# CFR GAZETTE


VOLUME 51
ISSUE 2, 2025

ISA RC06 Family Research

Newsletter of the Committee on Family Research (RC06/CFR)

*International Sociological Association*

## CONTENTS

# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear RC06 Colleagues,

I hope things are going well with you.

This Newsletter period is one that included the ISA Forum in Rabat from July 6-11 this year. It was a great experience to attend and especially to meet many members of our research committee as well as members of other research committees, working groups and thematic groups. Nearly 5,000 people in all attended. We had 26 sessions held within the auspices of RC06, some of which were shared with other research committees/working groups. Other information on the Forum is reported in other parts of this Newsletter.

I have to say that in my experience there is no substitute for being present personally. Thinking ahead, it might be time now for you all to be preparing for the 21st ISA World Congress which will be held on 4-10 July, 2027 in Gwangju, Korea.

There have been two changes to the Board since we were last in touch. We have a new member - Bussarawan Teerawichitchainan (NUS, Singapore) - and Laura Merla, an existing Board member, is the new Vice-President (to replace Hachiro Iwai).

One matter that we have been thinking about and discussing as a board is the events and activities to undertake in the intervening period before the World Congress. Taking on board some of the feedback given to us at the Business Meeting in Rabat as well as through other channels, we are planning to offer a series of online lectures and round tables. Our intention is to have a range of events, including state-of-the-art lectures on some important topics in family research as well as some information of relevance to publications and career development. As always, we welcome suggestions from you.

Finally, we are welcoming new members and if you come across people whose work is relevant, please feel free to point them to our details at https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/research-networks/research-committees/rc06-family-research/.

I wish you well, December, 2025

*Mary Daly*
*President, RC06*

# FROM THE SECRETARY

Dear RC06 Family Research Members,

As 2025 draws to a close, I would like to take a moment to reflect on our collective efforts this year. The Board has met twice online this year, ensuring progress across our shared tasks.

A highlight of the year was our business and community meeting held during the ISA Forum of Sociology in Rabat on 10 July 2025. The minutes of this meeting are available for your reference (click here). In this newsletter you will also find photos contributed by members that capture the spirit of our sessions.

At our most recent Board meeting, we revisited the points raised in Rabat, focusing on opportunities to organise online events and to strengthen our digital presence. Plans are underway to revamp the RC06 website and social media channels, with the aim of enhancing visibility and engagement across our community.

Our membership is healthy, we currently have 199 members. Looking ahead, I encou-rage all members to review the status of their ISA and RC06 membership and renew if the expiry date is approaching. Maintaining your membership ensures continued access to the RC06 Gazette and activities as well as opportunities to share your research and announcements with our community.

As we approach the holiday season, may the coming year bring renewed energy and continued success in our research community. Thank you for your support and engagement with RC06.

With warm regards, December, 2025

*Pei-Chun Ko*
*Secretary & Treasurer, RC06*

# RC06: 5TH ISA FORUM OF SOCIOLOGY


*Members who attended the RC06 Business Meeting, 5th ISA Forum, Morocco, July 2025*

## RC06 Family Research

**Monday, 7 July 2025**

**09:00 - 10:45**

RC19

09:00 - 10:45
**JS-1** Bringing Back Large Families
*SJES003 (Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

**13:00 - 14:45**

RC06

13:00 - 14:45
**87** Kinkeeping across Generations
*ASJE003 (Bloc 1, Annex of the Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

WG10

13:00 - 14:45
**JS-29** Dignified Aging in the Digital Age? (Part I)
*SJES005 (Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

**15:00 - 16:45**

WG10

15:00 - 16:45

**JS-42** Dignified Aging in the Digital Age? (Part II)

*SJES005 (Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

**19:00 - 20:30**

RC06

19:00 - 20:30

**88** Families' Life Courses with Animal Companions

*ASJE003 (Bloc 1, Annex of the Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

## Tuesday, 8 July 2025

**09:00 - 10:45**

RC06

09:00 - 10:45

**89** Digital Family Practices

*ASJE003 (Bloc 1, Annex of the Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

*5th ISA Forum, Morocco, July 2025*

RC24

09:00 - 10:45

**JS-58** Families, Gender, and Environmental Labour in the Anthropocene

*SJES001 (Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

## 11:00 - 12:45

RC06

11:00 - 12:45

**JS-77** Middle-Aged and Older Adults' Intergenerational Support and Wellbeing

*SJES002 (Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

## 13:00 - 14:45

RC06

13:00 - 14:45

**90** The Consequences of Mate Selection in the Online Realm: Dating, Sex, and Marriage

*ASJE003 (Bloc 1, Annex of the Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

RC06

13:00 - 14:45

**JS-87** Care Circulation in Transnational Families: Current Trends and New Perspectives (Part I)

*FSE016 (Faculty of Education Sciences)*

## 15:00 - 16:45

RC06

15:00 - 16:45

**91** Transnational Families in the Contemporary World: Concepts, Challenges and Potentials (Part II)

*ASJE003 (Bloc 1, Annex of the Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

