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logical Association*



Family  
Research

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# President's Column



"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood.

Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."

Marie Curie, Nobel Laureate

Dear Valued RC06 Colleagues,

2020 is a year we shall all likely be happy to see the end of -- too much uncertainty, isolation, anxiety and pretty well every other negative we can imagine.

That said, we have navigated to the new 'normal' with teaching online, Zoom meetings, enjoying nature and trying our best to stay well and to nurture well-being in ourselves and others in our lives. RC06 researchers are in a particularly good place to contribute much to understanding about life and lives in COVID-19 times. May 2021 bring vaccines and better times.

As you know, the ISA Sociology Forum, formerly scheduled for July 2020 in Porto Alegre, Brazil was first postponed to February 23-27 2021, and then to be held online on those dates. This is a first for ISA and there have been the inevitable bumps along the way with some presenters dropping off the program. That said, our splendid RC conference coordinator, Barbara Barbosa Neves, has been working overtime to find time slots for our sessions that might work best for participants, to find replacement presenters for those who had to drop out, and generally to make the RC06 Forum programme excellent. She has been ably assisted in this by co-coordinator, Bahira Trask, our Vice-President. Thank you Barbara and Bahira. We are very grateful for your efforts.

We are also very appreciative of the generous efforts of colleague and Board member, Anja Steinbach who has taken charge of our newsletter again. Thank you so much, Anja. And we thank Aušra Maslauskaitė for help with social media.

Thanks to all members who voted online on the proposed revised RC06 statutes. The revisions passed and the new statutes are now on file with ISA and appear on our website. The new statutes include an expansion of the RC06 Board by two members who will be tasked with communications. The Board has agreed that given that this is mid-term between election cycles that we would provisionally appoint two new Board members to serve until elections can be held. Once those two people are known, we will put out an announcement. Meantime, we would welcome a volunteer to help with the website. If you or anyone you know might be interested, we would appreciate the help and the duties are not onerous.

Given the challenges of having a business meeting online and that the essential business before us, voting on the revised statutes, is done, we will not hold a business meeting at the online Sociology Forum in February.

Looking optimistically toward the future when things open up again and travel may be possible, anyone with ideas for hosting an RC06 conference, please contact anyone on the Board. World Congress is slated for Melbourne, Australia in 2022.

With healthful good wishes,

Susan McDaniel, Ph.D., FRSC

President, RC06

University of Victoria

CANADA

# From the Secretary



*Although we are still facing the brunt and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been inspiring to see so many family sociologists actively continuing their critical scholarship and advancing public engagement during these difficult times. Our social media has been buzzing with webinars, calls, publications, and media pieces delivered, organized, and written by our RC06 community.*

This broader engagement has been an encouraging reminder of the role of sociologists in understanding the unequal and multidimensional effects of crises – but also on the significance of our knowledge and skills to inform a COVID-19 recovery that does not overlook important social dimensions and groups, such as families. Nonetheless, it is essential to recognize that this pandemic has also created and amplified inequalities in the scientific production and engagement capacity of many sociologists, who had to quickly pivot their teaching to the online mode, interrupt their research, deal with higher (and often unbearable) workloads, to provide family and pastoral care during lockdowns, and in some cases to even fight for their academic positions. We, thus, welcome your suggestions on what RC06 can do to better support our community.

As noted by Susan, our program for the ISA Forum is finalized; we were able to maintain an exciting range of topics. Bahira and I, as Program Coordinators, want to thank the session organizers for their assistance during this process. We will share the program once it is made available online by the ISA.

This Gazette includes publications, calls, and a list of new and returning members – welcome! Once again, we are grateful to Anja Steinbach for editing this newsletter.

Thank you and best wishes,  
Barbara

# PUBLICATIONS

## Articles

Barbosa Neves, B. & Mead, G. (2020). Digital Technology and Older People: Towards a Sociological Approach to Technology Adoption in Later Life. *Sociology* (Forthcoming).

**Abstract:** Despite increasing social pressure to use new digital technologies, older people's adoption of them remains below other age groups. This article contributes a sociological dimension to exploring what facilitates learning and using digital technology in later life. We focus on the understudied group of older people who are frail, living in care homes and most likely to be digitally excluded or restricted. Drawing on data from a longitudinal mixed methods study of a co-designed communication app for older people, we explore how attempts to bridge the 'digital divide' unfold in time. Using the concept of affordances, we show how adoption of a new communication technology is shaped by its design, learning contexts and surrounding social actors. With this work we contribute to novel sociological understandings of technology adoption that are critical for digital inequality research.

Crespi, I. (2020). Families and Intergenerational Relations in Migration: Challenges and Opportunities. *Journal of Mediterranean Knowledge*, 5(2), 179-191. (open access at <http://www.mediterraneanknowledge.org/publications/index.php/journal/article/view/197>)

**Abstract:** In a worldwide context of growing migration processes, international research confirms the central role that families play in the migration plans and strategies of individuals, including the decision to emigrate and which family members must or can do so. The family also takes on considerable importance in defining subsequent modifications, such as the length and development of migratory

projects. The “migrant family” is located in a social system where roles and relationships can be partially or completely different. The settlement of individuals in the receiving country, and their changing migration plans and strategies follow multiple pathways. The experience of migration, with its cultural and emotional break-ups can redefine and reorganise networks and relational dynamics, particularly between men and women, parents, grandparents and children. In particular, transnational families designate family networks composed of members who live in two or more countries, but maintain a sense of ‘familyhood’ across distance, time, and exchange, to various degrees, care and support. Relevant are the various ways in which they maintain family ties and connections across national borders and across generations and the pressures and transformations that may arise within and across the generations because of their embeddedness in different socio-cultural contexts.

Czymara, C., Langenkamp, A. & Cano, T. (2020): Cause for Concerns: Gender Inequality in Experiencing the Covid-19 Lockdown in Germany. *European Societies*. doi:10.1080/14616696.2020.1808692

**Abstract:** COVID-19 is having a tremendous impact on gender relations, as care needs have been magnified due to schools and day-care closures. Using topic modeling on over 1,100 open reports from a survey fielded during the first four weeks of the lockdown in Germany, we shed light on how personal experiences of the lockdown differ between women and men. Our results show that, in general, people were most concerned about social contacts and childcare. However, we find clear differences among genders: women worried more about childcare while men were more concerned about paid work and the economy. We argue that the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting women more heavily than men not only at the physical level of work (e.g. women are reducing more paid work hours than men), but also through increasing the division regarding the cognitive level of work (e.g. women are more worried about childcare work while men are about paid work).

