

RN13 Newsletter

Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives

Research Network 13 of the European Sociological Association (ESA)

Invitation for Membership



European
Sociological
Association

To those of you who are researching on family issues, but are not RN13 members until now: *We want to invite you to join us!* This will cost you only 10 Euros for two years on top of your ESA membership fee. But it will make you part of a European network with regular conferences and own publications. Further, you will regularly receive this newsletter by e-mail.

Becoming an RN13 member is easy. If you are not an ESA member yet, you can sign up [here](#) for RN13 membership together with signing up of ESA membership. If you are an ESA member already you need to first log in into your ESA online account [here](#); then go to the Your memberships section and click on the "Add Research Networks" button; then go through the registration process by checking RN13 on the 2nd page and follow the steps after clicking on next.

If you have forgotten your ESA login data or if you need any other information about your ESA member status please check the "Password update" page [here](#) or get directly in contact with the ESA office: esa@europeansociology.org

— Inga Laß & Ronny König

Upcoming Conferences / Call for Papers

Call for Papers:

INTERIM MEETING RESEARCH NETWORK "SOCIOLOGY OF FAMILIES AND INTIMATE LIVES" (RN13), EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Topic:

Caring families in the Global Context

Research on caring practices within the family have increased in the last 20 years, together with the advance in public policies that target work and family balance, especially parental leave. International research has increased sociological understanding of work-family conflict, caring strategies, gender identities, economic and working situations amongst other topics. However, most research has been conducted in the Global North and among white, middle-class mixed-sex parents, and mainly amongst parents of young children. The perspective of children on parents care is also scarce.

We would like to receive proposals about families caring practices, taking into account a diverse range of families, located in a range of cultural and family policy backgrounds. We welcome papers that explore the caring discourses and practices of minoritized families.

The thematic orientation of this call certainly does not mean excluding papers on other research fields focused on families and intimate lives. Thus, we will enthusiastically welcome these alternative proposals.

We welcome empirical and theoretical papers. Abstracts of max. 800 words outlining (as appropriate) the research question, theoretical approach, data, methodology, and research findings should be submitted here. Deadline for submissions is **15th January 2023**. Notification of acceptance will be sent by 15th March 2023. Accepted papers exceeding the scheduled number of oral presentations will have the opportunity to be displayed as a poster.

Date: 31st of May, 1st and 2nd of June 2023

Venue: Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain [↗](#).

Local organizers: Pedro Romero-Balsas and Jesús Rogero-García

Deadline for abstract submission: January 15, 2023 (**Extended!**)

More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).



Call for Papers:

11th Conference of the ESFR

Topic:

Family Life - Troubling Family Relations and Practices

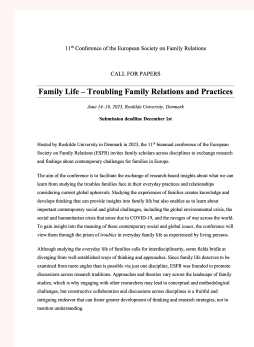
The 11th biannual conference of the European Society on Family Relations (ESFR) invites family scholars across disciplines to exchange research and findings about contemporary challenges for families in Europe.

Date: June 14-16, 2023

Venue: Roskilde University (Denmark)

Deadline for abstract submission: January 13, 2023 (**Extended!**)

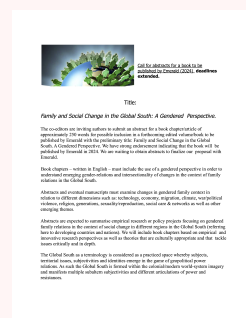
More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).



Call for Abstracts:

Book "Family and Social Change in the Global South: A Gendered Perspective", published by Emerald (2024)

The co-editors are inviting authors to submit an abstract for a book chapter/article of approximately 250 words for possible inclusion in a forthcoming edited volume/book to be published by Emerald with the preliminary title "Family and Social Change in the Global South. A Gendered Perspective." We have strong endorsement indicating that the book will be published by Emerald in 2024. We are waiting to obtain abstracts to finalize our proposal with Emerald.



