellent environment to try out and develop new ideas. Social gathering every evening allowed participants to get to know one another on a personal level. The conference expanded exponentially my understanding of family dynamics, directions for further research, and appreciation of Jan’s contributions. The breadth and depth of Jan’s scholarship went beyond his research and lengthy list of diverse publications. He was repeatedly instrumental in bringing together established scholars and students in a variety of forums. Besides the Family Study Center, these included the Alcohol Study Center, the Disaster Study Group, and the Nordic Family Research Network, all of which he founded. His contributions to family scholarship and research were recognized by the establishment of the "Jan Trost Award for Outstanding Contributions to Comparative Family Studies" in 1999 by the International Section of the National Council on Family Relations. As a scholar, teacher, and mentor, Jan has influenced many generations of young faculty and students, passing on the legacy he received from his mentor Professor Torgny Segerstedt among others. We who have benefited will in turn pass it on. Relationships sustain us and give meaning to our lives. Conversations are the life blood of relationships. Over the years Jan has provided engaging, stimulating, informative, and delightful conversations on a one to one basis and in public forums. The value of his commentaries were due to Jan’s breadth and depth of knowledge, high academic standards, originality, fairness, thoroughness, determination, and friendship sustained by his high energy level. He was courageous for taking on tough and delicate issues and was a pioneer who focused on new developments in human relationships. With many others, especially CFR members, I thank our dear colleague, wise council, mentor, teacher, advisor, and especially friend for enriching our lives through his thoughts, deeds, and support for many years. His contributions and spirit will continue to enrich our lives and will be passed on to future generations.

Ria Smit:

I first met Jan in 1996 when I attended the RC06 seminar held at Itala Game Reserve in the KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa. We were a small group – not more than twenty – that participated in the seminar. I still recall the combination of vibrant intellectual debate and warm collegiality – and, right there at the center of it all was Jan. Over the years, I developed a deep respect for Jan’s scholarly work, his direct manner and his commitment to promoting excellence in family research. We will remember him fondly as a colleague and a friend.
The joint RC06-41 conference was held in Singapore in May 17-19, 2018. The main theme of the conference is **Changing Population ↔ Changing Families**. The main organizer is the Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR) of the National University of Singapore (NUS). CFPR invited and received financial support from the NUS Global Asia Institute and the NUS Department of Sociology as co-organizers. CFPR also sought sponsorship from the OUE Limited for venue and food.

The Call for Papers for the joint RC06-41 conference in Singapore in May 17-19th had an overwhelming response, with about 500 abstracts from about 40 countries submitted.

The program committee consists of 28 members, chaired by NUS Professor Jean Yeung, with faculty members and scholars mostly from NUS, and some from the 2 other local schools, NTU and SMU (see conference website https://singaporerc0641.nus.edu.sg/). The committee sifted through them and created a 2.5 day program consisting of 54 panels with about 210 paper, 2 keynote speeches, and 1 plenary session on family changes in Asia. There was also a book launch and authors-meet-critics session for the new book on **Family and Population Changes in Singapore** edited by Yeung and Hu.

The conference took place in May 17-19th in Mandarin Orchard hotel, Singapore. About 300 representatives from 38 countries in all continents (except Antarctica), faculty members, students and researchers from 118 universities, 17 research institutes & centers around the world, as well as local practitioners and policy makers from 5 Singapore Ministries and 11 private social organizations coming together to explore issues surrounding the changing population landscape and the family institution around the world. Participants in attendance include the President of RC06, Prof Yi Chin-Chun,
the upcoming President of RC06, Prof Susan McDaniel, and Secretary of RC41, Prof Ofra Anson. This conference attracted many new members for RC06 and RC41.

The keynote speakers on the first and second day of the conference are Prof Judy Seltzer of the UCLA in USA and Prof Wolfgang Lutz of the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital in Austria respectively. The title of Prof Seltzer’s speech is **Family and Demographic Change: Problems and Progress** and that for Prof Lutz was **Population and Climate Change**. The speakers on the plenary session on the third day are Prof Ofra Anson, Prof Gavin Jones, and Prof Jean Yeung. They discuss the family and population changes in Israel, Southeast and South Asia regions, and in Singapore. There are 6-7 parallel sessions throughout the 2 and a half day. The sessions are very well attended from beginning to the end and cover topics ranging from fertility, marriage, migration, family relations, gender, aging and health, human capital, population dynamics and forecast, labor market, social capital, data and methods, historical demography, dissolution and remarriage, alternative family forms, and so forth.