RC06

15:00 - 16:45

**JS-102** Family Policy, Gender and Intersecting Inequalities (Part I)

*SJES003 (Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

## 19:00 - 20:30

RC06

19:00 - 20:30

**92** Transnational Families in the Contemporary World: Concepts, Challenges and Potentials (Part I)

*ASJE003 (Bloc 1, Annex of the Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

## Wednesday, 9 July 2025

### 09:00 - 10:45

RC06

09:00 - 10:45

**93** Sandwich Generations: Caregiving, Work, and Wellbeing

*ASJE003 (Bloc 1, Annex of the Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

RC06

09:00 - 10:45

**JS-115** Family Policy, Gender and Intersecting Inequalities (Part II)

*SJES003 (Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

### 11:00 - 12:45

RC06

11:00 - 12:45

**94** Cost of Family Caregiving of Older Persons in Southern Africa: Looking at South Africa, Botswana, Malawi and Namibia

*ASJE003 (Bloc 1, Annex of the Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

RC06

11:00 - 12:45

**JS-125** Family and Community Resilience Against Disaster

*SJES004 (Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

### 13:00 - 14:45

RC06

13:00 - 14:45

**95** Exploring and Problematising Family Resilience

*ASJE003 (Bloc 1, Annex of the Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

RC06

13:00 - 14:45

**JS-138** Early Smartphone Access: Navigating Parental Decisions and Adolescent Wellbeing in a Digital Age

*ASJE017 (Bloc 2, Annex of the Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

### 15:00 - 16:45

RC06

15:00 - 16:45

**96** Divorce and Separation: Sociological Perspectives and Implications

*ASJE003 (Bloc 1, Annex of the Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

RC31

15:00 - 16:45

**JS-147** Connecting Mobility Ecologies, Climate Crises and Families

*FSE016 (Faculty of Education Sciences)*

**19:00 - 20:30**

RC06

19:00 - 20:30

**97** Coloniality, Inequality, and Families. Experience from the Global South

*ASJE003 (Bloc 1, Annex of the Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

## Thursday, 10 July 2025

**09:00 - 10:45**

RC06

09:00 - 10:45

**98** RC06 Business Meeting

*ASJE003 (Bloc 1, Annex of the Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

RC31

09:00 - 10:45

**JS-170** Transnational Families over Time

*FSE016 (Faculty of Education Sciences)*

**11:00 - 12:45**

RC06

11:00 - 12:45

**99** Laughing through Life? Humour in Families Facing Challenging Times

*ASJE003 (Bloc 1, Annex of the Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

**13:00 - 14:45**

RC06

13:00 - 14:45

**100** Future Directions for Family Research

*ASJE003 (Bloc 1, Annex of the Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences)*

