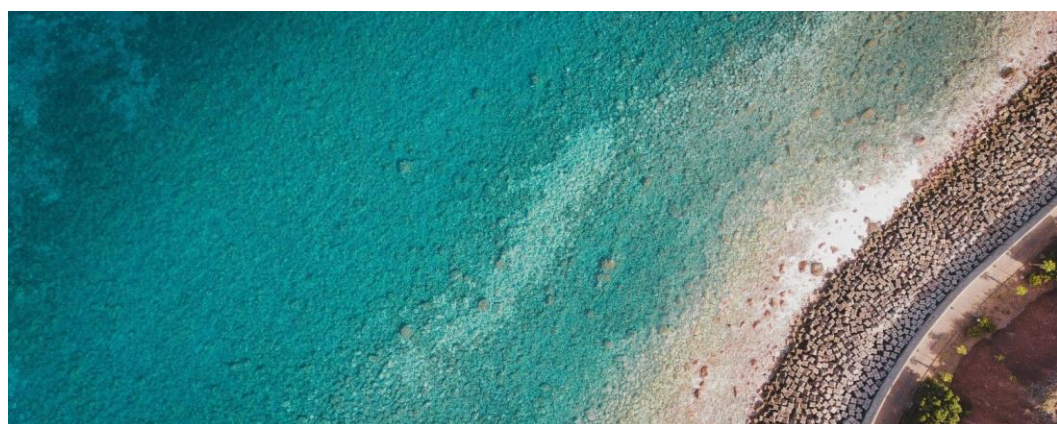




XII CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY ON FAMILY RELATIONS

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

25 - 27 June 2025
University of Madeira

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WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE, 2025
12:00 - 13:30

S1 - Intensive parenting across cultures (Room 14)

Chair and Discussant: Katarzyna Lubiewska, *University of Warsaw, Poland*

Exploring the Moderating Role of Country on Relations Between Maternal Guilt and Intensive Parenting in Three Countries

Marta Żegleń, *University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland*

Katarzyna Lubiewska, *University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland*

As parenting ideals shift towards intensive parenting, mothers may experience guilt if they feel they are not putting enough time, energy, and effort into their caregiving. However, a country's welfare system might support or hinder a mother's role as a "good enough" parent, depending on whether it emphasizes traditional family roles (e.g. conservative systems) or promotes equality (e.g. social-democratic systems). This study aims to explore whether a country's welfare regime distinguishes the relations between maternal guilt and intensive parenting behaviors. It is hypothesized that maternal guilt will be positively associated with intensive parenting, though this association may be stronger in countries with conservative welfare regimes (e.g., Türkiye and Poland) compared to social-democratic regimes (e.g., Norway). The study will use three samples from countries with differing welfare systems: Poland, Türkiye, and Norway. Mothers of children aged 6 to 10 (total $n \approx 600$) completed scales measuring Intensive Parenting Behaviors (Lubiewska et al., in prep), Guilt about Parenting (Haslam et al., 2020), and demographic information. Results are expected to reveal the moderating effect of country (as distinguished by welfare regimes) on the relationship between maternal guilt and intensive parenting. This study highlights the need for research that considers maternal characteristics, sociocultural factors, and the impact of welfare regimes on intensive parenting behaviors and guilt.

Keywords: intensive parenting, maternal guilt, country welfare regimes, parenting behaviors



S2 - Navigating through post-separation conflict and violence: a systemic and trauma-informed perspective (Room 13)

Chair and Discussant: Christian Amylie Paquin-Boudreau, *Université de Sherbrooke, Canada*