The program, including abstracts of the papers, can be found on the conference website: [https://singaporerc0641.nus.edu.sg/](https://singaporerc0641.nus.edu.sg/)

There was a conference dinner on the first day of the conference with cultural performance in the conference hotel. In addition, we have exhibit by 3 international Longitudinal Family Studies – the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, the China Family Panel Study, and the Indonesia Family Life Survey.

Springer and Francis-Taylor press also joined in the conference to exhibit books and journals relevant to the family and population fields. Francis-Taylor held a meet-the-editor session for the *Asian Population Studies* housed in NUS.
The photos of the conference can be found on the CFPR website:
https://www.facebook.com/nuscfpr1/?hc_ref=ARQWjEzrNcefy3g_2T Gn0A8tpvAbSKV91C01WGrSgsH-34fEjAsRjjGGMzYCSAdf4cU

The conference was supported by conference secretariat consisting of staff of the Centre for Family and Population Research and a team of NUS students and volunteers. CFPR received many positive feedbacks about this conference. We thank RC06 and RC41 for giving us this opportunity to host this conference.
XIX ISA World Congress
RC06 Sessions and Timetable

**RC06 Family Research**

Program Coordinators: Mark HUTTER (Rowan University, USA), Barbara BARBOSA NEVES (The University of Melbourne, Australia) and Ria SMIT (University of Johannesburg, South Africa)

Monday, 16 July 2018

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Organizers or Chairs</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:30-12:20</td>
<td>Family Structure, Power Relations and Gender Based Violence</td>
<td>Dorothy ONONOKPONO and Innocent MODO</td>
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<td>15:30-17:20</td>
<td>Experiences of and Responses to Disempowerment, Violence and Injustice within the Relational Lives of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Two Spirited (LGBTQ2) People.</td>
<td>Luke GAHAN and Kathryn ALMACK</td>
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<td>Chairs: Luke GAHAN and Kathryn ALMACK</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:30-19:20</td>
<td>Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Partnership and Kin Relations</td>
<td>Diana KHOR, Denise TANG and Saori KAMANO</td>
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<td>Chair: Diana KHOR</td>
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Tuesday, 17 July 2018

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<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>08:30-10:20</td>
<td>The Culture of Parenthood. Part I</td>
<td>Glenda WALL and Gillian RANSON</td>
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<td>Chairs: Glenda WALL and Gillian RANSON</td>
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<td>10:30-12:20</td>
<td>The Culture of Parenthood. Part II</td>
<td>Glenda WALL and Gillian RANSON</td>
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Wednesday, 18 July 2018

15:30-17:20
**Remaining Childlessness: Patterns, Causes, and Consequences**  
*Session Organizer:* Yu-Hua CHEN  
*Chair:* Yu-Hua CHEN

17:30-19:20
**Authors Meet the Critics: Families and Global Challenges**  
*Session Organizer:* Isabella CRESPI

Thursday, 19 July 2018

08:30-10:20
**Labour Markets and Welfare States in Transition: Barriers and Opportunities for Work-Family Balance and Gender Equality Part I**  
*Session Organizer:* Isabella CRESPI

10:30-12:20
**Labour Markets and Welfare States in Transition: Barriers and Opportunities for Work-Family Balance and Gender Equality. Part II**
Session Organizer: Isabella CRESPI
Chair: Isabella CRESPI
15:30-17:20

**Strengthening Working Families in Western and Non-Western Societies: Effective Policies and Programs**
*Session Organizers:* Bahira TRASK and Rosario ESTEINOU
*Chair:* Mark HUTTER

**Transnational Care in the Immobility Regime: Families Facing Closed Borders and Restrictive Migration Policies**
*Session Organizers:* Majella KILKEY, Laura MERLA and Loretta BALDASSAR
*Chair:* Laura MERLA
17:30-19:20

**Children in Welfare States and Family Policy Analysis**
*Session Organizers:* Laura MERLA and Anna KUROWSKA
*Chair:* Anna KUROWSKA

Friday, 20 July 2018

08:30-10:20

**Migrating Families: Maintaining Generational Ties and Establishing Family and Community Bonds**
*Session Organizers:* Yan XIA and Mark HUTTER
*Chairs:* Yan XIA and Mark HUTTER
10:30-12:20

