

# RN13 Newsletter

## *Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives*

Research Network 13 of the European Sociological Association (ESA)

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### 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 “Become a Member” page [here](#); then go through the registration process by checking “RN13” on the 2nd page just clicking “next” otherwise.

If you have forgotten your ESA login data or if you need any other information about your ESA member status please ask to the ESA secretary Andreia Batista Dias: [esa@europeansociology.org](mailto:esa@europeansociology.org)

— Jacques-Antoine Gauthier & Katarzyna Suwada

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### Sounds of the network ...

*What has happened in RN13 recently? What is happening in the close future?  
In this section we want to keep you up-to-date.*

### Upcoming Conferences / Call for Papers

**"Multi-locality and social inequalities"** . Third meeting of the European Network for Multi-locality Studies. 27-28 May 2019, University of Louvain (UCLouvain), Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

Please submit a paper proposal of 500 words (including references) + author's name, affiliation and contact details to: [sandrine.leveque@uclouvain.be](mailto:sandrine.leveque@uclouvain.be).

- **Deadline for submission: January 15th 2019.**
- **Note: There is no conference fee**

For this conference, we invite papers addressing the theme of multi-locality defined as living in more than one

usual dwelling, and social inequalities, with a particular focus on a) the intersections between social inequalities and multi-locality; b) the impact of multi-locality on social mobility; c) social inequalities in children's experiences of multi-locality; and d) methodological and ethical challenges of studying multi-locality through the lens of social inequalities.

*How do various types of social inequalities intersect with multi-locality?*

As a social phenomenon, multi-locality is deeply intertwined with age, gender, class (expressed in terms of

symbolic, economic, cultural and social capital), and ethnic inequalities. People's lived experiences of multi-locality vary, depending on their gender, age, stage in the life-cycle, occupational status, ethnic and/or cultural background. These factors influence people's access to multi-local living and working arrangements, the characteristics of such arrangements, and the level of agency they can exercise to accommodate to, appropriate, or resist, multi-locality. The policy design surrounding multi-locality, from urban to social policies, also plays a role in supporting multi-local living and working arrangements or, on the opposite, in making them more difficult to put in practice. We are thus interested here in papers that address these questions, based on empirical data.

*How are social mobility and multi-locality related?*

Occupationally induced multi-locality has increased in many countries. There are several reasons for this. In addition to structural changes in the labor market, there are also profound social changes within partnerships and families. Against this background, the question arises as to the connection between multi-local living arrangements and social mobility. Is work-related multi-locality (still) a vehicle for social upward mobility, or is the avoidance of unpleasant spatial mobility/multi-locality rather a proof of high social positions? Who must be spatially mobile/multi-local under what conditions - and who can, in this sense, use spatial mobility/multi-locality as an opportunity? Papers drawing on international comparisons would be highly welcome.

*How are social inequalities played out in children and young people's experience of multi-locality?*

Here, we are particularly interested in the practices children and youth develop in multi-local contexts (including situations where they directly or indirectly experience multi-local living), tensions between children's agency and power relations with adults, the micro-practices of resistance children and youth might engage in to influence their living conditions and family relationships, and how children and youth promote social bonds and identity in multi-local family arrangements. We would welcome in particular papers that analyze these issues through the lens of age, gender, class and/or ethnicity.

*How can researchers deal with the methodological and*

*ethical challenges of studying multi-locality and social inequalities?*

What particular ethical and methodological challenges do researchers face when trying to involve participants placed in a vulnerable situation or that may be difficult to recruit, such as low income/low educated participants, children and youth, irregular and economic migrants, or families experiencing a high degree of tensions and conflicts? What are the strengths and limits of qualitative and/or quantitative methods that are multi-sited and/or involve several family members? How do researchers deal with ethical considerations regarding the use of (audio)visual material produced by vulnerable participants, including mental maps, photos, videos and drawings? How far should researchers go in anonymizing the results of their research with vulnerable participants?