These developments can potentially contribute to a future widening of the gender wage gap during the recovery process.

Eramian, L. & Mallory, P. (2020). Unclear endings: Difficult friendships and the limits of the therapeutic ethic. *Families, Relationships and Societies*. doi:10.1332/204674320X15978605993604

**Abstract:** Social scientists typically treat friendship as a positive part of people's lives, but what happens when friendships fall apart, often with little explanation? Based on interviews in an Atlantic Canadian city, this article focuses on two key themes in people's experiences of disappointing friendships: first, unintelligibility with regard to why friends exited their lives; and second, people's interpretations of failed friendships as personal failures. We argue that, even as friendship pain feels personal, we must also understand it through friendship's inherent qualities of institutional openness and informality and through the limits of the cultural resources of therapeutic communication that people may bring to their friendships. As we show, therapeutic directives to 'communicate openly' in personal life sit uncomfortably against friendship's openness and informality. The article contributes to the critical friendship literature by attending to how the inherent structural and cultural contradictions of friendship shape people's shared experiences of friendship pain.

Friedman, S., Kurtulus, A., & Koç, İ. 2020. Housing Outcomes in Turkey: How Do Middle-Income Households Fare? *City & Community*. doi:10.1111/cico.12483.

**Abstract:** Despite the doubling in size of the middle class and the significant housing increase in Turkey, little research has examined housing outcomes of middle-income households, particularly relative to affluent households. The housing increase and 2007 Mortgage Law could have reduced housing differences between middle-income and affluent households, but the rise in gated communities could

have increased these differences. Using data from Turkey's 2012 Household and Budget Survey, we find that middle-income households are significantly less likely than affluent households to own their homes and live in larger homes, and among owner-occupiers, in homes of higher value. Less pronounced differences are found in their residence in newer homes. Fewer differences in housing outcomes exist between middle- and lower-income households, particularly among owner-occupiers. These results suggest that the most affluent households, rather than the poorest households, are likely isolating themselves from other households, thereby affecting the future well-being of middle-income households.

Gabaldón Estevan, D. (2020). Tiempo de desescalada y nueva normalidad. Una oportunidad para replantear los tiempos escolares situando al alumnado en el centro. *Sociedad e Infancias*, 4, 279-282. doi:10.5209/soci.69800

**Abstract:** El encierro generalizado de la población que ha provocado la crisis sanitaria derivada del COVID-19 ha tenido consecuencias especialmente radicales para la población infantil y juvenil que ha visto cómo su vida cotidiana ha dado un vuelco. Así, durante semanas lo único que ha permanecido a flote ha sido la vida en familia en el hogar, el contacto ocasional on-line con la familia extensa y amistades, y especialmente aquellas actividades formativas y extraescolares que han sido capaces de reinventarse, con mayor o menor fortuna, como actividades en línea. Desgraciadamente tardaremos tiempo en conocer con más detalle las consecuencias que este encierro ha supuesto en la vida de niñas y niños. Desde privaciones de las que es más fácil recuperarse, como el juego con iguales en espacios abiertos, hasta los abusos que dejan secuelas para toda la vida, como los delitos contra la libertad e indemnidad sexual, pasando por las diferencias educativas que este paso a la docencia en línea pone aún más de manifiesto. Y es que en el ámbito escolar esta crisis ha provocado la repentina migración de la enseñanza presencial a la enseñanza a distancia a todos los niveles, pre, post y obligatorio, contando con la formación y los recursos necesarios para ello, o sin

ellos. Pero la resolución y salida de esta crisis plantea también una oportunidad para replantearnos algunas mejoras también en el ámbito educativo. En este trabajo se revisan las evidencias respecto a la dimensión temporal en la organización escolar y se presentan siete recomendaciones a modo de llamamiento a las autoridades y a la comunidad educativa a reconsiderar los tiempos escolares en un contexto de cambio como el que vivimos y ante una inminente reforma de la legislación educativa.

Gregorio, V. L. (2020). Isolation and immunity within the family: Commuter marriages in Southeast Asia. *Current Sociology*. doi:10.1177/0011392120972143

**Abstract:** This article examines the gendered subjectivities and family ideologies of commuter wives and commuter husbands in Southeast Asia, in relation to being part of bilateral households and multigeneration extended families. It emphasizes that, first, the understanding of gendered subjectivities should come from looking at femininities alongside masculinities, and second, despite criticisms, there is still value in using family ideology in examining family life that is consistently experiencing changes within the broader socio-political contexts. The article analyzes ethnographic accounts and in-depth interviews with rural families in Malaysia and the Philippines by engaging with the concepts of transient subjectivities and particular family ideology. While literature on commuter marriages sees the phenomenon as middle class, career driven, and temporary, the article reveals that the case is different for societies where jobs are almost constantly precarious and where couples do not have the luxury of time to settle for a transitory lifestyle. It proposes the concepts of ‘family isolation’ and ‘family immunity’ as a result of multiple gendered subjectivities and discusses their formation in line with the particular family ideologies that farming families in Southeast Asia adhere to.

Hank, K. & Steinbach, A. (2020). The virus changed everything, didn't it? Couples' division of housework and childcare before and during the Corona crisis. *Journal of Family Research*. doi:10.20377/jfr-488

**Abstract:**

**Objective:** To investigate dynamics in a core aspect of gender (in)equality in intimate relationships – namely couples' division of housework and childcare – during the Corona crisis.

**Background:** The present study responds to public concerns that the COVID-19 pandemic might have triggered a backlash in gender equality.

**Method:** Our descriptive analysis is based on pre-release data from the German Family Panel (pairfam; Wave 12) and its supplementary COVID-19 web-survey (n=3,108).

**Results:** We observe no fundamental changes in established aggregate-level patterns of couples' division of labor, but some shift towards the extremes ('traditional' and 'role reversal') of the distribution. Regarding changes within couples, there is an almost equal split between those in which the female partner's share in housework and childcare increased and those in which it decreased. Particularly in previously more egalitarian arrangements, a substantial proportion of women is now more likely to be primarily responsible for everything. If male partners increased their relative contribution to housework and childcare, they rarely moved beyond the threshold of an equal split. Changes in employment hours were associated with adaptations of men's, but not women's, relative contribution to domestic and family responsibilities.