**Families and Culture: Crossing and Maintaining Boundaries**
*Session Organizers:* Sylvie BIJAOUI and Ari ENGELBERG
*Chair:* Sylvie BIJAOUI
15:30-17:20

**Changing Patterns of Asian Family Values and Practices: Comparative Studies Based on Cross-National Datasets in Asia**
*Session Organizer:* Hachiro IWAI
*Chair:* Hachiro IWAI
17:30-19:20

**Contemporary African Families**
*Session Organizer:* Sahmicit KUMSWA
*Chair:* Marlize RABE
Saturday, 21 July 2018

08:30-10:20

**Family and Social Unit - Interconnection and Interdependence**  
**Session Organizer:** Maitreyee BARDHAN ROY  
**Chair:** Maitreyee BARDHAN ROY

10:30-12:20

**Families, Inequalities and Well-Being**  
**Session Organizer:** Susan MCDANIEL  
**Chair:** Amber GAZSO

12:30-14:20

**Post-Individualisation and Family Conflicts in Contemporary Societies**  
**Session Organizers:** Stephan KÖPPE and Misa IZUHARA  
**Chair:** Stephan KÖPPE

14:30-16:20

**Friendship and Personal Life**  
**Session Organizers:** Peter MALLORY and Laura ERAMIAN  
**Chairs:** Peter MALLORY and Laura ERAMIAN

**Abstract:** This article develops an ecological and nonrepresentational approach for conducting an ethnography of family photos as objects of investigation, practices, and sites for the making and remaking of decolonizing stories and histories. It is rooted in a three-part project on family photographs: first, an ongoing project with a three-generation Indigenous family who has a history with Canada’s residential school system; second, revisiting my own family photo albums that include photos of missionary nuns in my family who had worked in Indigenous schools and communities in the 1950s–60s; and third, the development of a politico-ethico-onto-epistemological approach for viewing and analyzing family photos and narratives from and about photographs. The article focuses on the latter two parts of this project. Informed by my reading of Lorraine Code’s “ecological thinking” approach to knowledge making, I bring Code into conversation with Phillip Vannini’s “nonrepresentational ethnographies” combined with new materialist writing on performativity and vitality; selected Indigenous scholars’ writing on ontological multiplicity, knowledge making as relationship, and the making of life worlds; Margaret Somers’s approach to nonrepresentational narratives and ontological narrativity; and Annette Kuhn’s work on analyzing family photographs and cultural memory. I demonstrate this approach through the analysis of one of my family photos. I also reflect on the ethical challenges of attempting to analyze a different kind of family photo, such as photos of residential schooling that are increasingly on display in media, online, and in public venues. The article argues for the need to address representational issues of social injustice in nonrepresentational approaches and a recognition that there are sites and times—especially in cases of human rights abuses, violence, or trauma—when nonrepresentational ethnographies and narratives call for strategic negotiation with representation.


Abstract: Joint physical custody (JPC), a parental care arrangement in which a child lives with each parent for at least 25 to 50% of the time after separation or divorce, is increasingly common in many Western societies. This is a major shift from the standard of sole physical custody, with mostly mothers providing primary childcare after a parental separation or divorce. The increasing share of separated or divorced parents who practice JPC, which in some countries, US states, and regions reaches 30% and more, results from increasing gender equality due to mothers participating considerably in the labor force and fathers being actively involved in their children’s daily lives. This review focuses on the effects of JPC on children’s and parents’ well-being, based on 40 studies from North America, Australia, and Europe published between 2007 and 2018. In sum, there is empirical evidence from different countries that suggests that JPC arrangements can have positive effects on the well-being of children and of parents. However, the existing studies are conceptually, methodologically, and contextually very heterogeneous. In addition, self-selected highly educated parents with a high socio-economic status, a low conflict level, and children between the ages of 6 to 15 practicing JPC dominate the samples. Thus, the risks and benefits of JPC are not clear yet and are heavily debated by advocates and academics. The review concludes with suggestions for future research.


Abstract: This study investigated relationships of full-, half-, and step-siblings in young and middle adulthood with a focus on frequency of contact, emotional closeness, and conflict. Full-siblings were divided into two groups: if parents were still a couple (Type 1) or if they were not a couple anymore (Type 2). Based on data from Wave 5 (2012/13) of the German Family Panel (pairfam), 8,602 reports from 5,331 respondents representative of three birth cohorts (1971-73, 1981-83, and 1991-93) about their relationships with up to four siblings were analyzed. Hierarchical linear regression results provided general support for the assumption that although full-siblings of Types 1 and 2 had more contact and felt closer to one another than half-siblings and step-siblings did, they also had more conflicts. With one exception (closeness to half-siblings), the results remained stable after controlling for respondents’, siblings’, and sibling structure characteristics.