**Friday, 11 July 2025**

**09:00 - 10:45**

RC06

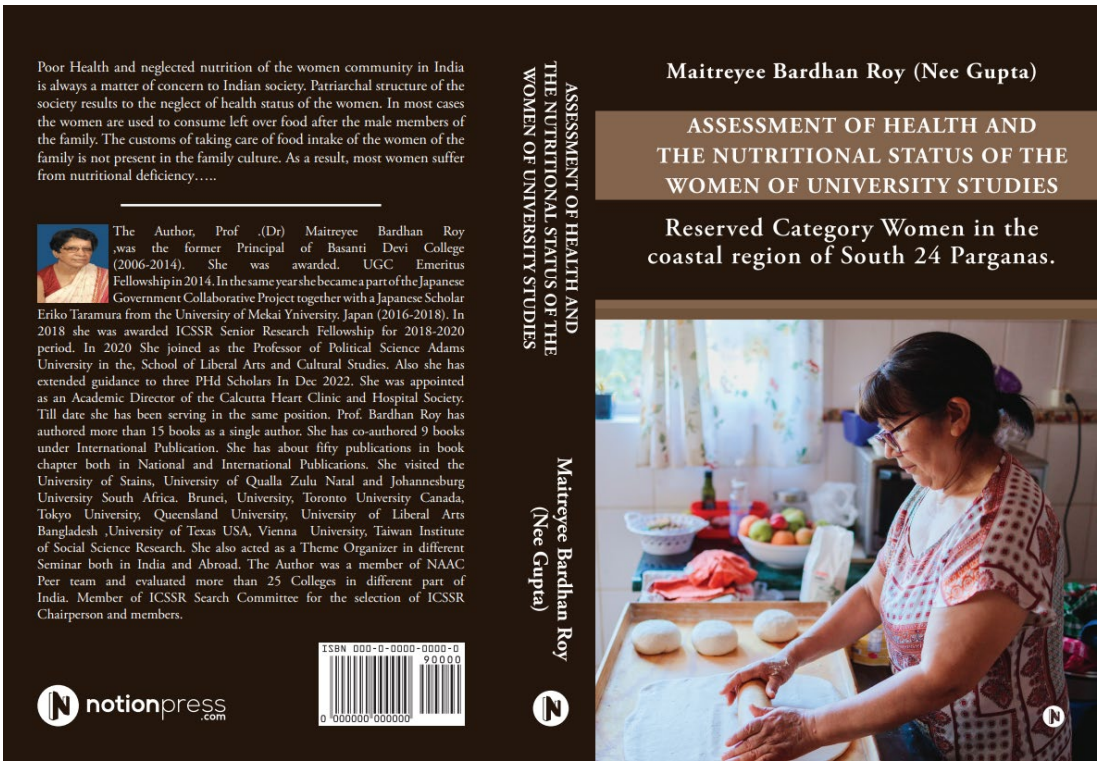
09:00 - 10:45

**JS-209** Care Circulation in Transnational Families: Current Trends and New Perspectives (Part II)

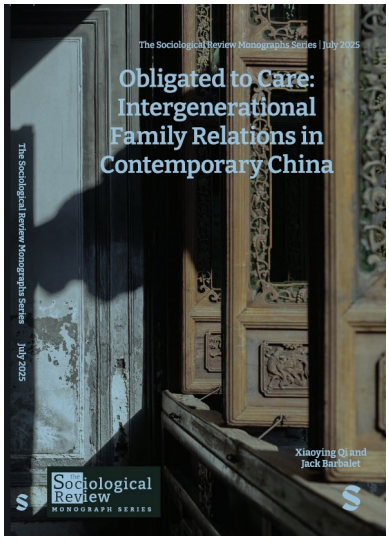
*FSE016 (Faculty of Education Sciences)*

# PUBLICATIONS

## Books



- Qi, X. & Barbalet, J. (2025). *Obligated to Care: Intergenerational Family Relations in Contemporary China*. London: Sage.




This Monograph provides a kaleidoscopic overview of the Chinese family in the first quarter of the 21st century, including its historical background and prospective trajectories. Sociological inquiry reveals that while the family is arguably a universal institution its form is subject to ever transforming dynamic elements and the influence of chan-ging social, economic, and political environments. Indeed, the sociology of the family necessarily reports divergent trends and characteristically different historical and cultural features of families. Changes experienced by families in present-day China reflect the transition from a planned to a market economy and China's 'opening up' to global participation and influence. The distinctive intergenerational basis of family life is still primary in China but on very different grounds than previously. The changing nature of obligations of care between generations, different types of care practiced in families in which its members migrate, include LGBTQ persons, are singletons or have siblings, and changed from traditional to present-day forms in the modes of delivery of care are all discussed in the contributions to this Monograph. Here is a collection of papers empirically grounded and theoretically innovative which inform exploration of the family in China today, and in doing so enliven sociological analysis. Conventional understandings of the Chinese family and its intergenerational relations are challenged in these contributions and the diversity of familial experience and prospects clearly set out and explained.

# Articles

- Merla, L., Dedonder, J. & Baar, M. (2025). Judicial treatment of applications for joint physical custody in Belgium: criteria considered and underlying family normativities. *International Journal of Law, Policy and the Family*, 39(1), https://doi.org/10.1093/lawfam/ebaf015

**Abstract:** Joint physical custody (JPC) of children after parental separation is increasingly prevalent in many countries. The literature describes a series of criteria that are—or should be—considered by judges who must rule on applications for JPC. However, little is known about how family courts evaluate these criteria, or about the normative representations that shape their evaluations. Based on the perspectives of lawyers and judges in Belgian family courts—collected in 2018 through an online survey and semi-structured interviews—this article examines the most commonly used criteria, how these criteria are evaluated, and the underlying normative representations of the family. Three criteria are widely used both by lawyers in their advisory role and by judges: the child's age, the geographical distance between parents, and the applicant's temporal availability. Nevertheless, judges make use of a broader range of criteria, which they evaluate on a case-by-case basis. This evaluation is based on a normative representation that continues to prioritize the nuclear family, resulting in tensions between gender equality and the precedence of the mother when young children are concerned.

- Murru, S. & Merla, L. (2025). Residential calendars in joint physical custody arrangements beyond the week on/week off model: experiences of frequent alternating schedules and parental co-presence in Italy. *Child & Family Social Work*, https://doi.org/10.1111/cfs.70021

**Abstract:** This paper focuses on residential calendars in joint physical custody arrangements (JPC). Based on extensive fieldwork in the Piedmont Region involving 22 children aged 10 to 16 and their families, we identify two distinctive Italian trends departing from typical JPC schedules emphasizing weekly alternations for clarity and fairness: (1) increased frequency of transitions with shorter stays at each parent's home; and (2) frequent physical co-presence with both parents, regardless of the defined residence. We propose a new vocabulary to qualify these calendars' specific tempos of alternation, based on the number of consecutive sleepovers at each parent's and number of transitions between homes over a 2-week period—translated into a typology of four calendars. The practices that unfold in each are illustrated by a specific case study also highlighting frequent physical co-presence during the day with the non-residential parent, and how children themselves experience the more or less frequent transitions characterizing their custody arrangement. We then discuss the challenges these cases pose to the current state of the art on the factors encouraging or discouraging frequent alternations and conclude by pointing out future research avenues.