This symposium brings together multidisciplinary and international researchers and draws on diverse quantitative and qualitative data to examine the complexities of post-separation parenting disputes from a systemic and trauma-informed perspective. Through insights from Canada, France, and Switzerland, we explore the experience of children and parents going through conflict and violence after the separation, as well as the experience of legal and psychosocial professionals working with them. It is well known that high-conflict families pose great challenges to professionals, frequently opposing or resisting intervention. As a result, professionals may feel powerless and develop poor practices that will negatively influence the intervention. However, recent studies suggest that parents who experience high levels of conflict and violence after separation may have a life history filled with adverse or traumatic events. This symposium will allow for a broad systemic understanding of post-separation parenting disputes, discussing 1) the need to consider parents' life trajectories in order to better understand their reactions to the separation process and the long-term impact on children; and 2) how psychosocial and legal professionals can amplify or diminish the distress of parents experiencing post-separation conflict through their intervention. The difficulty for professionals of responding to everyone's emotions and needs, including their own, will be discussed. Participants will gain in-depth knowledge of the experience of families going through conflict and post-separation violence, enabling them to handle the situation with greater empathy. In addition, participants will learn practical strategies for integrating a trauma-informed perspective into their professional practice with these families.

Keywords: separation; divorce; conflict; violence; coparenting; trauma

High-Conflict Divorce: empirical contribution to the definition and findings on long-term impact for the children

Julien Lahaye Cauchy, *Nantes Université, France* Fabien Bacro Nantes, *Université, France* Elisabeth Godbout, *Université Laval, Canada*

The particular context of a separation often generates conflict between partners, especially when one or more children are involved. Moreover, in 10 to 33% of separations, the former partners remain involved in severe, sometimes violent, conflict for several years (Fischer et al., 2005; Lamb & Sternberg, 1997; Smyth & Moloney, 2019). Introduced by professionals in the legal and social sectors, the concept of High Conflict Divorce (HCD) emerged around the 1990s to describe situations where parents are engaged in long-term conflict fuelled by their mutual hostility, their mistrust of the other partner's parenting abilities, and their concerns for their child's well-being (Cashmore & Parkinson, 2011; Johnston, 1994). Since the emergence of HCD, there has been much debate among specialists as to its definition (Johnston, 2017). A consensus exists, however, on the central place of children in these situations (Haddad, 2015; Joyce, 2016), yet empirical research evaluating the impact of HCD on children remains scarce. As part of a retrospective quantitative study, we questioned 368 young adults who had experienced their parents' separation during childhood about pre- and post-separation inter-parental conflict and violence, legal disputes, abuse, post-separation parenting and loyalty conflicts. In order to measure the relationship between these dimensions and adjustment in adulthood, they were assessed on their health, attachment relationships, well-being, and emotion regulation issues. After a presentation of the results of the factor analysis we performed, we will develop the links between HCD and the child's long-term development.



Parents' experiences of post-separation conflict and violence in Quebec and French-speaking Switzerland

Amylie Paquin-Boudreau, *Université de Sherbrooke, Canada* Nicolas Favez, *Université de Genève, Switzerland* Amandine Baude, *Université de Bordeaux, France*

Parents' experience of post-separation conflict has been explored through semi-structured individual interviews via videoconference. 37 interviews with separated parents (21 fathers; 17 mothers) from Quebec and French-speaking Switzerland were realized. Through these interviews, the aim of the research project was to explore the way in which marital, parental, and coparental relationships are experienced before, during, and after separation by mothers and fathers, and to put in perspective the data according to the parents' sociocultural background. Although Switzerland and Quebec are two Western modern and wealthy societies sharing many similarities, important differences in terms of family policies and the socialization of parental roles remain and can influence both the separation process and the coparenting relationship after separation. Grounded theory was used to analyze the interviews. Main differences between parents from Quebec and French-speaking Switzerland concern the emotional intensity with which parents express themselves regarding their relationship trajectory and some different issues regarding legal procedures and financial management after separation. However, the distress felt by parents about post-separation conflicts seems to be just as great, whatever the culture and gender of the parents. Most importantly, analyses revealed that many parents have a personal history characterized by multiple experiences of emotional and relational adversity that influence how they cope with post-separation conflict. In other words, parents enter the separation process in an already highly vulnerable state, so that conflicts and legal procedures are often experienced as a reactivation of painful past experiences and defensive attitudes.