Abstract: A focus on early brain development has come to dominate expert child rearing advice over the past two decades. Recent scholars have noted a reinvigoration of the concept of attachment in this advice and changes in the ways that attachment is framed and understood. The extent to which the concept of attachment is drawn on, the way it is framed, and the consequences for mothers, families and parent-child relationships is examined through a discursive analysis of a current Canadian parental education campaign. Findings support the argument that attachment is receiving a great deal of attention in brain-based parenting education programmes as children's emotional development becomes increasingly prioritized. Attachment is presented as needing to be actively and continually built through expert-guided empathetic and responsive parental behaviour, and is framed as crucial for the development of brain pathways that promote emotional strength and self-regulation in children. Attachment-building is also presented as requiring highly intensive parenting that falls overwhelmingly to mothers. The parent-child relationship that is envisioned is one that is instrumental, lacking in affect and conducive to the creation of ideal self-regulating neo-liberal citizens.


Abstract: Flooding is one of the major constraints for rice production in rainfed lowlands, especially in years and areas of high rainfall. Incorporating the Sub1 (Submergence1) gene into high yielding popular varieties has proven to be the most feasible approach to sustain rice production in submergence-prone areas. Introgression of this QTL into popular varieties has resulted in considerable improvement in yield after flooding. However, its impact under non-flooded conditions or years have not been thoroughly evaluated which is important for the farmers to accept and adopt any new version of their popular varieties. The present study was carried out to evaluate the effect of Sub1 on grain yield of rice in different genetic backgrounds, under non-submergence conditions, over years and locations. The study was carried out using head to head trials in farmer’s fields, which enable the farmers to more accurately compare the
performance of Sub1 varieties with their recurrent parents under own management. The data generated from different head to head trials revealed that the grain yield of Sub1 varieties was either statistically similar or higher than their non-Sub1 counterparts under non-submergence conditions. Thus, Sub1 rice varieties show no instance of yield penalty of the introgressed gene.


Abstract: Activation reforms targeted at single parents simultaneously construct them as a legitimate target for activation policy and subject them to new obligations to engage in paid work or education/training. The social policy literature has established that the work of ‘making-up’ target groups occurs at the street level as well as in government legislation. The street level has become even more significant in recent years as there has been a shift towards establishing quasi-markets for the delivery of welfare-to-work programmes and organising these around the principles of performance pay and process flexibility. However, what is largely missing from the existing literature is an analysis of how contract conditions, together with individuals’ activation obligations, shape how they are targeted at the street level. Drawing on a study conducted over eight years with agencies in Australia’s quasi-market for employment services, this paper argues that the changes to the contracts for governing this market changed how Australian single mothers were targeted by employment services. Over time there was a shift away from making-up single-parent clients as a distinct, vulnerable target group and a shift towards viewing them in terms of risk categories described within the agencies’ contracts.


Abstract: Social capital captures the value of relationships. Although research has examined social capital among adults, comparatively little attention has been paid to social capital among young adults—particularly from a longitudinal and mixed-methods perspective. As social capital predicts educational achievement, employment, and psychosocial well-being, it is an important construct to study alongside youth transition(s). Following a Bourdieusian approach, we define social capital as the resources potentially available in our ties that can be mobilized when necessary. To examine social capital in transition to adulthood, we draw on survey (n = 1,650, at ages 17 and 21) and interview (n = 70, at age 24) data from a cohort of Portuguese youth. We study the two main dimensions of social capital: bonding and bridging. Survey data were analyzed with latent class modeling, logistic
regressions, and Wilcoxon signed-rank tests, and interviews with thematic analysis. Findings show that respondents reported receiving more emotional support than financial support from their networks, but that both types of support increased over time. Perceived bonding and bridging also changed positively in transition to adulthood. In addition, gender and parental education predicted bonding and bridging. We contextualize these results with qualitative meanings and experiences of social capital.