**Conclusion:** Our findings neither support the notion of a 'patriarchal pandemic', nor do they indicate that the Corona crisis might have fostered macro-level trends of gender convergence. We rather observe heterogeneous responses of couples to the 'Corona shock'.

Henz, U. (2020). Couples' daily childcare schedules: gendered patterns and variations. *Families, Relationships and Societies* (online pre-publication). doi:10.1332/204674320X15979442575464

**Abstract:** Gender inequality of childcare provision is regarded as one of the main barriers to women's labour-market careers. However, there is a scarcity of quantitative studies that examine fathers' and mothers' combined childcare. This research focuses on father's and mother's timing and type of childcare for co-resident couples with a young child. Using the two most recent UK Time-Use Surveys, the study derives typologies of couples' childcare patterns with a particular focus on gender differences. The five patterns on weekdays and three patterns on weekend days highlight gender inequalities not just in the duration of parents' time with their children but also in its timing. Mothers are more often than fathers involved during standard working hours. The childcare patterns vary only modestly by occupational class. This might be related to the fluidity of couples' daily childcare patterns, which change with children's ages and across days of the working week.

Kim, A. J. & Zulueta, J. O. (2020). Japanese Families and COVID-19: 'Self-Restraint', Confined Living Spaces, and Enhanced Interaction. *Global Perspectives on Family and COVID-19, Special Issue of Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, 51(3-4), 360-368.

**Abstract:** COVID-19 is transforming how families and societies respond to this public health crisis. This global public health issue has both short and long term ramifications for how people work, go to school, care for families, and communicate. This paper provides a portrait of the changes and effects brought upon by the pandemic and government appeals for "self-restraint" (as opposed to lockdown policies in other countries). In addition, the experiences of Japanese families from the perspective of university students, looking at several aspects such as work, schooling, and relationships. The observations suggest that there are notable impacts upon the Japanese family brought upon by new living arrangements. These include increased interactions and opportunities for more frequent communication

between family members. On the other hand, significant issues including financial insecurity caused by reduced or stagnant incomes, tensions between family members due to work-at-home lifestyles, exacerbate existing problems faced by Japanese families. The stress from new living arrangements in small dwellings may have further intensified gender inequality in the division of housework and care-work, and become a catalyst for greater strain in relationships. This paper provides an assessment of the current changes experienced by Japanese families based on news reports and statistical data, as well as perceptions of the pandemic from Japanese university students.

Ko, P. C. & Kang, S. H. (2020). Singaporean Families' Adaptation and Resilience During the COVID-19 Global Pandemic. *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, 51(3-4), 385-398. doi:10.3138/jcfs.51.3-4.013

**Abstract:** Drawing on governmental statements, press releases and major news reports on COVID-19 related measures, support and social issues, we illustrate and examine the challenges families are facing in Singapore during the pandemic. Employing a dual approach, we illustrate the extent of various institutional support and resources for families offered by the government in tandem with social distancing measures to restrict social activities, and closure of non-essential business, and also document issues related to the economy, education, family interactions and mental well-being of families from different social backgrounds. This approach enables us to show the extent to which Singaporean families have adapted to the different economic and social stressors and how institutional support has been utilized as a catalyst to resilience. The pandemic as a force of social change demands urgent research on the social impact on and resilience of families in Singapore. Future research directions should include children's development with the interaction of family socioeconomic conditions, focus on mental well-being of all generations in the family, continuous safeguard of victims of domestic violence, empowerment, and investigations of the shifting family values. A concerted

research strategy will offer the opportunity for a better understanding of the paradigm shift experienced by Singaporean families, and, to identify policy implications on strengthening the resilience of families.

Koç, İ. & Saraç, M. (2020). Socio-economic, demographic and health determinants of the coronavirus pandemic: Analysis of data from OECD countries, *Turkish Journal of Public Health*. doi:10.20518/tjph.721921.

### **Abstract:**

**Objective:** The main objective of this study was to examine the socio-economic, demographic and health determinants affecting the number of coronavirus cases, the number of coronavirus deaths, case fatality rates per 1,000 cases and coronavirus deaths per 1,000,000 population in OECD countries.

**Methodology:** The study was undertaken using 20 different independent variables and 4 different dependent variables, which were all obtained from the OECD and WHO databases. The study utilizes multiple linear regression statistical techniques in order to reveal the socio-economic, demographic and health determinants of the coronavirus pandemic.

**Findings:** The findings of the study show that higher shares of current expenditure on health in GDP, higher prevalence of obesity among adults, higher percentage of raised blood glucose levels among adults and the stringency index (which indicates the extent of the measures taken by the government related with the coronavirus outbreak) are influential on both the number of coronavirus cases and deaths in OECD countries. Increased case fatality rates seem to be closely related to the stringency index, higher share of current expenditure on health in GDP and higher percentage of tobacco users among adults in OECD countries. On the other hand, factors such as the stringency index, higher life expectancy at birth, higher use of tobacco and higher share of current expenditure on health in GDP are effective on the coronavirus death rate per 1,000,000 population.

Conclusions: The fact that the factors determining the current number of cases and deaths in the coronavirus pandemic point to demographic, economic, political and health dimensions shows that: the pandemic that emerged and continues as a public health problem cannot be eliminated only by health interventions, and multi-dimensional policies are needed to cope with the pandemic.