Abstracts and eventual Book chapters – written in English – must examine – based on empirical research or policy projects – changes in a gendered family context in relation to different dimensions such as: technology, economy, migration, climate, war/political violence, religion, generations, sexuality/reproduction, social care & networks as well as other emerging themes. The focus is on different regions in the Global South. The Global South is formed within the colonial/modern world-system imagery and manifest multiple subaltern subjectivities and different articulations of power and resistances.

The final book chapter will be 5,000–7,000 words in length. The deadline for submission of proposals and ideas for articles is May 29, 2023. The deadline for the full submission of the paper is December 1, 2023. You will need to submit your abstract and then the full paper by email to the co-editors with the title of the paper, authors, and abstract as a PDF file.

To submit an abstract for the book chapter please email both co-editors: [Aylin Akpınar](#) and [Nawal Ammar](#) with a 250-word overview of your idea and tell us which category/categories your chapter fits best by May 29, 2023.

More information can be found [here](#).

Call for Books and Reviewers: Journal of Family Studies

The [Journal of Family Studies](#) is seeking both recently-published books and reviewers for a revamped book review section in the journal.

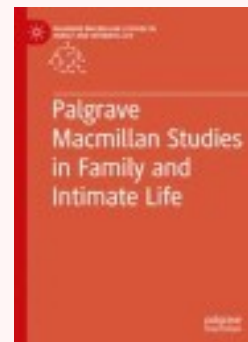
JFS is a peer-reviewed international journal that aims to develop the understanding of families, households, and relationships in society. We take an inclusive view of families across a range of structures and with consideration of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, nationality, class, age, and health or disability. The journal publishes in a range of disciplines, mainly focused on family studies, sociology, policy studies, and demography, with some inclusion of social psychology and family psychology. The book review section welcomes traditional reviews, as well as those aimed at pedagogical application. Reviews are 750-1000 words. International submissions and reviewers are most welcome.



If you are interested in submitting your book to be considered for review, and/or being a book reviewer with expertise in family studies or family sociology in these areas (including interdisciplinary work), please email [M. Janning](#), JFS Book Review Editor. In your email please note if you a) have a book to submit (include title, publisher, and year), and/or b) would like to be added to the list of potential reviewers, along with your subject and methodological areas of expertise.

**Call for Book Proposals:
Palgrave Macmillan Studies in Family and Intimate Life**

The "Palgrave Macmillan Studies in Family and Intimate Life" the series continuously invites authors to publish original major texts, monographs and edited collections focusing broadly on the sociological exploration of intimate relationships and family life. The series was originally edited by David H.J. Morgan and Graham Allan. Currently, all the publications of this series are abstracted and indexed in SCOPUS.



The series encourages robust theoretical and methodologically diverse approaches. Publications cover a wide range of topics, spanning micro, meso and macro analyses, to investigate the ways that people live, love and care in diverse contexts. The series includes works from leading internationally acknowledged figures in the field while featuring influential and prize-winning research, but also early career scholars.

For more information, please, see [here](#).

**Call for Papers:
International Journal of Social Welfare**

**Topic:
*Large Families: Prevalence, Poverty and Policy***

Submission deadline: Saturday, 1 July 2023

Recent studies show that large families are much more common than assumed in wealthy nations, but receive little attention. This special issue aims to revive research interest in this area of children and families lives and make the case for mainstreaming family size in sociological and policy research, as both a key socio-demographic variable of interest and as a potential risk factor for inequality and poverty among children.



Well into the 20th century, growing up with 3 or more siblings was common for children across high-income countries. Many countries also targeted social protection schemes accordingly, establishing child allowances and similar cash programmes to support families with many children. While the average family size has declined, a substantial amount of children still grow up in larger families (e.g. 20% in the US, 25% in Ireland). This renewed research focus on large families aims to inform welfare reforms across countries, in particular around providing adequate economic support measures and reducing stigma.