**Abstract:** Older adults (aged 65+) are still less likely to adopt the Internet when compared to other age groups, although their usage is increasing. To explore the societal effects of Internet usage, scholars have been using social capital as an analytical tool. Social capital pertains to the resources that are potentially available in one’s social ties. As the Internet becomes a prominent source of information, communication, and participation in industrialized countries, it is critical to study how it affects social resources from an age-comparative perspective. Research has found a positive association between Internet use and social capital, though limited attention has been paid to older adults. Studies have also found a positive association between social capital and wellbeing, health, sociability, and social support amongst older adults. However, little is known about how Internet usage or lack thereof relates to their social capital. To address this gap, we used a mixed-methods approach to examine the relationship between Internet usage and social capital and whether and how it differs by age. For this, we surveyed a representative sample of 417 adults (18+) living in Lisbon, Portugal, of which 118 are older adults. Social capital was measured through bonding, bridging, and specific resources, and analyzed with Latent Class Modeling and logistic regressions. Internet usage was measured through frequency and type of use. Fourteen follow-up semi-structured interviews helped contextualize the survey data. Our findings show that social capital decreased with age but varied for each type of Internet user. Older adults were less likely to have a high level of social capital; yet within this age group, frequent Internet users had higher levels than other users and non-users. On the one hand, the Internet seems to help maintain, accrue, and even mobilize social capital. On the other hand, it also seems to reinforce social inequality and accumulated advantage (known as the Matthew effect).

Abstract: The risks of social isolation and loneliness are becoming emergent issues for older adults (aged 65+) in industrialized countries, particularly for oldest old people (80+) who are frail and institutionalized. Socially isolated and lonely older people are more likely to experience depression, social disengagement, cognitive and physical decline, morbidity, and early mortality. In response to these significant negative health and socioeconomic costs, research suggests using new technologies to enhance opportunities for social connectedness as a strategy to help alleviate both social isolation and loneliness. In this context, following a participatory design method, we developed an accessible communication app with and for frail institutionalized older adults. To test the adoption of this innovative technology and its feasibility to address social isolation and loneliness, we conducted a two-month deployment of the app in a long-term care home with five oldest old and their relatives. Due to access, recruitment, and ethical challenges, the oldest old are a specially understudied group. Using an embedded case study (based on interviews, psychometric scales, field observations, and usability and accessibility testing) and a recursive approach to technology studies, our findings show that technology adoption is based on a complex set of interrelated factors: social, attitudinal, physical, digital literacy, and usability. We also discuss the feasibility of the app to enhance perceived social connectedness amongst our target population, provided that at least one strong tie is involved and communication norms and expectations across generations are considered.


Abstract: This study examined the feasibility of a novel communication technology to enhance social connectedness among older adults in residential care. Research suggests that technology can create opportunities for social connectedness, helping alleviate social isolation and loneliness. Studies on implementation and feasibility of such technological interventions, particularly among frail and institutionalized older adults, are scant. Data were gathered in a 3-month deployment with 12 older adults, including semistructured interviews with participants and relatives/friends, psychometric scales, field observations, and usability tests. Data were analyzed with qualitative profiling, thematic analysis, and Friedman tests. The technology was a feasible communication tool, although requiring an adaptation period. Use increased perceived social interaction with ties, but increased social connectedness (meaningful social interaction) was only reported by participants with geographically distant relatives. Sense of well-being and confidence with technology was enhanced, but negative effects were also observed. Findings are useful for researchers and practitioners interested in technological interventions.
Special Issues


The **Introduction** is available for free here: http://socresonline.blogspot.com/2018/03/troubling-families.html

The theme of *Troubling Families*, which has come about as a direct result of a RC06 session at the ISA forum in Vienna in 2016 on this topic. The special section includes contributions from Brian Heaphy, Luke Gahan, Irena Juozeliūnienė and Irma Budginaite, and Michael Rush and Suleman Ibrahim Lazarus, who were all present at the Vienna session, with an additional article by Vicki Welch. Jane McCarthy & Val Gillies’ article 'Troubling children's families: who is troubled and why? Approaches to inter-cultural dialogue' is briefly introduced here https://goo.gl/FT2Rmz.

The term, ‘troubling families’, has the scope both to trouble what we mean by ‘family’ and its continuing power, while also asking why some particular ‘families’ may be found by some to be ‘troubling’.