Practices of professionals involved in high-conflict cases in Quebec Youth protection services

Sophie Vallée, *Youth Protection Services in Montreal, Canada*
Jacques Moreau, *Université de Montréal, Canada*

Families experiencing conflictual separation are at the heart of clinical and scientific concerns. It has been widely documented that intervention with these families is complex, and that an interdisciplinary approach is essential. The results of a qualitative study carried out among 30 psychosocial and legal professionals working in the youth protection services in Quebec suggest that there are major issues at stake. The results show that the emotional experience of professionals is shaken by the reality and specific characteristics of families, and that their ability to take charge of them is subject to several limits. Professionals report feeling exhausted, stressed and powerless to intervene with these families. In this respect, parents in separation disputes are characterized as having mental health or personality issues, difficulties with introspection, a lack of parental sensitivity, higher socio-economic status and education, resulting in relationship difficulties and legal battles. However, the results show that the courts are at full capacity, that professionals, regardless of their profession, are not sufficiently trained, and that they lack the time and supervision to intervene effectively with these families. In order to take into account the needs and characteristics of these families, psychosocial and legal professionals have put forward a number of recommendations for improving psychosocial and legal intervention.



Symposia

Trauma-Informed Practices in Family Courts: Supporting Families in Conflict and Transition

Michael Saini, University of Toronto, Canada

This presentation explores the perspectives of family court professionals on trauma-informed practices, emphasizing their role in supporting families navigating conflict and transitions. Drawing from a survey of 139 professionals, the findings highlight the systemic challenges and opportunities in implementing trauma-informed principles—safety, trustworthiness, choice, collaboration, and empowerment—within family courts. In the context of families experiencing high-conflict separation and family violence, or transition challenges, trauma-informed approaches offer a pathway to reducing re-traumatization, fostering resilience, and improving outcomes. The presentation will connect these insights to broader themes of adaptation and fluidity in family structures, such as post-divorce parenting, intergenerational dynamics, and cultural adaptation. By examining how trauma intersects with geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic shifts, this session underscores the need for courts to address the evolving challenges faced by families across space and time. Attendees will gain practical strategies to incorporate trauma-informed care into family court practices, supporting families in conflict while considering the broader societal and cultural influences shaping family life today. This presentation aligns with the conference themes by offering an interdisciplinary perspective on how family courts can adapt to modern transitions, geographic mobility, and intergenerational change, contributing to more compassionate and effective support systems for families in flux.

WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE, 2025
16:30 - 18:00

S3 - Rethinking Masculinity and Fatherhood: Roles, Barriers, and Work-Life Dynamics (Room14)

Chair: *Carolina Garraio, Universidade do Porto, Portugal*

Discussant: *Marisa Matias, Universidade do Porto, Porto, Portugal*

As gender norms evolve, so do expectations around masculinity and fatherhood. However, men and fathers still face significant barriers to full engagement in childcare, household responsibilities, and flexible work arrangements. This symposium brings together four qualitative studies that explore men's experiences and perceptions in parenting and professional life, shedding light on cultural, institutional, and occupational factors shaping their roles. The first presentation examines how Portuguese and Brazilian fathers perceive their parenting roles, highlighting key facilitators and obstacles to their involvement. This qualitative study conducted four focus groups with fathers of preschool-aged children, using thematic analysis to identify major themes. The second study investigates Portuguese fathers' experiences with reproductive and child healthcare services. Based on two focus groups with fathers, this qualitative research explores feelings of exclusion and the need for more inclusive policies. The third study explores representations of fatherhood among Portuguese parents and their connection to paternal involvement. Using a mixed-methods approach, mothers and fathers of preschool children provided five words about fatherhood, which were analyzed through similitude and multiple correspondence analysis. Lastly, the symposium broadens the perspective by analyzing men who challenge the "ideal worker" norm. This exploratory study is based on 40 semi-structured interviews with working men from various sectors in France and Spain, identifying key traits of those who prioritize work-life balance despite societal and professional penalties. Together, these studies offer a comprehensive understanding of contemporary masculinity, emphasizing the need for policies and practices that better support men in their dual roles as caregivers and professionals.

Keywords: men's experiences, gender roles, parental involvement, work-life balance, caregiving masculinity



How do fathers see their role in childcare?