Marston, H. R., Ivan, L., Fernández-Ardèvol, M., Rosales Climent, A., Gómez-León, M., Blanche-T, D., Earle, S., Ko, P. C., Colas, S., Bilir, B., Öztürk Çalikoglu, H. et al. (2020). COVID-19: Technology, Social Connections, Loneliness, and Leisure Activities: An International Study Protocol. *Frontiers in Sociology*, 5, 89. doi:10.3389/fsoc.2020.574811

**Abstract:** Drawn from the stress process model, the pandemic has imposed substantial stress to individual economic and mental well-being and has brought unprecedented disruptions to social life. In light of social distancing measures, and in particular physical distancing because of lockdown policies, the use of digital technologies has been regarded as the alternative to maintain economic and social activities. This paper aims to describe the design and implementation of an online survey created as an urgent, international response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The online survey described here responds to the need of understanding the effects of the pandemic on social interactions/relations and to provide findings on the extent to which digital technology is being utilized by citizens across different communities and countries around the world. It also aims to analyze the association of use of digital technologies with psychological well-being and levels of loneliness. The data will be based on the ongoing survey (comprised of several existing and validated instruments on digital use, psychological well-being and loneliness), open for 3 months after roll out (ends September) across 11 countries (Austria, France, Germany, India, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Turkey, and UK). Participants include residents aged 18 years and older in the countries and snowball sampling is employed via social media platforms. We anticipate that the findings of the survey will provide useful and much needed information on the prevalence

of use and intensities of digital technologies among different age groups, gender, socioeconomic groups in a comparative perspective. Moreover, we expect that the future analysis of the data collected will show that different types of digital technologies and intensities of use are associated with psychological well-being and loneliness. To conclude, these findings from the study are expected to bring in our understanding the role of digital technologies in affecting individual social and emotional connections during a crisis.

Roy, M. B. (2020). An Assessment of Health and Nutritional Status of the Educated Reserved Category Women in University Studies in South 24 Parganas West Bengal, India. *Journal of Humanities And Social Science*, 25(8). doi:10.9790/0837-2508064356

**Abstract:** The present Paper aims to report on the result of Assessment of health and nutritional status of the educated women community involved in University studies under adverse socio-economic condition of the families. Located in the semi-urban, semi-rural and rural areas of South 24 Parganas the health awareness program is expected to be carried out by the researcher in association with a consortium of experts like medical practitioner, nutritionists and psycho analyst, the overall health assessment program as such aims to include a three stair health scheme. 1. The health evaluation of the respondent University students 2. The health awareness package based on the health evaluation report and 3. Nutritional awareness, through knowledge sharing on food habits, availability and the use of low cost community based nutritious food. The overall aim of the present article is to showcase the effect of health and nutrition on the education on the reserved category women communities absorbed in post graduate studies in Diamond Harbor Women University of South 24 Parganas of West Bengal, India.

Roy, M. B. (2020). Health status of the women of the coastal region of South 24 Parganas: A narration based on field survey. *Sociology International Journal*, 4(6).

**Abstract:** The author of the article as a researcher reports on the health status of the women students of Diamond Harbour Women University based on food chart, weight and height measurement, blood hemoglobin test with an option on Thalassemia and Blood Sugar test done to record the genetically impounded symptoms present in them. Though the respondents hail from the reserved category and/or economically weaker families, their eagerness towards higher education encouraged the researcher to observe the level of health and nutritional awareness in them while the urge for education override all. The field survey done under the ICSSR Senior Fellowship Scheme is entailed through the analysis of Government documents including 2011 census report National Family Health Survey Report 4 (NFHS 4) and the District Human Development Report 2009. Also papers and articles have been evaluated as a guide to the present research. The data collection on the educated women communities are done in the Diamond Harbour Women University and the evaluation of the data is done by a team of medical practitioner, Nutritionist and Psycho Analyst while information on personal and impersonal survey is collected through questionnaire and direct interaction followed by random survey. The arrangement for field survey demanded occasional and need based involvement of medical practitioner to investigate significant cases of special nature. The overall aim of the research is to set up a cue to the family socio-economic condition and its correlation with women nutritional position. The data collection method was innovative because it was conducted following students to student interaction in the class room situation.

Roy, M. B. (2020). Health Status of the Daughters of Agricultural Worker's Families of the Coastal Region of South 24 Parganas: Narration Based on Field Survey. *International Journal of Agriculture Sciences*, 12(20), 10282-10289.

**Abstract:** The central theme of the present research is to report on the study of health and nutritional status of the educated women (under University studies) marked as the daughters of the low earning agro-based families of South 24

Parganas of the State of West Bengal. The women community acted as respondents are the first-generation learners and the onus for arranging their educational expenses also lied with them. Instead, their concentration towards higher education has compelled the researcher to look into their effort in maintaining good health strategy through an analysis of their health and nutritional status. The field survey of the research is conducted within their University campus with the prior permission of the authority. Since the occupational pattern of the families are closely associated with their caste culture, the present survey tried to pick up the respondents based on the caste character prevalent in Indian culture. Since the health evaluation and the need for the effective health policies are tied up with the family income as well as the status of women in the patriarchal family structure, the present study also aimed to focus on the overall situation of the women community located in the rural areas of the coastal as well as of the Delta region of South 24 Parganas of West Bengal state in India.

Saraç, M. & Koç, İ. (2020). Sources of Nonresponse Error in the Translation Process of Survey Instruments: The Impact of Language Mismatch and On-The-Spot Translation on the Quality of Birth Date Data. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*. doi:10.1080/13645579.2020.1785088.

**Abstract:** In data collection process of Turkey Demographic and Health Surveys (TDHSs), only printed questionnaire in Turkish is used. Therefore, on-the-spot translation was performed during the data collection process, rather than using printed questionnaires in Kurdish or Arabic. From the item-level nonresponse perspective, this study examines the quality of birth date data with two different but interrelated angles (1) impact of the language mismatch between language of interview and mother tongue of women; (2) impact of on-the-spot translation from Turkish into Kurdish and Arabic. The findings suggest that interviews with language mismatch and interviews conducted with on-the-spot translations, especially translations performed by local interpreters tended to produce high item-level

nonresponse when compared with matched interviews. For this reason, an organized interviewer training session for increasing the effectiveness of on-the-spot translation with explanatory documentations and/or printed questionnaires in Kurdish and Arabic may be considered as options to decrease the item-level nonresponse further.

Steinbach, A., Brocker, S. A. & Augustijn, L. (2020). The survey on “Family Models in Germany” (FAMOD). A description of the data. *Duisburger Beiträge zur soziologischen Forschung*, 01. doi:10.6104/DBsF-2020-01

**Abstract:** The FAMOD project, which is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), investigates the diversity of existing family models after separation or divorce in Germany. The project’s aim is to provide detailed information about the living conditions of mothers, fathers, and children in different post-separation family configurations, namely in sole physical custody (SPC) and in joint physical custody (JPC) arrangements. Employing a multi-actor design, the survey closely examines the well-being of the individual family members in order to identify the potentials and challenges within a specific physical custody care arrangement. Because JPC families are still extremely rare in Germany (less than 1% of all families with minor children), this project is the first to collect data from a sufficient number of JPC families for detailed statistical analyses. Based on a quota sample, FAMOD provides data of 1,554 families in Germany (nuclear, SPC, and JPC families). This working paper contains a description of the sampling procedure, details about the process of data collection, and a benchmarking of selected core sociodemographic variables against the results from other German surveys.