- Local organizing committee: Laura Merla (UCLouvain), Sarah Murru (UCLouvain) & Pierre Lannoy (ULB)
- Scientific committee: Marco Alberio (UQAR), Matteo Colleoni (UNIMIB), Cédric Duchêne-Lacroix (University of Basel), Lenka Formánková (Czech Academy of Science), Pierre Lannoy (ULB), Laura Merla (UCLouvain), Tino Schlinzig (Technical University Dresden), and Heiko Rüger (Federal Institute for Population Research)

**Call for papers: Graying siblinghood. A sociological study of siblinghood in late adulthood**

As part of the research project Graying siblinghood. A sociological study of siblinghood in late adulthood (supported by Czech Science Foundation [U+F02D] GAČR), a monograph focused on siblings in late adulthood/in old age is being prepared. In this connection, we would like to invite potential co-authors, i.e. authors of monograph chapters, to cooperation. We intend to submit a proposal for the book to reputable publishers such as Routledge, Sage, Palgrave-MacMillan, in the 1st half of 2019. Colleagues interested in cooperation are welcome to discuss the structure or content of the monograph. We will be pleased if you could inform us about your interest in cooperation by 31 January 2019. Please send a message to the address [dana.sykorova@upol.cz](mailto:dana.sykorova@upol.cz)

We look forward to hearing from you.

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## New Publications on Family Issues

- Cano, T., Perales, F. Baxter, J. (2018). A Matter of Time: Father Involvement and Child Cognitive Outcomes. *Journal of Marriage and Family*. [Access here](#).
- Lück, D. & Castrén, A.-M. (eds., 2018). Family Understandings in Contemporary Europe. *Special Issue of European Societies* 20 (5).
- Lück, D., Česnuitytė, V. (2018). Studying Families and People's Intimate Lives in a European Perspective. *The European Sociologist*, Issue 42: "1968 - 50 Years On". [Access here](#)
- Lück, D., Ruckdeschel, K. (2018). Clear in its core, blurred in the outer contours: culturally normative conceptions of the family in Germany, *European Societies*, 20:5, 715-742. [Access here](#).
- Luotonen, A., Castrén, A.-M. (2018). Understandings of family among wives and husbands: reconciling emotional closeness and cultural expectations, *European Societies*, 20:5, 743-763. [Access here](#).
- Meil, G. (2018). Guest editor of the special issue Leave policy and use in Mediterranean and South American countries, *Revista del Ministerio de Empleo y Seguridad Social*, 136 (in English)
- Meil, G. (2018). Spanish fathers benefiting from maternity leave: experience and policy demands. *Revista del Ministerio de Empleo y Seguridad Social*, 136, 17-38
- Sappleton, N. (Ed). *Voluntary and Involuntary Childlessness: The Joys of Otherhood?* London: Emerald. [Access here](#)

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## Job offer

**Postdoc (m/f) for three years, starting 01.04.2019 at the chair for Social Structure & Sociology of Ageing Societies (Prof. Dr. Martina Brandt), Institute for Sociology, Faculty of Education, Psychology and Sociology at TU Dortmund University.**

[Detailed information available here](#)

**The application deadline is the December 27, 2018**

Applications should preferably be send in one pdf via email to [martina.brandt@tu-dortmund.de](mailto:martina.brandt@tu-dortmund.de)

The position is part of the international research project "IN -CARE How are varying care systems associated with CARE inequalities in care and wellbeing later life?" supported by the German Research Foundation (DFG) within the Open Research Area (ORA) framework. The IN -CARE-project has an international scope and is joint work with partners in the Netherlands, Great Britain and Japan.

[More details on the project here](#)

[More information on the position can be found here](#)

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## Communication

**Please note that this Newsletter is also available from the RN13 website under the tab 'Reports'**

[Access to ESA-RN 13 website here](#)

# A Glance into Current European Family Research

by ALEXANDRA MACHT, OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY, UK



## Fatherhood and Love

Notes on a research with Scottish and Romanian fathers to be published with Palgrave Macmillan in 2019

I describe in the following my doctoral research project titled 'Between stoicism and intimacy: The social construction of paternal love' completed in 2017 at the University of Edinburgh and funded with a grant from the UK Economic and Social Research Council. The thesis is currently transformed into a book called '*Fatherhood and Love: the social construction of masculine emotionality*' to appear with Palgrave Macmillan in 2019. The research comprises 47 qualitative interviews and 6 observations collected between December 2014 and July 2015. The main aim of the project was to contest John Bowlby's (1969) influential theory of attachment, and to consider from a sociological perspective how men as fathers understand love (hooks, 2004), in two different European cultures: the Romanian and the Scottish one. To explore fathers' intimate lives and their understanding of love, I have applied Ian Burkit's (2014) theoretical framework which considers emotions as social relationships. From this perspective the research uniquely situates men as fathers within a nexus of experiences of love, framed by their relationships to their children, to their romantic partners and to their own parents. The book then traces the cultural differences and similarities in how love is constructed in these relationships. It reveals that fathers shift between emotional stoicism and love in a process that I have named *emotional bordering*, as they struggle to reconcile their masculinities with expectations of 'nurturing fathering' (Hanlon, 2012).