Dora d'Orsi, ISPA, Instituto Universitário, Portugal

Eduardo Sardinha, ISPA, Instituto Universitário,

*Portugal Eva Diniz, ISPA, Instituto Universitário,
Portugal*

As gender and parenting roles evolve, understanding how fathers perceive their role in parenthood is crucial. Despite growing academic and societal interest in fatherhood, there remains a significant lack of studies focusing on fathers from their perspectives. Furthermore, it is essential to explore the challenges and resources they encounter, adopting a culturally sensitive perspective. To address these objectives, we conducted four focus groups with 16 Portuguese and Brazilian fathers residing in Lisbon. All participants had at least one preschool-aged child and were employed, with most being married and holding higher education degrees. Using thematic analysis, four main themes were identified: (1) The father's role: fathers emphasized their roles as educators and role models, often drawing comparisons with the mother's role; (2) Barriers to father involvement: common barriers included lack of support, work-family conflict, and co-parenting conflicts; (3) Facilitators to father involvement: fathers identified support from family, daycare services, and the mother as key facilitators; and (4) The process of becoming a father: participants shared their journey through the transition to parenthood, reflecting on both the positive and challenging emotions associated with this phase. Our findings highlight the need to include fathers in family-focused programs and public policies, ensuring comprehensive support for men in parenthood.

“It Feels Like We’re an Outsider”: Portuguese Fathers’ Experiences of Using Healthcare Services

Carolina Garraio, Universidade do Porto, Portugal

Dora d'Orsi ISPA, Instituto Universitário, Lisbon, Portugal

Marc Grau-Grau, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya,

Spain Paula M. Matos, Universidade do Porto, Portugal

Marisa Matias, Universidade do Porto, Portugal

Becoming a father requires a significant adaptation and identity reorganization, impacting not only fathers' well-being and mental health but also that of their partners and children. To better support fathers in this transition, reproductive and child healthcare services must consider their experiences. To explore fathers' experiences of using healthcare services, namely reproductive and child health, we conducted two focus-group interviews with a total of 9 fathers who had a child of at least five years old. Their experiences ranged from feelings of exclusion to inclusion, leading to two main themes: (1) Fathers as secondary parents, which highlights fathers' less positive experiences, particularly regarding their participation in childbirth classes. It also covers their broader interactions with healthcare services and their sense of legitimacy, which may be influenced by both internal and external factors; (2) From secondary parents to co-parents: Giving men a space to express their needs, which reflects fathers' positive experiences of feeling supported in their role. It also emphasizes their need and willingness to have a space where they can openly share their concerns about fatherhood and discusses what they would seek and value in such a space. Lastly, we explore fathers' narratives, where vulnerability—through loss, regret, or paternal instinct—shapes the evolving concept of caring masculinities. This study highlights the need to recognize men's emotional needs in clinical practice and to promote more equitable, inclusive access to reproductive and child healthcare through social and family policies.



What is being a father in Portugal? Examining parents' representations and their association with father involvement

Eva Diniz, *ISPA, Instituto Universitário, Portugal*

Dora d'Orsi, *ISPA, Instituto Universitário, Portugal*

Susana Mourão, *Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa, Portugal*

The study of how parents represent the father's role is critical for a deeper understanding about fatherhood in contemporary families, as well as its contribution to family dynamics. This study aims to explore: 1) how Portuguese fathers and mothers represent what is "being a father"; 2) and how these representations modulate in what fathers are involved with their child, through a mixed-methods approach. Participants were mothers ($n=487$) and fathers ($n=376$) of children aged between 2 and 6 years old ($M=4.45$; $SD=1.86$; 54.2% boys). Parents were invited to present five words about the father. Also, fathers reported on a father involvement scale. Results were submitted to similitude analysis and multiple correspondence analysis. Findings of the similitude analysis revealed how mothers and fathers presented distinct representations about the father, with mothers offering positive and negative characteristics about the father, valuing their role as caregivers and playmates. Otherwise, fathers only provided positive characteristics about themselves, valuing their role as moral guides and educators. The multiple correspondence analysis uncovered how fathers' representations were related to greater involvement in childcare. Specifically, father's greater positive emotions on fathering were related to their higher involvement in play and teaching. Findings are critical by identifying how mothers and fathers have distinct representations about themselves and how that may influence their different involvement with their child.