Talking about ‘family’ has been controversial amongst sociologists for several decades, ever since feminists in the 1980s (e.g. Barnett and McInnes, 1982; Carby, 1982/1996; Thomas and Yang, 1983) started to question its ideological underpinnings, its intimate hidden (gendered and generational) dynamics of power, and its social rather than ‘natural’ basis. In Anglophone literatures, the debate about how sociologists should or should not employ the term has continued back and forwards more or less ever since, but within these contexts, there seems to be no denying the continuing central significance of ‘family’ in people’s imaginaries, and in their everyday lives, as well as in public debates and policies (Ribbens McCarthy et al. 2008/2012; Giddings, 2010; Gabb and Silva, 2011; Edwards et al., 2012; Ribbens McCarthy, 2012), even as ‘families’ and households become increasingly diverse. Both significant changes and powerful continuities are apparent in how people in Anglophone and Western European countries live their families and relationships.
Book Chapters


The first edition of *Do Men Mother?* (University of Toronto Press, 2006) was based on an in-depth four-year ethnographic project that included multiple interviews by Doucet with over 100 fathers who self-identified as primary caregivers. The book, which was awarded, the 2007 John Porter Tradition of Excellence Book Award from the Canadian Sociological Association, charts how fathers and mothers navigate and negotiate parental responsibilities and calls attention to the generative changes that occur for men when they share responsibilities for their children’s care. In this expanded second edition, which contains a new Preface and two new chapters, Doucet takes on three revisiting projects: returning to interview six mother/father couples about a decade later; re-entering scholarly fields of work, care, and parenting in shifting neoliberal contexts; and rethinking her approach to knowledge making, concepts, and narratives. Bringing together what she calls “diffractive” readings of feminist philosopher Lorraine Code’s ecological approach to knowledge making and historical sociologist Margaret Somers’ genealogical and relational approach to concepts and her non-representational approach to narratives, Doucet lays out an innovative ecological and non-representational approach to knowledge making, concepts, and narratives about paid work and care work. Mapping what Somers calls the “relational patterns” of concepts, Doucet begins to revision conceptual configurations of care and parental responsibilities, breadwinning, the stay-at-home father, relational autonomy, and gender equality. This book also calls for greater attention not only to *what* we claim to know, but also to *how* we come to know, write about, and intervene in shifting practices and narratives of work and care, the politics of care, and growing crises of care.
Sharing Lives – Adult Children and Parent

Marc Szydlik

2016 / Paperback 2018

Sharing Lives explores the relationships between adult children and their parents. The book focuses on the reasons and results of lifelong intergenerational solidarity by looking at individuals, families and societies. This monograph combines theoretical reasoning with empirical research, based on the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). Sharing Lives offers reliable findings on the basis of state-of-the-art methods and international data, and presents these findings in an accessible manner. Some of the questions are:

• Do family generations share their lives? Do they quarrel and fight?
• Which factors are responsible for cohesion and conflict? • How important is class, gender, migration and country?
• Do welfare states reduce or strengthen family cohesion?
• Does intergenerational solidarity increase social inequality?

The book is available as Hardback, Paperback and eBook.