Steinbach, A., Mahne, K., Klaus, D. & Hank, K. (2020). Stability and change in intergenerational family relations across two decades: Findings from the German Ageing Survey, 1996-2014. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*, 75(4), 899-906. doi:10.1093/geronb/gbz027

### **Abstract:**

**Objectives:** Using high-quality data from Germany, this study aims to contribute to the yet little knowledge about possible changes in adult parent–child relationships within countries over time.

**Method:** Analyzing 13,106 interviews from four rounds of the German Ageing Survey (DEAS), covering the period 1996–2014, we monitor stability and change in four dimensions of adult parent–child relationships, namely geographic proximity, frequency of contact, emotional closeness, and exchange of support.

**Results:** We observed a continuous decrease in parent–child geographic proximity between 1996 and 2008, but no further increase in distance thereafter. There was no change in intergenerational frequency of contact or emotional closeness between 1996 and 2014. Parents’ propensity to support a child tended to decrease in the early 2000s, with signs of recovery in 2014. Whereas parents’ receipt of material support from children remained stable, their probability to receive instrumental support declined between 1996 and 2008, but not any further thereafter.

**Discussion:** Temporal patterns of intergenerational solidarities within countries might be characterized simultaneously by stability and change, where increasing geographic mobility, for example, is paralleled by continuous family cohesion. Family members appear to react to variations in social and economic circumstances with behavioral changes allowing them to maintain high levels of overall intergenerational solidarity.

Steinbach, A. & Maslauskaitė, A. (2020). Childcare in Lithuania and Belarus: How gendered is parenting in Eastern European countries? *Journal of Family Studies*. doi:10.1080/13229400.2020.1806903

**Abstract:** Research shows that even though the time women and men spend on housework has slowly converged in recent decades, the time mothers and fathers

invest in childcare has not changed as much. This paper aims to contribute to the literature on childcare by focusing on the two Eastern European countries of Lithuania and Belarus, which took very different development paths after seceding from the Soviet Union in 1990. For our analysis, we use two recent datasets: the Families and Inequalities Survey from 2019 for Lithuania, and the Generations and Gender Survey 2020 Belarus Wave 1 from 2017. The analytic sample consists of 2114 mothers and fathers born between 1970 and 1984 with children under age 14. Our results reveal that in both Lithuania and Belarus, mothers perform more childcare tasks than fathers, and that, however, gendered parenting is more prominent in Lithuania than in Belarus.

Steinbach, A. & Silverstein, M. (2020). Step-grandparent–step-grandchild relationships: Is there a “grand step-gap” in emotional closeness and contact? *Journal of Family Issues*, 41(8), 1137-1160. doi:10.1177/0192513X19886638

**Abstract:** High divorce and remarriage rates have expanded nontraditional family forms, as some family members leave and others join during the process of repartnering. A less explored consequence of the growth in step-families is the proliferation of step-grandparenthood. This paper focuses on emotional closeness and frequency of contact between step-grandparents and their step-grandchildren in childhood and adulthood. Based on 4,992 biological grandparents and step-grandparents participating in the 2014 wave of the German Ageing Survey, we compared 7,710 biological grandparent–grandchild relations to 465 step-grandparent–step-grandchild relations. Step-relations were differentiated by whether repartnering occurred in the grandparent or parent generation. Hierarchical linear regression results provided support for the hypothesis that step-grandparents feel less emotionally close to their step-grandchildren than biological grandparents feel to their biological grandchildren. In contrast, the observed lower frequency of contact in step-grandparent–step-grandchild relations was mostly explained by their weaker emotional ties.

Zartler, U., Schmidt, E.-M., Schadler, C., Rieder, I. & Richter, R. (2020). “A Blessing and a Curse”. Couples Dealing with Ambivalence Concerning Grandparental Involvement During the Transition to Parenthood — A Longitudinal Study. *Journal of Family Issues*. doi:10.1177/0192513X20950786 (online first)

**Abstract:** This contribution provides an investigation of first-time parents’ experiences and strategies in dealing with ambivalence—i.e., the simultaneous presence of contradictory emotions—regarding grandparental involvement during the transition to parenthood. The study is based on qualitative longitudinal case studies comprising in-depth individual interviews with 11 Austrian couples of first-time mothers and fathers prebirth, and six months and two years after childbirth (n=66 interviews). Parents reported ambivalent feelings toward grandparental involvement during all stages of the transition process. We identified three parental strategies for dealing with ambivalence: inclusion, delimitation, and exclusion. Intracouple dynamics are shown to be the key aspect in the variation of these strategies over time. These dynamics are captured in three longitudinal patterns: parallel, divergent, and convergent paths. Overall, the study points to the complexity and fluidity of intergenerational relationships and demonstrates the challenges of negotiating ambivalence within couples and families during the transition to first-time parenthood.

## Special Issues

Merla, L., Kilkey, M. & Baldassar, L. (2020). Transnational care: Families confronting borders. *Special Issue of the Journal of Family Research*, Volume 32, Issue 3.

**Abstract:** Notwithstanding the border closures occurring at the time of writing (April 2020) in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, people are increasingly confronted with what has been termed the 'immobility regime' (Turner 2007). Motivated

variously by a desire to assert their nation-state sovereignty, to protect their labour markets and welfare states, to exclude the 'terrorist' or racialized 'other', and to get (re-)elected, governments are responding to mobile populations (including the potentially mobile), with the policies and rhetoric of “closure, entrapment and containment” (Shamir 2005: 199).

This Special Issue asks: Where do care and family relations fit in such processes? It presents a set of articles that collectively examines the implications for the circulation of care across borders among migrant and refugee family network. By doing so, the Special Issue seeks to contribute to a research agenda that illuminates and problematizes the marginalization of care within migration regimes.