Untangling the characteristics of men who dare to break the "ideal worker" norm

Marc Grau Grau, *Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, Spain*

Sabrina Tanquerel, *EM Normandie, France*

The "ideal worker" image remains a dominant norm in many organizations today, depicting the most desirable employee as fully committed, always available, and entirely devoted to their work. Deviating from this image carries risks, particularly for men, who are most expected to conform to the work- devotion standard. Men who do not conform to traditional masculinity may face stigmas such as accusations of femininity, flexibility stigma, and career penalties. Despite these challenges, some men still seek alternative paths to enhance their work-life balance. While existing research primarily examines the consequences of male non-conformity to the "ideal worker" norm on their careers, little is known about the characteristics of those who defy this norm. These "progressive" men challenge conventional masculinity and traditional workplace norms, playing a crucial role in advancing gender equality and justice both at work and at home. This article investigates the traits of men who openly defy gender expectations and break the "ideal worker" mold. Drawing on 40 semi-structured interviews with working men from diverse occupations, organizations, and sectors in France and Spain, this exploratory study identifies the key factors contributing to their decision to reveal their deviance.



THURSDAY 26 JUNE, 2025
11:30 - 13:00

S4 - Parental Separation: Safeguarding Child Participation and the Effects of Family Interventions (Room 13)

Chair and Discussant: I. E. van der Valk, *Utrecht University, Netherlands*

Parental divorce or separation is considered a stressful life event for all family members involved, as it requires the reorganization of family roles, relationships, and routines. The many decisions that need to be made can take place at home, guided by a mediator or family counsellor, or settled by a court in case of family law proceedings. Two important issues are identified in this context: Children's legal right to participate in all decisions affecting them and the difficulties parents can experience in reorganizing family life after separation. Therefore, the first half of this symposium focuses on current practices of child participation in divorce-related decisions based on an extensive systematic literature review (presentation #1), as well as an in-depth analysis of current participation practices in Dutch family law proceedings using both interview data of court officials and observations of judicial child meetings (presentation #2). The second part of the symposium evaluates two types of intervention efforts in the context of divorce: Based on quantitative analyses, parents' experiences with the help received at family counselling offices in Norway were evaluated, with a specific focus on differences across socioeconomic and demographic factors (presentation #3). Second, an innovative Single-Case Experimental Design was used to monitor the effectiveness of an intervention and its various components aimed to improve coparenting and facilitate parent-child contact in high-conflict divorces (presentation #4). Together, this interdisciplinary symposium combines a variety of methods to deepen our knowledge on the challenges that families may face during and after separation.

Child Participation in Divorce-Related Decisions: A Systematic Review

Z. Rejaän, *Utrecht University, Netherlands*

C. R. Mol, *Utrecht University, Netherlands*

R. van Dijk, *Utrecht University, Netherlands*

I. van der, Valk *Utrecht University, Netherlands*

Following parental divorce or separation, children's voices and legal right to participate are currently insufficiently guaranteed, partly due to a lack of scientific knowledge on how to best give effect to child participation in families, mediation, and courts. This systematic review aims to provide an overview of legal and social-scientific empirical studies on child participation in these three settings, in order to summarize findings on (1) the current practice of child participation in divorce-related decisions, and (2) the general benefits and risks of child participation for children's adjustment. To this end, we conducted a systematic search for published articles using quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods to examine children's participation in post-divorce decisions. This includes minor children reporting about their own experiences, (young) adults reporting retrospectively about their own experiences as a minor, as well as parents, mediators or judges reporting about their experiences with the participation of children. The preliminary results of this multi-disciplinary systematic review will be discussed in this symposium presentation.