- Choi, S.Y.P. (2025). Not coming out as affective care: LGBTQ+ individuals navigating the feeling landscape of intergenerational relationships. *The Sociological Review*, 73(4), 826-843, https://doi.org/10.1177/00380261251347742

**Abstract:** Using the decision to not come out amongst a group of Chinese LGBTQ+ individuals as its basis, the present study explains how care about and care for parents' feelings is viewed by adult children as a key and distinct form of care that is central to the working and doing of intergenerational intimacy. The study critically engages with research on affect, emotion and care, the body of literature on the intimate turn in contemporary families, and the literature on the coming out and the intergenerational relationships of LGBTQ+ individuals. It defines the concept of affective care; illustrates its characteristics of duality, rationality and morality, and relationality; and discusses its dilemma and dark side. The results show how the doing of affective care reflects the broader transformation of intergenerational dynamics within Chinese families, the centrality of affect and the complexities involved in navigating the feeling landscape of contemporary Chinese family life.

- Chang, H.C. & Choi, S.Y.P. (2025). Marriage Channels, Temporal Inequality, and Migration Decision-Making Agency: Vietnamese Marriage Migrants in Asia. *International Migration Review*, https://doi.org/10.1177/01979183251314845

**Abstract:** Recent scholarship has examined the multiple dimensions of structural and cultural inequalities that impact the well-being of intra-Asia marriage migrants in both sending and receiving countries. One missing mechanism that may shape varied patterns of pre- and post-migration inequalities — the different marriage channels that facilitate different types of encounters between prospective brides from emerging economies and prospective grooms from advanced economies — deserves more theoretical and empirical attention. Based on over 100 life-history interviews with Vietnamese marriage migrants in Taiwan and South Korea, our analysis shows how women's meeting their foreign spouse through personal encounters, introduction networks, or commercial brokers denotes their relatively advantaged, constrained, or disadvantaged structural and cultural circumstances and, in turn, shapes the time available for them for expressing decision-making agency. We argue that marriage channel serves as an intermediate stratifying mechanism — an unequal space, reflecting migrant women's differential socioeconomic positions and gendered familial obligations in Vietnam and shaping a hidden dimension of inequality — temporal inequality — that is embedded in the

processes of migration decision-making across different marriage channels. Our theorization of marriage channels and how they reflect the interplay between time for expressing agency and socio-cultural circumstances illuminates a comprehensive contextualization of the social phenomenon of intra-Asia marriage migration in the pre-migration phase. Through considering how both economic and non-economic factors shape marriage migration decision-making processes and their impacts on women's time for expressing agency across different marriage channels, our study contributes to scholarship on gender, time and women's agency, intra-Asia marriage migration, and international migration decision-making.

- Choi, S.Y.P., Cai, x., Pei, y. & Chen, l. (2024). The Cultivation of Transnational Cultural Capital in Childhood: Experiences of Chinese Global Multiple Migrants. *Global Networks,* 24(4), https://doi.org/10.1111/glob.12506

**Abstract:** This study shows how class advantage is transferred to the next generation through parental strategies that cultivate their children's transnational cultural capital from an early age. It combines the concepts of cultural capital and concerted cultivation and adopts a novel methodology, examining parental aspirations (PAs) and strategies from the perspective of the children. The data are derived from the life stories of Chinese global multiple migrants. The article shows that the cultivation of transnational cultural capital amongst elite and middle-class families in China is linked to traditional, neoliberal and non-materialistic PAs. It reveals how parental capital is related to their aspirations and shapes their use of six cultivation strategies. It also discusses the contradictions, dilemmas and disagreements relating to concerted cultivation; examines children's agency and places the findings within global and national contexts. The results provide insights into culturally specific class mechanisms of intergenerational reproduction of privilege in an era of globalization.

- Yip, TPC. & Choi, S.Y.P. (2025). A Home for Marriage? Gendered Responses to High Property Prices and Traditional Norms in Marital Home Acquisition. *China Review* 25(3), 163-193, https://www.jstor.org/stable/48834918

**Abstract:** This study explores how gender mediates marital home acquisition in the context of skyrocketing property prices and the persistence of traditional norms in Hong Kong, particularly those that frame homeownership as a precondition for marriage and link masculinity to the provision of a marital home. The results reveal divergences in gender values and practices: some men have abandoned homeownership and marriage altogether, while some

women view homeownership as a form of old-age social security in the absence of marriage. For men who endorse conventional housing and marriage norms, attempts to delay marriage until they can provide a marital home often clash with their female partners' anxieties concerning culturally defined timelines for wifehood and motherhood. These tensions prompt some couples to make gendered compromises and collaborations to achieve the dual goals of homeownership and marriage. The findings also highlight the housing burden and the pressure of social reproductive norms faced by young people in contemporary Chinese societies, as well as how they reflect on and reconsider traditional gender roles and middle-class family ideals. The study indicates that traditional gender norms regarding marital home provision are variously abandoned, challenged, compromised, or upheld, thereby revealing an increasingly fragmented gender regime and internal tensions within contemporary Chinese society.