This study examines the national criminal justice system’s and the state of Tennessee criminal justice system’s policies in terms of how they influence citizens’ need for prisons with the private sector's desire for profits and their effects on the incarceration rate of African American males in the state of Tennessee. There is an important, often neglected correlation among prison sentencing, felony disenfranchisement, voting and the continuing problematic issues of race in America, particularly in Tennessee. Tennessee serves as a representative case study for which to examine local, state, and national criminal justice system, disparate outcomes and social inequality. The research therefore investigates ethically questionable public-private business relationships and arrangements that contribute to socially-constructed economic policy instruments used to fulfill Conservatives and Whites supremacists’ objectives for White domination in the State. Through mass incarceration and felony disenfranchisement, African Americans—in particular, African American males, have been discriminated against and systematically excluded from political participation, employment, housing, education and other social programs. This study utilizes the Racial Contract Theory and Racial Group Threat Theory (Racial Threat Theory or Group Threat Theory) to investigate the issue. The Racial Contract Theory suggests that racism itself is an intentionally devised institutionalized political arrangement, of official and unofficial rule, socioeconomic benefit, and norms for the preferential distribution of material wealth and opportunities. The Racial Group Threat Theory suggests that growth in the comparative size of a subordinate group increases that group’s capacity to use democratic political and economic institutions for its benefit at the expense of the dominant group. This study therefore first hypothesizes that race, mass incarceration and felony disenfranchisement are employed to influence election outcomes in Tennessee. The second hypothesis that profit-seeking motive or other forms of economic incentives contribute to racist policy in the criminal justice system of Tennessee. The secondary data for this study were collected from books, scholarly articles, and online sources using the document analysis technique. The primary data were collected using national, state, local government reports and expert testimonials already conducted.
The Japanese population has been falling, and soon will be at a critical situation. Today’s population of 127 million (2015 census) is projected to fall to 99 million by 2050 and 88 million by 2065, using middle-range projections by the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (IPSSR). Meanwhile, adults 65 and over will become a larger percentage of the nation, placing a greater burden on younger family members and their communities. Today, adults over 65 make up 26.6% of the total population. By 2065, it is estimated to be 38.4%. But is it uniform throughout Japan in the same way, across 47 prefectures, and 1741 municipalities and communities? Do municipalities change things? Can they? We analyze various open data from the Statistics Bureau, and the IPSSR. In the small island nation of Japan, it is surprising to find a wide range of variation in population increase rates across 47 prefectures, and within the same prefecture as well. For the understanding of regional variations in Japan, it is essential to understand the term “chiiki” (regional variations by each municipality) and “chiiki-ryoku” (the municipal power). There are historical reasons for Japan having chiiki and chiiki-ryoku. That is, such historical events as Goki Shichido (Five Regions and Seven National Routes, 701) and Haihan Chiken (dissolution of feudal domains and establishment of prefectures, 1871) must be understood. Consequently, regional diversities in prefectures emerged in present day Japan. When we pay close attention to chiiki ryoku, both positive and negative in nature, we recognize that there are many municipalities with declining populations that plan to revitalize themselves, and succeed. For example: villages that make virtual villagers in town; areas that take advantages of their snowy environments to produce unique products and send out information actively via ICT; marginal municipalities where more than half of the population is older adults; and remote islands where residents are well connected to the outside, via ICT and drones. Across these population-declining municipalities we can see a strong determination among the residents to analyze any negative municipal power and turn it in a positive direction for revitalization and building. Municipal building cannot come solely by economic development. Municipal power, the essence for the betterment of each municipality, has never been uniform throughout Japan. It is the very element inherent to each municipality, both positive and negative. For the revitalization of each municipality, therefore, it is the utmost importance to understand the power of each municipality.
Making multicultural families in Europe
Gender and intergenerational relations

Isabella Crespi, Stefania Meda, & Laura Merla (Ed.)

2018

This edited collection explores family relations in two types of 'migrant families' in Europe: mixed families and transnational families. Based on in-depth qualitative fieldwork and large surveys, the contributors analyse gender and intergenerational relations from a variety of standpoints and migratory flows. In their examination of family life in a migratory context, the authors develop theoretical approaches from the social sciences that go beyond migration studies, such as intersectionality, the solidarity paradigm, care circulation, reflexive modernization and gender convergence theory.

Making Multicultural Families in Europe will be of interest to students and scholars across a range of disciplines including migration and transnationalism studies, family studies, intergenerational studies, gender studies, cultural studies, development studies, globalization studies, ethnic studies, gerontology studies, social network analysis and social work.
Are Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) connecting families? And what does this mean in terms of family routines, relationships, norms, work, intimacy and privacy?

This edited collection takes a life course and generational perspective covering theory, including posthumanism and strong structuration theory, and methodology, including digital and cross-disciplinary methods. It presents a series of case studies on topics such as intergenerational connections, work-life balance, transnational families, digital storytelling and mobile parenting.

It will give students, researchers and practitioners a variety of tools to make sense of how ICTs are used, appropriated and domesticated in family life. These tools allow for an informed and critical understanding of ICTs and family dynamics.

Book Reviews

Other Announcements

I. Research Projects

- **Anja Steinbach** and colleague have been awarded funding for the following research project (2018-2021):

   *Child Well-Being in Joint Physical Custody Arrangements after Parental Separation or Divorce*
   (German Research Foundation (DFG), Principal Investigators: Prof. Dr. Anja Steinbach, University of Duisburg-Essen, Prof. Dr. Tobias Helms, Marburg University)

   Families that practice parenting models after separation or divorce whereby each parent cares for the children to a roughly equal extent (joint physical custody) are becoming more common. However, to date only a few international studies (e.g. from Belgium, Sweden or Australia) have given any indication as to the effects of such parenting arrangements on children’s well-being. There are no results for Germany as yet due to the fact that there is no data available in quantities sufficient for analysis that records separated and divorced families where the child permanently shares its residence with only one parent as opposed to families with shared parenting arrangements. The aim of the proposed project is to study *child well-being in joint physical custody arrangements after parental separation or divorce* in Germany. In this study child well-being is considered a multidimensional concept which encompasses physical, psychological, social and cognitive aspects, which are measured in a subjective and an objective manner.