Child Participation in Family Law proceedings: Interviews and Observations of Dutch Court Officials

C. R. Mol, *Utrecht University, Netherlands*

R. van Dijk, *Utrecht University, Netherlands*

Z. Rejaän, *Utrecht University, Netherlands*

I. van der Valk, *Utrecht University, Netherlands*

The current practice of child participation following divorce in Dutch courts is subject to academic and public debate. Is the right to participate sufficiently safeguarded and is the practice child- friendly? Therefore, this study zooms in on the Dutch court context where children are invited to speak to judges directly, in so-called judicial meetings (*kindgesprekken*), within the context of their parents' court proceedings. In these divorce proceedings, contact proceedings and those concerning the exercise of parental responsibilities (*echtscheiding-, gezag- en omgangszaken*) children are invited to express their views to the judge and court clerk. In this study, semi-structured interviews with $N = 12$ judges and $N = 7$ court clerks from three Dutch district courts covering five locations were conducted. Questions addressed the full process of judicial meetings, going into the different phases of child participation (before, during and after the meeting) and the perspective and attitudes of judges and court clerks towards child participation. To obtain additional and more objective perspectives on such judicial meetings, observations are currently undertaken in these courts. The preliminary results of the content analysis of the interviews and observations will be presented in this paper.

Parents' Experiences with the Family Counselling Service: Equitable Services for All Families?

S. Baardstu,

L. Larsen,

T. Holt

In Norway, the Family Counseling Service (FCS) provides cost free professional help and support to parents and families facing challenges in the parental relationship and/or in the family life. The FCS also provides mandatory mediation for parents going through union dissolution. The FCS's mandate is to provide equitable services for all families. However, there is a shortage of research on how families experience the help they receive from the FCS, and, particularly, whether some families benefit more from the services than other families. This knowledge is crucial for the FCS and policymakers to improve and tailor services to better meet the needs of diverse families. Using survey data from the FamC study ($N = 1161$ parents, 64% mothers), this study seeks to shed light on these issues by examining how parents' experiences with the FCS may differ across parental gender, socioeconomic factors, cohabitation status, and level of interparental conflict. Preliminary results indicated that parents with lower educational attainment, those outside the labor force, or those living apart reported significantly lower satisfaction with the help received at the FCS compared to parents with higher educational levels, those employed or connected to the labor force, or those living together. At the same time, those parents reporting the highest level of interparental conflict were more satisfied with the help they received at the FCS compared to parents with lower levels of conflict. These findings provide valuable insights into the FCS's ability to effectively help and accommodate the diverse needs of families with varied backgrounds.



Evaluating the Effectiveness of a Post-Divorce Co-Parenting Intervention: A Single-Case Experimental Design

N. A. Oprins,

Z. Rejaän, *Utrecht University, Netherlands*

R. van Dijk, *Utrecht University, Netherlands*

B. Janssen,

O. Goorden,

I.E. van der Valk, *Utrecht University, Netherlands*

Each year, approximately 86.000 Dutch children are affected by parental divorce. Of these cases, 15-20% involve high-conflict divorces characterized by persistent parental disputes, inconsistent caregiving, and, for some, loss of parent-child contact. Parenthood Continues is an intervention that aims to improve post-divorce co-parenting and facilitate positive and frequent parent-child contact in high-conflict divorce situations. While preliminary findings suggest that Parenthood Continues improves parental cooperation, communication, and child well-being, more research is needed to identify the mechanisms underlying these improvements. Therefore, this study examines the role of five key components of the Parenthood Continues intervention that are considered crucial for effective treatment: Network activation, Psychoeducation, Mediation, Child-focused conversations, and Guided contact. A Single-Case Experimental Design (SCED) with an ABC design will be used (A = baseline, B = intervention, and C = follow-up) to closely follow N = 14 Parenthood Continues trajectories in the Netherlands. Specifically, parents, professionals, and children are asked to report their experiences in bi-weekly self-report questionnaires. The preliminary results of this study will be presented during the symposium.



THURSDAY 26 JUNE, 2025
11:30 - 13:00

S5 - The Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath for families: family relations and socio-economic consequences across different family constellations (Room 14)

Chairs: Christine Entleitner-Phleps and Claudia Recksiedler - *German Youth Institute, Munich*