- Topbas, D. (2025). 'I felt like I lost my manhood': Turkish heterosexual men's experience of infidelity as a crisis of masculinity amidst anti-gender politics in Türkiye. *NORMA*, 1-21, https://doi.org/10.1080/18902138.2025.2578132

**Abstract:** This article examines how Turkish heterosexual men experience, interpret, and negotiate a crisis of masculinity after being cheated on by spouses or romantic partners, within the framework of traditional masculine norms. I explore the masculine apparatus, comprising practices, beliefs, and discourses such as reclaiming sexual dominance and justifying violence, that men develop to reconstruct their masculine identity and reclaim power. Based on in-depth interviews with 20 heterosexual men who experienced infidelity, I situate this crisis within the inherent instability of masculine identity and men's insecure relationship with power. I argue that this crisis becomes especially pronounced when male dominance is challenged, as in the case of infidelity. I further investigate how this crisis and a broader masculine unease, defined by men's feelings of insecure power and their perception of gender equality as a threat, are shaped by intimate politics concerning family, marriage, and sexuality during the AKP (Justice and Development Party) era. By foregrounding infidelity as a neglected but potent trigger of masculinity crisis in a non-Western context, this study offers an empirical contribution to gender studies, revealing how men's emotional experiences reflect and reproduce Türkiye's broader political and cultural dynamics.

- Carter, A., & Davies, K. (2025). Laughing through Brexit: Family humour practices, political troubles and everyday life. *Current Sociology*, 73(7), 1111- 1128, https://doi.org/10.1177/00113921241275684

**Abstract:** Humour has a well-established role in the public life of politics; however, its use within families affected by macro-level political events remains understudied. This article explores how families employed humour to navigate family troubles introduced by Brexit, the United Kingdom's tumultuous exit from the European Union. Through an ethnographic study, we demonstrate how extraordinary political times test the positive relational potentials of humour. Families reframed situations through 'playfulness', exercised gentle and well-timed teasing, and digitally shared Brexit-related comedy objects to alleviate stresses and anxieties. However, the intensity of the Brexit drama rendered some family humour practices futile, and in particular circumstances, humour became an additional burden. By examining the interrelations of political events, everyday family practices and humour, this article demonstrates the integral role of humour in the reconstitution of familial relationships, the importance of craft, and the significance of relational and situational contexts to the successful deployment of humour.

- Dey, T., & Goli, S. (2025). Examining the Role of Modernization and Urbanization in Family Changes in India: Evidence from Panel Data Analyses. *Journal of Family History*, https://doi.org/10.1177/03631990251376548

**Abstract:** India's family structure is rapidly transforming, yet limited research examines its connection with demographic transition, urbanization, and modernization. Using macro-level panel data (1991–2021), we analyze how urbanization and modernization drive the shift from traditional to nuclear families. Fixed-effects models reveal a significant positive relationship: each unit increase in urbanization and modernization increases nuclear families by 0.29–1.32 percent and 0.21–0.49 percent, respectively. Factors like rising literacy, economic shifts, and women's autonomy further accelerate the nucleation of families. As India's rural-urban transition continues, sustained urbanization and modernization will likely deepen family nucleation, signaling an impending second demographic transition in the near future.

- Vuga Beršnak, J., Švab, A., & Živoder, A. (2025). 'If the Father Says So, That's How It Is': Meanings Ascribed to the Notion of the Military Family. *Social Sciences*, 14(11), 656, https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci14110656

**Abstract:** This paper builds on findings from the first systematic study of military families in Slovenia (2019–2022) to critically examine how military families are perceived and constructed within broader sociocultural and institutional frameworks. Using perspectives from family

studies, military sociology, defense studies, and critical military theory, the study investigates whether these perceptions continue to reproduce the traditional binary logic that positions the family as a feminized, private domain and the military as a masculinized, public domain, or whether late modern discourses have begun to disrupt these dichotomies. The analysis focuses on the intersection of gender roles, family practices, parental responsibilities, and the symbolic and practical meanings ascribed to the notion of the "military family." We used a reflexive approach to thematic analysis, combining qualitative interviews with young adults (aged > 18) who grew up in military families (14 participants), interviews with military and civilian experts (41 participants), survey data from service members, their spouses, and civilian respondents (411 and 125 open-ended responses from separate surveys). Findings reveal significant differences in how military families are understood and experienced. More critically, the study highlights how military institutional power and its greediness extend into the familial realm, not only through logistical demands, but also through the normalization of military values, hierarchical gendered expectations, and parenting practices.

- Qi, X. (2025). Intergenerational Relations: Paradoxical Integration of Feelings, Opportunities, and Issues. *Sociological Review,* 73(4): 789–806.

**Abstract:** Through development of the concept of paradoxical integration and drawing on in-depth interviews, this article brings a critical perspective to the study of intergenerational relationships by sociologically addressing labour-migration within China. China's massive population movement, from rural areas to urban employment, is facilitated by relocation of grandparents who, in traversing geographic space, significantly contribute to social and economic production by reconfiguring intergenerational family relationships. The paradoxical integration approach identifies the interdependent nature of contrastive elements related to function and significance, including rural and urban, production and care, and ambivalent emotions. This approach also reveals organically generative characteristics of social phenomena in relation to contemporaneous problems and opportunities, including (re)employment, social ties, and health-related issues. In addition, this approach identifies reversal in transformation of gendered elderly support, gendered power, gendered work, as well as strategies resolving intergenerational issues. This article addresses the pervasive practice of explaining Chinese data and relationships with theories informed by North American and Western European experience. It demonstrates by method and example the means through which concepts developed in non-Western social space can reinvigorate empirical research and theory construction in the study of intergenerational relations.