   German law has not yet provided for any rules specially designed for joint physical custody. It is therefore disputed whether a court can even impose shared parenting against the will of one of the parents. Such court orders are frequently considered to only benefit a child’s well-being in very specific family circumstances. This perception is based on the assumption that joint physical custody is only seldom practiced in Germany and that the families concerned are characterised by particular socio-demographic traits (e.g. the child’s age, the parents’ levels of income and education). These assumptions are based on anecdotal evidence and urgently require sociological verification.

   An empirical research project involving quantitative data collection is therefore not only intended to compile data on a sufficient quantity of families employing different parenting models (joint physical custody, sole physical custody, nuclear families) in order to be able to carry out reliable analysis. It is further intended to fill in other research gaps by including not only families where the parents are divorced, but also those where the parents are separated, and by consulting all family members involved. This data, which will be made available to the scientific community as a ‘Public Use File’ after completion of the project, will allow for the painting of a differentiated picture in respect of the well-being of children in joint physical custody arrangements after parental separation or divorce in Germany. Criteria will be developed on this basis to assist the courts in deciding whether to impose joint physical custody. Furthermore, in light of similar developments in foreign jurisdictions, a recommendation for the regulation of joint physical custody in Germany will be developed.

- **Maitreyee Bardhan Roy** has been awarded a Senior Fellowship by the Indian Council of Social Sciences Research. The Fellowship is for two years and the topic of my Research is *Assessment of Health and the Nutritional Status of the Educated*
Reserved Category Students of the Coastal Areas of South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India.

II. Awards & Honors

- **Andrea Doucet** received a Social Sciences and Humanities Council (SSHRC) Connection Grant (awarded April 2018) to host the 15th Annual Seminar of the International Network of Parental Leave Policies and Research (to be held in Toronto, July 13-14, 2018). Co-applicants: Donna Lero, Lindsey McKay, Diane-Gabrielle Tremblay, and Sophie Mathieu.

- **Andrea Doucet** was renewed as a Canada Research Chair in Gender, Work, and Care (July 2018-2025).

- Our colleague **Maria Marta Ortega Gaspar** shared the news that **Lluís Flaquer**, Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University Autònoma of Barcelona (Spain), was awarded the **Catalonia Prize of Sociology** on the 20th of Abril 2018 by the Catalan Sociological Association for his contribution to the Sociology of the Family.

- Susan McDaniel gave an invited address at the **2018 Warren Kalbach Conference**, Concordia University of Edmonton (9 Feb): “Leaps and Lags: Challenges of Longitudinal Internationally Comparative Research”.

III. Job Opportunities

- There is an exciting job opportunity at the **University of Vienna:** **Tenure-Track Professorship** on ‘Life Course, Generations, Age’. All information is available here: [http://www.soz.univie.ac.at/en/home/](http://www.soz.univie.ac.at/en/home/)
New & Returning Members

We welcome the following new or returning members:

- Patrick Edewor, Nigeria
- Jana Mikats, Austria
- Rumy Dey, India
- Nafiseh Ghafournia, Australia
- Ariane Bertogg, Germany
- Johanna Lammi-Taskula, Finland
- Sigeto Tanaka, Japan
- Louis Chauvel, Luxembourg
- Gyounghae HAN, Republic of Korea
- Hui Chen, China
- Akiko Yoshida, United States
- Pei-Chun Ko, Singapore
- Minh Huu Nguyen, Vietnam
- Lopamudra Sengupta, India
- Ji Hye Kim, United States
- Jana Mikats, Austria
- Rumy Dey, India
- Nafiseh Ghafournia, Australia
- Ariane Bertogg, Germany
- Johanna Lammi-Taskula, Finland
- Sigeto Tanaka, Japan
- Louis Chauvel, Luxembourg
- Saori Kamano, Japan
- R. Maruthakutti, India
- Andrea Doucet, Canada
- Randi Wærdaalh, Norway
- Kristina Papanikolaou, Belgium
- Kenneth Obodoechi, Acho, Malaysia
- Ismet Koc, Turkey
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