Discussant: Alexandra Langmeyer - *German Youth Institute, Munich*

Family dynamics play a critical role in shaping children's well-being, particularly in the context of interparental conflict, post-separation care arrangements, and socioeconomic challenges. Because the lives and daily routines of families changed during the Covid-19 pandemic identifying factors that can strengthen families has become even more salient. This symposium investigates key aspects of family functioning using Norwegian and German data that covers the time both before and during the Covid-19 pandemic, with an emphasis on separated families and their unique relational patterns. The first presentation explores the impact of economic hardship and job loss on parent-child relationships among Norwegian families over the course of the pandemic whereas the second presentation examines interparental conflict dynamics in separated and non-separated families, highlighting constructive and destructive patterns over time using pre- and post-pandemic longitudinal data from Norway. The third contribution addresses child adjustment in post-separation families, focusing on factors such as co-parenting quality, parent-child interactions, and physical care arrangements based on representative German panel data collected before and during the pandemic. The last study probes the family complexity hypothesis by comparing the level of coparenting problems in different family constellations, and examines whether coparenting problems can be explained by financial pressure, parental depression, and personality. Together, these studies provide a multidimensional perspective on the challenges and opportunities within family relationships before, during and after the Covid-19 pandemic, offering critical insights into how separated families can navigate relational and economic complexities while supporting child well-being.

Keywords: family relations, family constellations, Covid-19 pandemic, separation/divorce, economic hardship, child well-being.

Economic hardship during the Covid-19 pandemic and trajectories of parent-child relationships: A prospective longitudinal study among Norwegian families

Oftedal, A., *University of Oslo, Norway*

Children who grow up in families experiencing socioeconomic adversity are at increased risk for negative social and emotional outcomes. Negative outcomes may in part be derived from the effect of financial stress on parental emotion and behavior. During the Covid-19 pandemic many families experienced abrupt economic change and unemployment that may have caused financial stress and impacted the relationship between parents and their children. The aim of the current study was to examine trajectories of parent-child relationships, during and after the Covid-19 pandemic, and explore the impact of parental job loss and economic hardship. Parents ($N = 1,423$) self-reported parent-child interactions and parent-child closeness before, during and after the pandemic, and reported economic problems and employment problems up to three times during the pandemic. Linear mixed models were fitted to examine the relationship between work and economic problems and parent-child relationships over time. Results showed that mothers and fathers who experienced both work and economic problems reported a greater increase in negative parent-child interactions over time than parents who did not experience work and economic problems. Among fathers, but not among mothers, work and economic problems were also associated with reduced parent-child closeness over time. These findings support the importance of socioeconomic conditions in understanding and promoting family wellbeing, and further provide empirical support for parenting behavior as a potentially important mechanism linking economic hardship and child development.



Development of Interparental Conflict Patterns During and after the Covid-19 Pandemic in Separated and Non-Separated Families

Holt, T., *Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway*

Oftedal, A., *Norwegian Institute of Public Health, University of Oslo, Norway*

Larsen, L., *Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway*

Brekke, I., *Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway*

Baardstu, *Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway*

Interparental conflict is known to have detrimental effects on children's mental well-being. However, little is known about the nature of parental conflict during the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly in separated families. The aim of the current study was to investigate both destructive and constructive interparental conflict patterns during and after the pandemic, and to examine to what extent there were differences in conflict development between parents living apart and those living together. Data was drawn from the Dynamics of Family Conflict (FamC) study, which included families recruited through family counseling services in Norway. The majority of the participating families were either separated or in the process of separating. Parents were followed across six phases from 2019 to 2023: pre-lockdown, four pandemic phases (two of which included lockdowns), and a post-pandemic phase. A total of 2408 parents reported on their own and their partner's conflict behaviors using the Cooperation and Verbal Aggression subscales of the Conflict and Problem-Solving Scales (CPS; Kerig, 1996). Linear mixed effects models were used to explore changes in conflict patterns. Preliminary findings revealed that parents reported higher levels of cooperation and lower verbal aggression during the major lockdown phases, with this trend being particularly pronounced in separated families. These results were unexpected and may suggest that reduced external activities and fewer daily demands may have reduced sources of conflict, particularly for families not living together. Understanding how interparental conflict evolved in response to the pandemic provides important insights into how future crises might affect family dynamics.

After the Split: Essential Factors for Child Adjustment in Post-Separation Families during the Covid-19 Pandemic?

