

# Research Network 13: Sociology of Families and Intimate lives

## Biennial report (2011-2013)

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### Activities of the research network

**September 2012** the research network organizes an Interim Meeting in Milano: “Family in the making. Theorizing family in the contemporary European context”. Convenor: Isabella Crespi and Giovanna Rossi (University of Macerata and Milan). Funding institutions: Catholic University of Milan and ESA.

We received more than 80 papers and this can be considered a success for an Interim meeting. We were able to host about 40 presentations, with no parallel sessions. The topic of the meeting, which was “*Families, care and work facing the challenges of a globalized world: policies, practices and services*”, turned out to be very stimulating and thought-provoking. Also, a number of papers presented at the Interim meeting were published in different peer-reviewed journals or books. Twenty-two papers, which is 50% of the total presented, were selected for publications after the meeting. They are out now or still in press in the following book/journals:

1. Crespi and G. Rossi (eds.) 2013, *Balancing work and family care: European experiences*, Sociologia e politiche sociali, Special issue 2012, n.4, Franco Angeli, Milano
2. Crespi and G. Rossi (eds.) 2013 (November), *Families, welfare state and social changes in the European context*, Special issue, International Sociological Review, n. 3, 2013
3. Crespi and T. Miller (eds.) 2013 (October), *Family, care and work in Europe: an issue of gender?* Eum, Macerata
4. E. Carrà (Ed.), 2013, *Families, care and work-life balance services: case studies of best practices*, Quaderno n. 28, Vita e Pensiero, Milano.
5. P. Ezzeddine (ed.), Urban People - issue no. 2/2013, Gender in Migration (in press)

**2013 ESA Congress in Torino** with sessions organized by the RN Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives. Convenor: Giovanna Rossi and the Board committee, 30 sessions with 140 presentations.

With regard to the **ESA conference in Torino**, we received almost 200 abstracts and this can also be considered a good sign of appreciation and interest towards our research network.

The topic of the Esa conference "*Critique, crisis and change*" is particularly significant to our network and for the complex of the family studies as addresses the "hot issue" of managing everyday family life at the societal level of the policies, and looking at diverse cultural patterns, as well as at different welfare regimes.

During this conference, the presenters will seek to shed light on the latest trends concerning the family in this time of crisis that challenges family relationships and everyday life.

The number of presentations at the ESA conferences has increased in time as we had 107 presentations in Geneva 2011 and 142 here in Turin (2013).

Over time, also the number of members has increased: we were 67 in October 2011 while in July 2013 the RN registered 84 members.

### **Decision of the business meeting of the ESA conference of Torino.**

Isabella Crespi was elected as a chair.

Esther Dermott from UK joined the board of the research network, providing a direct link with two countries in which researchers on families and intimate lives are very active.

It was decided during the board meeting to promote a periodical newsletter from the new biennial term.

The next Interim meeting will be held in Vilnius (Lithuania) and is organized by Vida Cesnūyte and Vida Kanopienė.

Milan, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013