The book attempts to fill the gap in knowledge, as currently there are no studies specifically focused on the love between fathers and children, and especially none that focus on Scottish and Romanian father's experiences. Striking away from more negative portrayals of fatherhood, this book focuses on the everyday experiences of fathers and how they understand love's place and meaning in their lives. At the same time the analysis remains critically alert to the reproduction of hegemonic masculinity through the involved father's role, which is discussed in the book from the viewpoint of father's responsibility, power and control. I have aimed to provide a

fuller and more complex account of fathers' experiences in trying to provide an answer to the over-arching question: *Why is paternal love sociologically significant?*

In addition, I followed in line with advice from the literature on involved fatherhood and love studies, which strongly argued for moving past homogenous samples in the analysis of emotionality, since attention needs to be given to cultural contexts, customs, habits, traditions and social norms. So, I designed the research to map out potential differences between what is considered the Western and Eastern part of Europe, in respect to the ways in which men express their emotions in their intimate lives. I further wanted to bring a sociological contribution to what historians so far have written about Scottish masculinity being affected by 'grit' and Romanian masculinity influenced by 'detachment'. Lastly, the data presented in the book has been collected with the means of 47 qualitative interviews, exploring fathers' emotional vocabularies and self-reported practices of love, to understand what constitutes their emotionality and how they view their identity as men after becoming fathers. Results overall portray that involved fathers understand love primarily as an activity in which both love and power are intermingled. Moreover, in the process of transforming the provider's identity towards increased intimacy, men undergo an emotionally conflicting process, wherein they negotiate how loving they can allow themselves to be according to the relationships they have with their close family members.

The book's core relies on the introduction of a new sociological concept, that of *emotional bordering*, which explains the tensions inherent in fathers' identities, to illuminate why gender change is slow and incremental (Segal, 2001). It hypothesizes that this is because fathers' identities are relationally and collectively constructed, rather than individually built and autonomously experienced, as it was previously thought (Gilmore, 1991). The manuscript is particularly aimed at scholars working in the field of emotions and gender studies, cultural studies

and the sociology of intimate lives.

### References

- Bowlby, J. (1969). *Attachment and loss* - Vol. 1: Attachment, New York: Basic Books.
- Burkitt, I. (2014). *Emotions and social relations*, London: Sage.
- Gilmore, D.D. (1990). *Manhood in the Making: Cultural Concepts of Masculinity*, New Haven: Yale University.
- Hanlon, N. (2012). *Masculinities, care and equality: Identity and nurture in men's lives*, Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan.
- hooks, b. (2004). *The Will to Change: Men, Masculinity, and Love*, Washington: Washington Square Press.
- Segal, L. (2007). *Slow motion: changing masculinities, changing men*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.



### Author's Bio:

Alexandra Macht is a lecturer in Sociology at Oxford Brookes University, UK. Her work bridges the fields of the sociology of emotions, critical studies of men and masculinities and family relationships. She has obtained a PhD in Sociology from the University of Edinburgh, in Scotland, in 2017, and has specialized in qualitative research and reflexivity. She is a co-editor of the annual review of *The International Network of Leave Policies and Research*, alongside Peter Moss, Sonja Blum and Alison Koslowski. Her work is published with *Sage Research Methods Cases*, *Discover Society*, *FQS – Forum: Qualitative Social Research* and is forthcoming with *Families, Relationships and Societies*, *Vitae Scholasticae: The Journal of Educational Biography* and *Emerald Publishing*.

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## Cartoon



by Detlev Lück

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### The floor is yours ...

- Do you have contents for the next RN13 Newsletter (September 30th 2018)?
- 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 projects which you would like to present in a short article?

Please contact: [jacques-antoine.gauthier@unil.ch](mailto:jacques-antoine.gauthier@unil.ch) and [k.suwada@umk.pl](mailto:k.suwada@umk.pl).

The next deadline will be March 15th 2019.