❖ Augustijn, L., Claessens, E., Miettinen, A., Hakovirta, M., Mortelmans, D., Riser, Q. H., & Steinbach, A. (2025). Joint physical custody and mothers' life satisfaction in Belgium, Finland, and Germany. *Journal of Family Studies*, 31(3), 508-527, https://doi.org/10.1080/13229400.2025.2451192

**Abstract:** Joint physical custody (JPC) is an increasingly common care arrangement in which children live about equally with their parents after separation or divorce. This study examined the association between JPC and mothers' life satisfaction in Belgium, Finland, and Germany. The objective was to determine whether mothers with (asymmetric or symmetric) JPC differed in terms of life satisfaction from mothers with sole physical custody (SPC) and whether there were country-specific differences. Using data from the studies Divorce in Flanders, Survey among Separated Families in Finland, and Family Models in Germany, we estimated OLS regression models for resident mothers in SPC and JPC families with minor children. Results showed significant differences between countries. Mothers in Belgium did not differ in terms of life satisfaction depending on their child's physical custody arrangement. However, mothers with symmetric JPC had higher life satisfaction than their counterparts with SPC in the Finnish sample, while both asymmetric and symmetric JPC mothers reported higher life satisfaction than SPC mothers in Germany. These differences, however, disappeared after introducing control variables to the regression models. Findings suggest that selection into different physical custody arrangements may explain the positive link between JPC and mothers' life satisfaction; a finding with far-reaching implications.

Solaz, A., Poortman, A.-R., Mortelmans, D., Bernardi, L., & Steinbach, A. (2025). Attitudes toward child well-being in diverse families across Europe. *Demographic Research*, 53, 307-324, https://doi.org/10.4054/DemRes.2025.53.11

**Abstract:**

BACKGROUND: European families have diversified, with more children raised in single-parent, stepparent, and same sex parent families. Whereas child outcomes in these families are well studied, societal attitudes toward family diversity remain underexplored.

OBJECTIVE: This study examines (1) perceptions of child well-being in nontraditional families compared to traditional ones, (2) their variation by family types in terms of structure and

composition, and (3) sociodemographic and international differences in these attitudes across Europe.

METHODS: We used the “Attitudes toward family diversity” module from the European Social Survey CRONOS-2 online panel study (2022) across 11 countries. We analysed responses on perceptions of child well-being in six family types relatively to traditional families: single mother, single father, stepmother, stepfather, gay male parents, and lesbian parents. Distributions were explored by country, gender, age, education, and income quintiles.

RESULTS: Generally, nontraditional families were perceived as less favourable to children’s wellbeing than traditional ones. However, whereas over two-thirds view child well-being growing up in stepfamilies and same-sex families as comparable to child well-being in traditional families, positive attitudes vary widely, from 40% in Central and Eastern Europe to 85% in Nordic countries. Single-parent families received less approval. Women and younger individuals showed more favourable attitudes to nontraditional families. Lower socioeconomic respondents had less favourable attitudes toward samesex families, but they are more open toward lone parenthood.

CONCLUSION: Attitudes toward nontraditional families’ ability to guarantee, as traditional families, children’s well-being vary across Europe. Stepfamilies and same-sex families receive higher approval than single-parent families. Two-adult forms are preferred to one-adult families. Sociodemographic factors shape these views.

CONTRIBUTION: This study is one of the first to systematically compare attitudes on family diversity for children’s well-being across Europe, offering new insights into the relative importance of parental gender, the number of parents, biological relatedness, and gender composition of parents.

- Reid, J., Johannes, C., Wareley, S., Ngadhi, C., Nginase, A., & Roman, N. (2025). A Conceptual Model for Strengthening Family Capabilities Through a Process of Care. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 22(7), Article 1150, https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph22071150

**Abstract:** Family capabilities shape the well-being of individuals and families, particularly in diverse sociocultural contexts. However, existing frameworks often fail to capture the complexities of family dynamics, particularly in South Africa. This limitation is addressed in this study by developing a new conceptual model, through an ethic of care lens, to understand family. A Human-Centered Design strategy is employed, utilizing workshops to gather and

deductively interpret data. A sample of 53 participants is recruited from two communities in South Africa. The Listening Guide approach is used to analyze the data, alongside thematic analysis, to identify overarching themes. The findings reveal tangible needs (material and physical requirements), as well as intangible needs (emotional and psychological support). The relation between these needs and harms highlights how care is shaped in families. While families endeavor to meet intangible needs, many fail to communicate these intangible needs, which also leads to harm. This is exacerbated when the primary caregiver within the family, the 'glue', has needs for care that are not met. In addition, the findings reveal the interrelatedness of care in family dynamics among family members, and help to explore the boundaries, capacities, and capabilities of what families do and how they care.

- Breshears, D. & Rabe, M. (2025). Contextualizing Family Communication in South Africa, *Journal of Family Communication*, 25(4): 310-318 https://doi.org/10.1080/15267431.2025.2545876

**Abstract:** Various family structures and dynamics exist globally, and Family Communication theories should reflect such diversity to be relevant. South Africa provides a rich context for such theoretical developments due to being a global outlier in terms of family diversity. Sharing certain trends with neighboring countries, such as a historical migrant labor system that became entrenched, South Africa's huge income disparities have specific effects on family life. Within the current general context of decolonizing the narrow academic theoretical landscape and the African philosophy of Ubuntu (where relations and togetherness are highlighted), Family Communication scholars have many opportunities to expand on existing work and also develop new understandings of family communication. In this reflective paper, we discuss how such new theoretical developments will have to be informed by, amongst other things, the cultural expectations within extended family networks and the fluid nature of many family household structures.