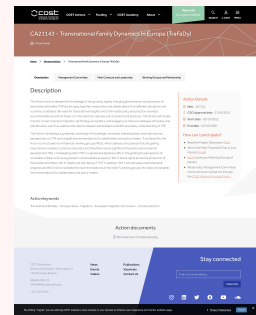
This special issue welcomes in particular articles that explore three central questions: What constitutes a large family today? How do large families fare in terms of poverty, health and other outcomes? How are large families recognised within social policy schemes?

The full CfP can be accessed here: [here](#).

Guest editors: [Megan Curran](#) (Columbia University, US), [Stephan Köppe](#) (UCD, Ireland)

Option to Participate: New COST Action on families

On October 3, 2022, a new COST Action CA21143 Transnational Family Dynamics in Europe - TraFaDy was launched. The main aim of the COST CA21143 is to deepen and broaden the scientific understanding of transnational families (TNF) through international and multidisciplinary knowledge exchange, to enable further multidisciplinary approaches and to stimulate innovation in the research domain, also, to formulate policy and practice-oriented recommendations for an impact on international, national, regional and local practices. Activities are organized in the following working groups:



- WG1: Kinkeeping within transnational families in a global and digital era;
- WG2: Integrating the perspective of vulnerable children and youth in welfare and policy;
- WG3: Social rights and social protection of transnational families;
- WG4: Health and well-being of transnational families;
- WG5: Talking across disciplines: Methodological issues in TNF research and data collection;
- WG6: Practises and policy impact group.

In general, COST provides perfect opportunities for networking (not for research), Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) Conference Grants, supports PhD students and Early Career Investigators (ECIs).

For more information, please, see [here](#).

Open Positions

Doctoral and postdoctoral positions: University of Antwerp

The Centre for Population, Family and Health (CPFH) is seeking to fill the following full-time (100%) vacancies:

- [Doctoral Grant in singleness studies \(qualitative study\)](#)
- [Doctoral Grant in singleness studies \(quantitative study\)](#)
- [Post-Doctoral researcher in singleness studies \(qualitative WP of the ERC-adv Singleton project\)](#)
- [Post-Doctoral researcher in singleness studies \(quantitative WP of the ERC-adv Singleton project\)](#)

ERC Singleton - Project abstract

The intellectual challenge that the Singleton project will tackle is identifying the relationship formation pathways of young adults in industrialized countries. We argue that there is a fundamental hidden relationship pathway in young adulthood where individuals might be experiencing difficulties in finding the right partner, maintaining a relationship or where they make a deliberate choice to remain single and for longer periods. This Singleton trajectory is characterized by a sequence of relatively short-lived committed relationships. The central question addressed in the Singleton project is therefore why, how, when and for whom this relationship trajectory manifests itself. The project will apply a Longitudinal Explanatory Mixed Methods model (two quantitative and two qualitative waves) focusing on three cohorts in young adulthood. This project integrates traditions from various fields (demography, sociology and developmental psychology), redefining determinants and launching a much needed new research tradition in Single Studies.

Interested?

Applications may only be submitted online until Friday, January 20th 2023;

Details on the job description and the application procedure can be found in the links above.

More information about the application form can be obtained from vacatures@uantwerpen.be. For questions about the profile and the description of duties, please contact prof. Dimitri Mortelmans [Dimitri Mortelmans](#)

New Publications on Family Issues

- Con Wright, G. (2022): Grandmothers' agency in care of grandchildren during the Covid-19 pandemic in Turkey. in: Paoletti, I. (ed.): *Older Women in Europe. A Human Rights-Based Approach*, London: Routledge, pp. 171-189. [Access here](#).
- Saxonberg, S., Formánková, L., & Haková, H. (2022): The role of experts in forming family policy under an adversarial subsystem in the Czech Republic. *International Journal of Social Welfare*. [Access here](#).
- Schmidt, E.-M., Décieux, F., Zartler, U., & Schnor, C. (2022): What makes a good mother? Two decades of research reflecting social norms of motherhood. *Journal of Family Theory & Review*. [Access here](#).
- Twamley, K., Faircloth C., & Iqbal, H. (2022): COVID Labour: Making a 'livable' life under lockdown. *The Sociological Review*. [Access here](#).