#### **Table of content:**

**Merla L., Kilkey M. & Baldassar L.:** Introduction

**Amelina A. & Bause N.:** Forced migrant families' assemblages of care and social protection between solidarity and inequality

**Näre, L.:** Family lives on hold: Bureaucratic bordering in male refugees' struggle for transnational care

**Willers, S.:** Changing mobility regimes and care: Central American women confronting processes of entrapment in Southern Mexico

**Radziwinowiczówna A., Kloc-Nowak W. & Rosińska A.:** Envisaging post-Brexit immobility: Polish migrants' care intentions concerning their elderly parents

**Brandhorst R.:** A regimes-of-mobility-and-welfare approach: The impact of migration and welfare policies on transnational social support networks of older migrants in Australia

**Merla L., Kilkey M. & Baldassar L.:** Examining transnational care circulation trajectories within immobilizing regimes of migration: Implications for proximate care

Open-access link: <https://ubp.uni-bamberg.de/jfr/index.php/jfr/issue/view/47>

## Documentary Films

**Irena Juozeliūnienė & Audra Sipavičienė:** [Families Across Borders](#).

**Abstract:** The scholars of the Department of Sociology at Vilnius University (Lithuania) in cooperation with International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Vilnius office, seek to introduce to the ISA RC06 audience the documentary film “Across borders”. Three transnational families narrate their life stories, when family member(s) went working abroad the other family members living in Lithuania. This film demonstrates how global migration encourages the new cross-border family arrangements, how changes in family practices pose challenges to families, and how family members invest in new meanings of doing family across borders.

This film was produced while implement Researchers’ groups project “Global migration and Lithuanian family: family practices, circulation of care and return strategies”. Funding was provided by the Lithuanian Research Council (LMTLT).

Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7RvC3PfK\\_2Y&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7RvC3PfK_2Y&feature=youtu.be)

## Book Chapters

Koç, İ., & Saraç, M. (2020). The impact of conflict-induced migration on family structure of Syrian refugees in Turkey. *Syrian Refugees in Turkey: A Demographic Profile and Linked Social Challenges*. New York: Routledge.

**Abstract:** Conflict-induced migration reshapes family structures, not only in the refugees' country of origin, but also at their destination. This chapter explores the impact of migration on the co-residence patterns and family structures of Syrian refugees in Turkey by using data from the 2018 Turkey Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS). To understand the impact of migration on these families at their destination, we use a comparative approach employing two additional data sets that reflect the family structure in the non-conflict period: the 2006 Syrian Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (SMICS) and the 2009 Syria Family and Health Survey (SFHS). A comparative analysis shows that conflict-induced migration plays a destructive role at the household level, and as the findings concerning household formation process infer, it brings some challenges at the compensation phase, especially for young Syrian women. This chapter shows that the frequency of traditional marriage practices, such as child marriage, marriage with bride-money, first cousin marriage, arranged marriage, polygamous marriage and family-framed encounters, has decreased significantly among women who married after migrating to Turkey. However, the frequency of traditional marriage practices among Syrian refugee women remains relatively high compared to the host community in Turkey.

Maslauskaitė, A. & Steinbach, A. (2020). Paternal psychological well-being after union dissolution: Does involved fatherhood have a protective effect? In M. Kreyenfeld & H. Trappe (Eds.), *Parental Life Courses after Separation and Divorce in Europe* (pp. 215-234). Cham: Springer.

**Abstract:** Although the attention scholars have paid to the question of how the involvement of fathers affects the well-being of their children in post-separation families has increased tremendously in recent years, the question of how fathers' involvement affects their own well-being has been hardly examined. Using data from the cross-sectional survey "Fathering after Union Dissolution," which was

conducted in Lithuania in 2016 (N = 1225), we looked at the extent to which the involvement of fathers with their non-resident children (contact frequency, relationship quality, payment of child support, and the quality of the co-parenting relationship with the mother) was associated with their psychological well-being (depressive feelings and general life satisfaction). Our multiple regression results indicated that the self-assessed quality of the father's relationship with the child was the most important factor contributing to paternal psychological well-being: i.e., the better the relationship quality, the less likely a father was to report having depressive feelings, and the more likely he was to report having a high level of general life satisfaction. However, while making regular child support payments was found to be associated with a lower likelihood of having depressive feelings, it was not shown to be associated with having a high level of general life satisfaction. Contrary to our expectations, we found that the frequency of contact with the non-resident child and the quality of the co-parenting relationship with the mother did not affect paternal psychological well-being. Accordingly, we concluded that the protection provided by involved fatherhood after union dissolution is not universal, but instead depends on the nature of the involvement.

Ribbens McCarthy, J., Evans, R., Yu, G. & Kébé, F. (2020). The (cross-cultural) problem of categories: who is 'child', what is 'family'?. In: S. Frankel & S. McNamee (Eds.), *Bringing Children Back into the Family: Relationality, Connectedness and Home* (pp. 23–40). Bingley UK: Emerald Publishing.

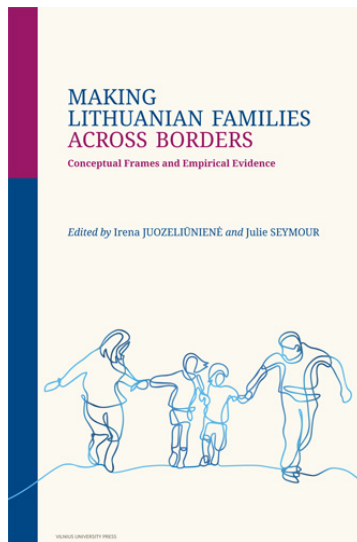
**Abstract:** Both family sociology and childhood studies have sought in recent years to reflect on their most basic assumptions, most notably what it means to be 'a child' or 'a family'. While this has led to some productive and challenging debates in affluent Anglophone and Western European contexts, these discussions have

not fundamentally re-thought these challenges through Majority world vantage points. Drawing on the work of the philosopher and sinologist François Julienne, and his argument that Western European languages are rooted in an ontology of categorical thinking, we raise the question of what is 'family' and who is 'child' in diverse linguistic contexts. Drawing on the examples of 'child' in China and 'family' in Senegal, we explore the ways in which processes of translation perform a neo-colonial outcome by re-framing these terms through categorical thinking, allowing much of the nuances, complexities and fluidity of their meanings to 'slip away'.

Saraç, M. & Koç, İ. (2020). Timing of reproductive events among host community and Syrian refugee women in Turkey. *Syrian Refugees in Turkey: A Demographic Profile and Linked Social Challenges*. New York: Routledge.