- Lobaka, S.T. & Rabe, M. (2025). Father care beyond the family household, South Africa, *African Identities*, https://doi.org/10.1080/14725843.2025.2555359

**Abstract:** Extensive research has been conducted on father absence in South Africa due to the extraordinarily high prevalence of biological fathers not living with their dependent children in the same household. Contributing to this burgeoning literature, are two qualitative studies conducted in South Africa. The first study focused on 34 young women, between the ages of 18 and 25 years, who were raised in households where their biological fathers did not

reside. The second study focused on 23 fathers, between the ages of 24 and 64 years, who do not reside with their children, but have great commitment in having active parental relationships with their children. In these two studies, emanating from the MA and doctoral dissertations of the first author, the complexity of caring relationships within extended families transpired. Using a life course perspective in analysing the findings, the importance of maternal kin in influencing the type of relationships afforded to non-resident fathers is underlined. Aspects found to be of significance are the relationship between the biological mother and father, the financial standing and emotional commitment of the biological father, as well as the role of extended kin, especially grandparents.


*5th ISA Forum, Morocco, July 2025*

# CALL FOR PAPERS




**

## Conference "Kinship Structures, Dynamics, and Inequalities"

Where: Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR)

When: June 8-9, 2026

### SCOPE

Family structures, broadly defined, have experienced radical changes around the globe. This conference will bring together scholars from various disciplines to consider how large-scale sociodemographic shifts reshape family systems within and beyond the household and how these changes contribute to, reproduce, or mitigate social and economic inequality. Whereas family research has long centered on partnerships and co-residential nuclear kin, studies of kinship emphasize the often-overlooked importance of extended and non-co-resident relatives such as grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, and other 'chosen kin.'

We invite contributions focusing on any geographic area, data source, and methodology that address topics including (but not limited to):

- Kin availability, inequality, and geographic distribution of kin
- Kin relations over the life course
- Caregiving, resource exchanges, and intergenerational transfers
- Bereavement and health from a kinship perspective
- Policy responses to kin availability
- Non-biological and fictive kinship
- LGBTQ+ kinship
- Innovative data, methods, and theoretical frameworks to study kinship.

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions must include a two-page extended abstract in PDF format. Abstracts should outline clearly the project title, authors' name(s), affiliation(s), contact information of the presenting author, research question, data/methods, and expected contribution.

Please submit your work via our website by 21 January 2026. The selected submissions will be invited for an oral or poster presentation at the conference. Presenting authors are expected to register by 10 March to confirm their intention to attend and present.

There are no registration fees, and the organizers will provide a limited number of grants to cover travel and/or accommodation.

## IMPORTANT DATES IN 2026

| | |
|---|---|
| 21 January | Deadline for submissions |
| 10 February | Notification of acceptance |
| 10 March | Registration deadline |
| 18 May | Program release |
| 8-9 June | Conference at MPIDR, Rostock, Germany |

## ORGANIZERS AND FUNDERS

International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) Scientific Panel on Kinship Structures, Dynamics and Inequalities; Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR); New York University (NYU) Abu Dhabi; the Pennsylvania State University, Collaborative on Population Aging Disparities; and the National University of Singapore.

The organizing committee includes the following individuals from the MPIDR: Saroja Adhikari, Diego Alburez-Gutierrez, Andrea Colasurdo, Sha Jiang, Amanda Martins, and Elena Pojman.

Organizers also include the following members of the steering committee of the IUSSP Panel on Kinship Structures, Dynamics and Inequalities: Bettina Hünteler (German Institute for Economic Research, DIW Berlin), Luca Maria Pesando (NYU Abu Dhabi), Bussarawan Teerawichitchainan (National University of Singapore), and Ashton Verdery (Pennsylvania State University).

For inquiries, please contact: kinship@demogr.mpg.de.

**Call for Papers to Special Collection at *Demographic Research***

**Title: De/Re-institutionalization of Asian Families? Special Collection Guest Editors:**


- Lake Lui, Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University
- Bussarawan Puk Teerawichitchainan, Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore
- Adam Ka-lok Cheung, Department of Sociology, Hong Kong Baptist University


https://www.demographic-research.org/files/20251023_cfp_asian_families.pdf

At the turn of the millennium, sociologist Andrew Cherlin (2004) introduced the influential thesis of the deinstitutionalization of American marriage, emphasizing the declining importance of marriage in intimate relationships, its weakening link to family formation, and the erosion of norms governing marriage and familial life. Inspired by this thesis, numerous studies have applied it to the transformation of Asian families, offering empirical evidence in support of the framework. These studies highlight rising trends of cohabitation (Cheng, 2023; Lesthaeghe, 2020), childlessness (Jones et al., 2009; Teerawichitchainan & Ha, 2024; Wang & Mu, 2025), divorce (Cheng, 2014; Chen & Yip, 2018), and men's participation in domestic care work (Lui & Chou, 2019), among others.