PIECE - Parental Involvement & its Effects on Children's Education

by HELEN NORMAN, LEEDS UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL, UNITED KINGDOM



Project team:

- Dr Helen Norman (Principal Investigator), Leeds University Business School, UK
- Dr Jeremy Davies (Co-I), the Fatherhood Institute, UK
- Professor Mark Elliot (Co-I), University of Manchester, UK
- Professor Colette Fagan (Co-I), University of Manchester, UK

Dates: 31st of May, 1st and 2nd of June 2023

Funding: Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Secondary Data Analysis Initiative (UK)

Aim | The PIECE project aims to explore the relationship between fathers' childcare involvement and their children's educational attainment through primary school. Using rich panel data from the UK's Millennium Cohort Survey (MCS) linked with the official educational records of children from the National Pupil Database in England, we explore whether, how and at what stage fathers' childcare involvement affects children's attainment in core (e.g. Maths, English, Science) and non-core (e.g. Art and Design ICT) academic subjects at three key stages: pre-school (when children are aged 9 months and 3 years old), school entry (age 5), in the middle (age 7) and at the end (age 11) of school.



Why is this important? | Fathers spend more time on childcare than ever before but the implications of this on children are unclear. Fathers' childcare involvement should have a positive effect on children's cognitive and educational outcomes yet there is little direct evidence to support this. Primary education is a pivotal stage of child development because it is the point at which children first make the transition from the home environment to school. Achievements at this early stage can shape educational pathways and therefore future employment prospects and opportunities.

Previous research with mothers or 'parents' (e.g. Hsin and Felfe 2014) suggests that early parental involvement is critical for child development but we do not know whether fathers impact their children's education differently to mothers, or whether paternal care is particularly important for boys, girls or at certain stages in the child's life regardless of gender.

There is an urgent need to explore the potential effect of paternal childcare involvement given the UK Government report that over a quarter of children in England are not primary school-ready' because they fall below the expected level for communication and literacy (Department for Education 2018). UNICEF (2018) rank the UK in the bottom third of 41 of the world's richest countries

for inequalities in primary school education. There are also persistent inequalities within education as boys underachieve at every level, girls underperform in science and maths and children from poorer families consistently do worse at school than their peers and children from poorer families consistently do worse at school than their peers (e.g. World Economic Forum 2019; Hutchinson 2019). We propose that paternal pre- or school-age care involvement could help to support progression in particular academic subjects, close gender gaps in attainment or even moderate the detrimental effects of poverty.

Our research questions are:

1. Does paternal involvement increase primary school attainment for children? And specifically:
 - How important is fathers' pre-school involvement?
 - Does the sex of the child moderate the effect of paternal involvement on educational attainment?
 - Does father involvement moderate the known negative effects of poverty?

- Does the child's behaviour mediate the relationship between paternal involvement and children's attainment?

2. Which kinds of paternal-childcare activities have the strongest effect on a child's primary school attainment, and at what stage of the child's life is this most important?

How is this being investigated? | We use multivariate analysis on a sample of two-parent (mother-father) households from the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS), which is a nationally representative panel survey that follows children born around the year 2000/01 in Great Britain. We use Confirmatory Factor Analysis - a statistical technique that reduces a set of variables into a smaller number of composite (latent) measures - on different sets of MCS variables, which capture how often a father and mother does certain activities with their child such as reading, playing toys or games, drawing and painting and going to the park. Figure 1 shows the latent involvement measures that we derive using this technique when children are aged 5 and 7. (At other ages of the child's life, the variables that make up involvement change to reflect the changing needs of the child).