**Abstract:** The 2018 Turkey Demographic and Health Survey presents a unique opportunity to understand the timing of reproductive events (i.e. menarche, first marriage, first, second and subsequent births, and menopause) of Syrian refugee women in direct comparison to host community women in Turkey. The results of our analysis indicate that, except for menarche, Syrian women experience each of these events earlier than host community women experience them in Turkey. On average, a Syrian woman enters her reproductive period at age 13.8, gets married at age 18.7 and has the first, second and third births at ages 21.0, 22.7 and 25.4, respectively. The reproductive life span of Syrian women (28 years) from menarche to menopause is 6 years shorter than that of host community women (34 years). Cox regression results demonstrate that the reproductive trajectories of Syrian women are closely linked with their migration trajectories. Syrian women who experienced reproductive events after migrating to Turkey tend to delay the timing of those events until later stages of life. Such delays, in our opinion, can be explained by the destructive impact of armed conflict on Syrian refugee women in the recent past, and lesser social pressure in Turkey for women to marry and reproduce.

## Books



### Making Lithuanian Families Across Borders: Conceptual Frames and Empirical Evidence

Irena Juozeliūnienė and Julie Seymour (Eds.)

2020

This edited collection opens the door to understanding the representations and experiences of Lithuanian migrant families. The authors aim to highlight the most recent theoretical frames through which to understand the personal lives and family practices of migrants. Drawing on the language of troubles suggested by Ribbens McCarthy and colleagues (Ribbens McCarthy et al., 2013), the authors reflect on the assumptions underpinning the ‘othering’ of migrant families and question attempts to label the re-shaped family boundaries and relations as ‘troubled’ and ‘troubling’. Building upon the family practices approach which recognizes both the activities of, and discourses about, family life (Morgan, 1996; 2011), the researches sought to examine the ways in which global migration comes to restructure family configurations and relational dynamics of family lives, while family members look for ways of maintaining a sense of familyhood. The authors test and extend theoretical ideas about family life with a focus on gender and intergenerational issues in the context of Lithuanian families across borders.

Links:

<https://www.journals.vu.lt/open-series/article/view/19665>

<https://www.amazon.com/Making-Lithuanian-Families-Across-Borders-ebook/dp/B08CLTQVSF>



## La Paternidad en España: La Implicación Paterna en el Cuidado de los Hijos

Lluís Flaquer, Tomás Cano & Marc Barbeta-Viñas (Eds.)

2020

Los contenidos de este libro son los resultados de un proyecto de investigación sobre «La implicación paterna en el cuidado de los hijos en España» financiado por el Plan Nacional de I+D+i del Ministerio de Economía Industria y Competitividad (Referencia CSO2012-33476), cuya duración se extendió desde el 1 de enero de 2013 hasta el 15 de julio de 2016. Su finalidad era acrecentar nuestros conocimientos sobre la implicación paterna en el cuidado de los hijos, sobre los factores que favorecen o inhiben su desarrollo y sobre las consecuencias que comporta tanto en términos de la mejora de la equidad de género como de la del bienestar infantil. El interés que despierta en los últimos años el surgimiento de la figura de los nuevos padres, tanto en la agenda de investigación como en los debates de la opinión pública, refleja las vicisitudes de la transición en curso hacia un modelo familiar distinto. Sin que haya desaparecido el imperativo de la provisión económica, el cuidado de los hijos aparece como un ingrediente de la paternidad cada vez más valioso. Los resultados de esta investigación muestran los claroscuros de la situación actual. A pesar de los grandes avances realizados, la reconversión de la paternidad plantea algunas dificultades: todavía no se ha salvado la distancia entre un padre ayudante o colaborador de la madre y su representación como un sujeto autónomo y pleno, con una responsabilidad al mismo nivel que el de ella. En los dos últimos capítulos los autores se ocupan de los permisos de paternidad, cuyo desarrollo suscita una cierta atención mediática. Es importante que se produzca un debate público al respecto para que los ciudadanos sean conscientes de sus ventajas y beneficios.

Link for more details:

<http://editorial.csic.es/publicaciones/libros/13359/0/la-paternidad-en-espana-la-implicacion-paterna-en-.html>

# Call for Papers

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## Contemporary Perspectives in Family Research

### CALL FOR PAPERS

#### Facing Death: Familial Responses to Illness and Death

Contemporary Perspectives in Family Research (CPFR), an annual series focusing on cutting-edge topics in family research around the globe, seeks manuscripts for a special volume: **Facing Death: Familial Responses to Illness and Death**. Although this volume is not limited to submissions related to the current health crisis, it does come at a time when illness and death are at the forefront of global discussions. Social processes surrounding illness and death vary greatly around the world and evolve with time—which has been made evident by the current global pandemic that has challenged the ways in which families operate and experience important life transitions, including the death ritual. To gain a better understanding of how families around the world respond to illness and death, this multidisciplinary volume of CPFR will address such topics as: how parents cope with the loss of a child, employment and caregiving, caregiving across national boundaries, the sandwich generation, gender differences in caregiving and the death process, the death ritual in times of quarantine, individual versus familial bereavement, and child/adolescent development following the death of a parent, among others.

**Submission guidelines.** Manuscripts should be limited to 40 double-spaced pages (not including tables, figures, and references), adhere to APA format, and submitted as MS WORD documents. Include an abstract of 150-200 words at the beginning of the manuscript. Christina L. Scott of Whittier College (USA) and Heidi M. Williams of Virginia Tech (USA) will serve as coeditors for the upcoming volume. Please submit manuscripts directly to the editors ([cscott@whittier.edu](mailto:cscott@whittier.edu) and [hmwill07@vt.edu](mailto:hmwill07@vt.edu)). All manuscript submissions should be original work. Manuscript submission to this call for papers implies a commitment to publishing with CPFR. All manuscripts will undergo peer review.

The deadline for initial submissions is January 31, 2021. Direct all questions to the editors: [cscott@whittier.edu](mailto:cscott@whittier.edu) and [hmwill07@vt.edu](mailto:hmwill07@vt.edu).