Although Asian families share some of the transformations observed in the West, they have unfolded more moderately and in ways that often diverge from Western trajectories. The literature shows that, even today, Asian families maintain a strong linkage between marriage and reproduction (Raymo et al., 2015), limited long-term cohabitation (Cheng, 2023), persistent gender inequality in the household (Kan et al., 2022) and the enduring influence of parental authority in multigenerational families, even as its force has waned (Davis & Friedman, 2014; Donner & Santos, 2016; Jones, Hull, & Mohamad, 2011; Lui, 2021). At the same time, pressures of modernity have fueled rising numbers of single-person households and never-married people (Cheung & Yeung, 2021; Jones, 2005), ultra-low fertility (with no signs of rebound) (Jones & Gubhaju, 2009), and split-household arrangements (Fan, 2021; Mu & Yeung, 2022). Both the persistence and transformation of family life highlight the distinctiveness of Asian societies (Raymo et al., 2015; Yeung, et al., 2018).

This special collection revisits the de-institutionalization thesis, and we argue that the characteristics of family and marriage sets Asia apart from the West under conditions of compressed modernity, in which economic, political, social, and cultural transformations occur in an extremely compressed manner—

both temporally and spatially—producing the dynamic coexistence of historical and modern social elements (Chang & Song 2010).

It offers a timely evaluation of changes amid global forces of modernization and individualization in Asia, the world's most populous region marked by shared histories and cultures yet diverse in its trajectories. In addition, drawing on contributions primarily from East and Southeast Asia (while remaining open to perspectives from other parts of Asia, including Central, West, and South Asia), we recognize the diversity among countries in this region, which have undergone uneven development over the past half-century (Jones & Yeung, 2014; Yeung, 2022). By emphasizing such differences, we seek to illuminate the varied forces of transformation and modification in Asian family and marriage systems.

The contributions to this special issue will allow us to answer the following key questions:

1) To what extent, and in what ways, have Asian family institutions—whether characterized by deeply entrenched patriarchal foundations rooted in gender and generational hierarchies, or by bilateral kinship systems more common in parts of Southeast Asia—been reconfigured under the pressures of modernization, globalization, and individualization?
2) How do these transformations differ across Asian societies, and what continuities persist despite these forces of change? These differences provide a valuable vantage point for theorizing family diversity in Asia and for refining broader frameworks of family change.

**The ambition of this special issue is to fill critical gaps by offering new empirical evidence, introducing innovative data sources, advancing cross-country comparative perspectives, and employing multi-method approaches.**

The volume interrogates the de-institutionalization thesis by providing insights into these phenomena, their driving forces, and, most importantly, their implications for family structures, practices, and power dynamics—an area often overlooked in Western literature, which largely emphasizes countries following the trajectory of the Second Demographic Transition. Beyond this, the collection aims to advance theoretical debates on family change and dynamics more broadly, using Asian cases to refine, challenge, and extend prevailing frameworks.

Despite a growing body of literature on family transformations in Asia, research remains uneven (Raymo et al., 2015; Yeung, 2022). **While the Guest Editors welcome empirical analyses on Asia broadly defined, contributions on underrepresented Asian societies are particularly encouraged. To illuminate how global forces intersect with local norms to drive family change across diverse contexts and over time, comparative and/or trend studies are especially desirable.** Overall, this special issue aims to integrate diverse findings and

theoretical perspectives, offering a regional synthesis that contributes to a comprehensive understanding of the shifting landscape of families in Asia and illuminates the implications for marriage, fertility, intergenerational relationships and support, and social policies.

Submissions can be made starting from 1 November 2025 via Demographic Research's online submission form as a part of the Special Collection on 'De/Re-institutionalization of Asian Families?'. We ask prospective contributors to closely follow the journal's guidelines. **The deadline for the submission is 28 February 2026.**

# NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

Welcome to new or returning members who joined at the end 2024 or the beginning of 2025:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. WENWEN LI<br>Japan | 8. Laura MERLA<br>Belgium |
| 2. Bernhard NAUCK<br>Germany | 9. Anja STEINBACH<br>Germany |
| 3. Pei-Chun KO<br>Australia | 10. Yan ZHAO<br>Norway |
| 4. Carrie LEONETTI<br>New Zealand | 11. Yan XIA<br>United States |
| 5. Mayank Bhooshan ASHUTOSH NO<br>India | 12. Randi WÆRDAHL<br>Norway |
| 6. Susan MCDANIEL<br>Canada | 13. Anna-lena ALMQVIST<br>Sweden |
| 7. Sigeto TANAKA<br>Japan | 14. Ariane BERTOGG<br>Germany |

# BOARD OF RC06 (2023-2028)

| | |
|---|---|
| President | Mary Daly |
| Vice-President | Laura Merla |
| Secretary and Treasurer | Pei-Chun Ko |
| Social Media Officer | Veronica L. Gregorio |
| Newsletter editor | Marlize Rabe |
| Members at large | Lukasz Czarnecki |
| | Anja Steinbach |
| | Bussarawan Teerawichitchainan |