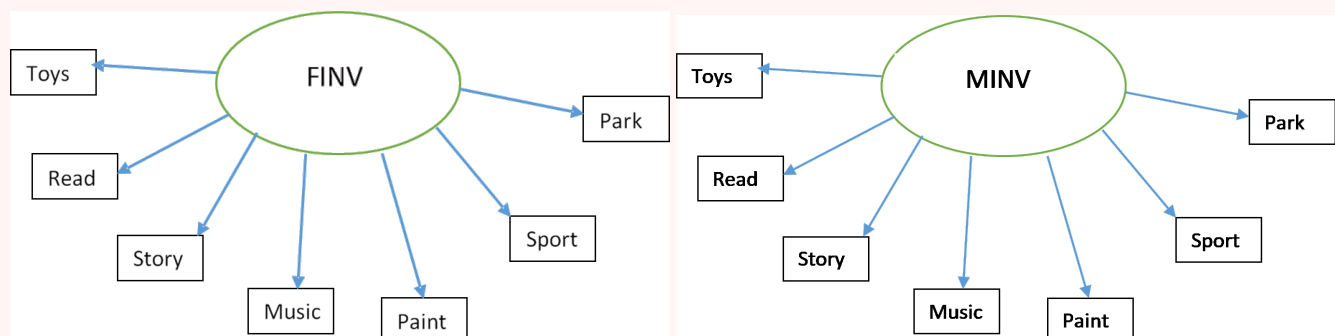


Figure 1: Variables that comprise the latent measure of father involvement (FINV) and mother involvement (MINV)

Key

- Toys – How often do you play with toys or games indoors with ^Jack?
- Read – How often do you read to ^Jack?
- Story – How often do you tell stories to ^Jack not from a book?
- Music – How often do you play/listen to music, sing etc or do other musical activities with ^Jack?
- Paint – How often do you draw, paint or make things with ^Jack?
- Sport – How often do you play sports or physically active games outdoors or indoors with ^Jack?
- Park – How often do you take ^Jack to the park or to an outdoor playground

The latent measures of father and mother involvement are then used in structural equation models to explore their association with childrens attainment at the different stages of primary school.

Alongside the statistical data analysis, we have run focus groups with fathers and educator organisations who specialise in supporting parental school engagement to discuss some of the barriers to paternal involvement in order to find ways in which schools can better support paternal involvement. Our most recent blog in collaboration with Parentkind, one of the UKs largest parent-teacher associations who was one of the organisations that participated in our focus group, summarises some of our [collective work](#)

The contribution | PIECE will contribute to scholarly and policy debates by being the first UK-based study identifying the ways in which fathers may narrow gaps in childrens academic attainment. The findings will benefit government bodies and policymakers by informing policy debates that focus on addressing inequalities in education and new knowledge will be generated for teachers and practitioners to develop and implement more father-inclusive ways of supporting childrens learning, with evidence-based tips and strategies to help families to maximise paternal involvement and impact. The project builds on a 2016-17 ESRC funded project that explored the influences on fathers childcare involvement between ages 9 months and 11 years old (Norman et al. 2016-18).

You can find out more about the PIECE project [here](#) or on [Twitter](#).