# CPFR

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## Contemporary Perspectives in Family Research

### CALL FOR PAPERS

#### **Police, Courts, and Incarceration: The Justice System and the Family**

Contemporary Perspectives in Family Research, an annual series which focuses upon cutting-edge topics in family research around the globe, is seeking manuscript submissions for a special volume. The volume will focus on the theme of ‘**Police, Courts, and Incarceration: The Justice System and the Family.**’

On a daily basis, around the globe, millions of individuals are entangled in justice systems either as offenders, as victims, or vicariously as family members of those directly involved. Contact often begins with the police that frequently leads to court involvement, and for offenders found guilty, to correctional supervision or incarceration. While these encounters primarily affect individuals, they have a tremendous impact upon the family. Police and justice entanglements can result in tremendous strains upon families economically and socially, and can also endanger family relationships. In order to better comprehend how involvement at any level of the justice system affects families, this multidisciplinary volume of CPFR will focus upon the justice system and the family. In doing so, we are seeking articles that cover a wide array of topics including: how policing, arrest, jail and court processes impact family members and their support networks; how prolonged incarceration impacts children and parenting processes and family comping; how intimate relationships are impacted during and after incarceration including marriage and divorce and partner violence; and, whether system involvement leads to unintended consequences among family members such as heightened fear of crime and victimizations including extrajudicial killings and fears of the police, among others.

This volume of CPFR will be coedited by Sheila Royo Maxwell of Michigan State University and Sampson Lee Blair of The State University of New York (Buffalo). Manuscripts should be submitted directly to the editors ([maxwel22@msu.edu](mailto:maxwel22@msu.edu) and [slblair@buffalo.edu](mailto:slblair@buffalo.edu)), preferably in MS WORD format. Manuscripts should not exceed approximately 40 double-spaced pages (not including tables, figures, and references). Submission of a manuscript implies commitment to publish in CPFR. Manuscripts should adhere to the APA format. Manuscripts should represent previously unpublished work. An abstract of 150-250 words should be included at the beginning of each manuscript. All manuscripts will undergo peer review.

The deadline for initial submissions is March 15, 2021. Any questions may be directed to the editors at [maxwel22@msu.edu](mailto:maxwel22@msu.edu) and [slblair@buffalo.edu](mailto:slblair@buffalo.edu).

# Announcements

## I. Awards & Honours

- **Gayle Kaufman** has been awarded the Boswell Family Faculty Fellowship for 2021

## II. Grants & Projects

- Dear colleagues,  
The **International Review on Leave Policies and Related Research 2020** covering 45 countries is now available:

<https://www.leavenetwork.org/annual-review-reports/review-2020/>

It includes a special supplement on **Policy Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic for Parents and other Carers**:

[https://www.leavenetwork.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/k\\_leavenetwork/annual\\_reviews/2020/Covid\\_19\\_policy\\_responses\\_summary.pdf](https://www.leavenetwork.org/fileadmin/user_upload/k_leavenetwork/annual_reviews/2020/Covid_19_policy_responses_summary.pdf)

This year the full report is available from the International Network on Leave Policies and Research website ([www.leavenetwork.org](http://www.leavenetwork.org)) with a DOI, as well as the individual country notes and cross-national overview tables.

This is an open access resource, so please share widely.

The editorial team

Alison Koslowski, Sonja Blum, Ivana Dobrotić, Gayle Kaufman, Peter Moss

- In 2020, the Council for grants of the President of Russia funded a project "Russian pro-natalist policy: resources, effects, optimization opportunities". The project has been realised as part of the state support to the leading scientific schools (project number NSh-2722.2020.6). The head of the project is **Anna Bagirova**, a

professor, who worked with the scientific school of the Ural Federal University in Ekaterinburg. The two-year-long project aims to study existing and potential resources of the Russian pro-natalist policy, to assess and forecast the effects of its realisation, and to suggest ways for the policy's optimisation. In 2020, the project yielded the following results:

- 1) methodology for analysing human, economic, and socio-cultural resources being used in Russia for realising the demographic policy (fertility programmes) was designed;
- 2) differentiation of the Russian regions by the available resources necessary for realising the demographic policy most effectively and by the resources' intensity was analysed;
- 3) methodology for a sociological study of a city as a place for producing and developing national human capital of high quality was designed.

The research project used the sociological, demographic, and statistical methods. The data was collected from the official national statistical reports, public surveys, and social media. In 2020, 1 PhD thesis related to the subject of the project was maintained, and more than 50 papers were published in journals and conference proceedings.

- In 2020, the Russian Fund of Basic Research funded a project "Activation of grandparents' (grandmothers' and grandfathers') parental labour in relation to their grandchildren as a strategy to increase the birth rate in Russia" (project number 20-011-00280). The head of the project is **Anna Bagirova**, a professor, who worked with the scientific school of the Ural Federal University in Ekaterinburg. The three-year-long project aims to develop a mechanism for activating grandparents' (grandmothers' and grandfathers') parental labour in relation to their grandchildren. After its implementation, the mechanism is expected to increase the birth rate in Russia. The project suggests examining demographic, social and economic indicators of grandmothers' and grandfathers' aid in raising and developing their

grandchildren, which may influence the intrafamily decision-making on having children. Realisation of the project develops theoretical frameworks for economics and sociology of labour (e.g., the concept of parental labour, theory of human capital and intergenerational transfers), contributes to resolving the welfare, social and demographic policy issues, improving pension system, raising workers' competitiveness, quality of life, and living standard.

In 2020, the project yielded the following results:

- 1) parental labour of grandmothers and grandfathers in relation to their grandchildren was introduced as a category, and its key economic and sociological parameters were characterised;
- 2) demographic analysis methodology, which aims to evaluate and forecast the number and structure of third-age population having grandchildren as well as the shared time between grandparents and grandchildren, was designed.

The data was collected from the official national statistical reports. In 2020, 15 papers were published in journals and conference proceedings.

- **Inga Laß & Irma Mooi-Reci:** "The Fertility Consequences of Non-standard Employment: A Comparison between Australia and Germany." (2021-2022). Funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and Universities Australia.

## New & Returning Members

We welcome the following new or returning members (2020):

Gerlinde Maurer  
Austria

Christoph Buehler  
Germany

Johanna O. Zulueta  
Japan

Xiaoying Qi  
Australia

Hanayo Hirai  
Japan

Naoko Saito  
Japan

Isabella Crespi  
Italy

Barbara Barbosa Neves  
Australia

Dimitri Mortelmans  
Belgium

Jaap Nieuwenhuis  
China

Ulrike Zartler  
Austria

Saeko Kikuzawa  
Japan

## Board of RC06 (2018-2022)

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