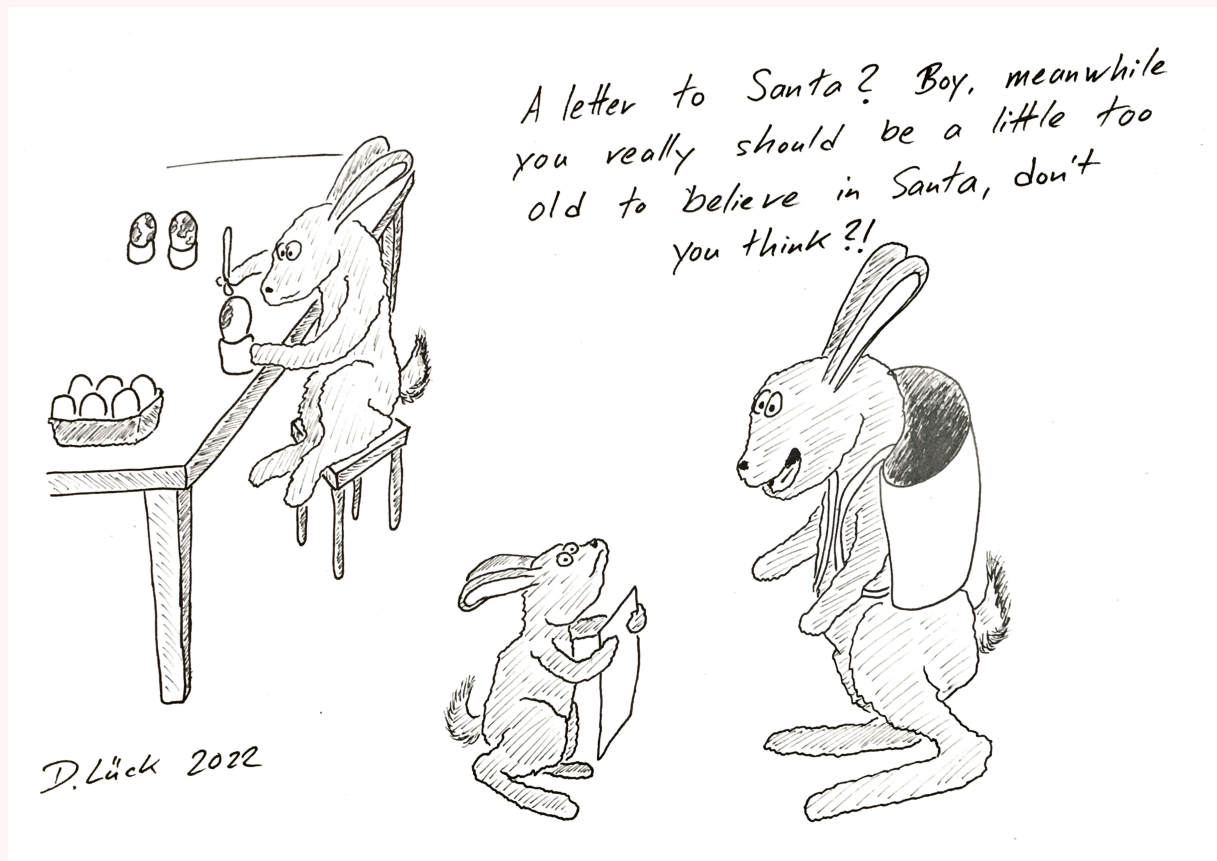
References:

- Department for Education (2018). Education Secretary sets vision for boosting social mobility. [Access here.](#)
- Hutchinson, J. (2019). Education in England: Annual Report 2019, Education Policy Committee. [Access here.](#)
- Hsin, A., and Felfe, C. (2014). When does time matter? Maternal employment, childrens time with parents, and child development. *Demography* Vol 51: 18671894.
- Norman, H. et al. (2022). What a difference a dad makes: engaging with fathers as well as mothers. [Access here.](#)
- Norman, H., Fagan, C., Elliot, M. (2016-17). Which fathers are involved in looking after their children? Identifying the conditions associated with paternal involvement (ES/N011759/1). [Access here.](#)
- UNICEF (2018). An unfair start: Inequality in children's education in rich countries, Innocenti Report Card 15. [Access here.](#)
- World Economic Forum (2019). Global Gender Gap Report 2020. [Access here.](#)

Contact information:

- [Helen Norman: h.norman@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:h.norman@leeds.ac.uk)

Cartoon



by Detlev Lück

The floor is yours ...

- Do you have contents for the next RN13 Newsletter (Spring 2023)?
- Do you have new English publications on family issues?
- Do you know about new English publications which you recommend reading?
- Do you know about upcoming conferences or other events?
- Do you have an open position or a job to offer - or are you looking for a position?
- Do you have a research project which you would like to present in a short article?

Please contact: Inga.Lass@bib.bund.de and Koenig@soziologie.uzh.ch.
The next deadline will be March 15th 2023.