Entleitner-Phleps, C., *German Youth Institute, Germany*

Recksiedler, C., *German Youth Institute, Germany*

Schacht, D., *University of Applied Sciences Munich, Germany*

In many Western societies, parental divorce or separation is a reality for a growing share of children. Following parental separation, family members are faced with the challenge of reorganizing family life, ranging from financial issues to legal custody and the living arrangements of minors. Regarding the latter, many European countries have seen an increase in different post-separation care arrangements that involve (frequent) contact with both parents, even though the majority of children still reside in sole custody households headed by their mothers in Germany. How children cope with these upheavals in family life, in the long run, is a frequently asked question, and research suggests increased vulnerability for children who have experienced parental divorce or separation. Less is known about the role of post-separation care arrangements and family relationships in children's adjustment over time. This study aims to address this gap using data from two waves of the representative panel "Growing up in Germany," collected in 2019 and 2021. Our sample consists of 479 children aged 3 to 17 years, whose parents report on the number of children's overnight stays at each parental home, the frequency of parent-child contact, parental co-parenting problems, the distance between parents' homes, their parenting style, families' socioeconomic status, as well as children's emotional problems and hyperactivity. Regression models showed that separation-specific indicators, in particular a good co-parenting relationship and frequent contact with the non-resident parent, as well as a good parent-child relationship, are key factors in protecting children from emotional problems and hyperactivity.



Symposia

Coparenting in nuclear, single parent and stepfamilies: a focus on family complexity

Walper, S., *German Youth Institute, University Munich, Germany*

Krueger, S., *German Youth Institute, University Munich, Germany*

Separated families are often affected by increased coparenting problems between the former partners. Although these families vary considerably regarding their complexity, the effects of different degrees of post-separation family complexity on coparenting problems have been largely neglected. This study compares coparenting problems between biological parents as well as new partners in nuclear and separated families, contrasting single-parent, simple and complex stepfamilies, and examines the extent to which family structural differences in coparenting can be explained by financial pressure, parental depression and personality. The data come from wave 8 of the pairfam panel (personality data from wave 6) and comprise up to N = 2,056 families in the multiple regressions. The family complexity hypothesis, which predicts more coparenting problems with increasing complexity of the family structure, is confirmed for biological parents' coparenting in simple stepfamilies, but not in complex stepfamilies, and not for coparenting with the current partner. Depressiveness is associated with more and social agreeableness with fewer coparenting problems. The findings relativize the family complexity hypothesis and will be discussed in a family developmental framework.

THURSDAY 26 JUNE, 2025
11:30 - 13:00

S6 - Expanding LGBTQ+ Parenthood Research: Overlooked identities, new methods, and understudied populations (Senado Room)

Chairs: Jorge Gato, University of Porto, Portugal and Fiona Tasker, Birkbeck University of London, UK

Recent years have witnessed a marked proliferation in studies examining LGBTQ+ parenting, with researchers expanding the scope of research to encompass a diverse array of sexual and gender identities. This expansion in research methodology has included the utilization of representative samples, the exploration of populations outside the English-speaking world, and the employment of novel methods to navigate family dynamics. The present symposium aims to direct attention to identities that have been historically overlooked, novel methodological approaches, and populations that have received insufficient study. Specifically, the first talk examines the experiences of discrimination and well-being among LGBTQ+ parents, leveraging a representative sample of the Portuguese population. The second talk unveils the findings from an innovative genogram technique of family mapping among nonbinary young adults, shedding light on their family relationships. The third talk will address a gap in research by examining the uniqueness of prospective parenthood among plurisexual individuals and distinguishing them from monosexual lesbian women and gay men. The fourth talk will focus on social attitudes toward nonbinary prospective parents by identifying factors that might influence adoption support in these cases. The final talk draws on cross-cultural data to explore prospective parenthood processes among trans and gender diverse individuals and cisheterosexual individuals without children from four countries with different legislative backgrounds and social climates towards LGBTQ+ individuals.

Key words: LGBTQ+; nonbinary; discrimination; attitudes; cross-cultural



Symposia

Sexual Orientation, Parental Status, Discrimination, and Well-Being: Findings from a Representative Sample of the Portuguese Population

Inês Vázquez, University of Porto, Portugal

Jorge Gato, University of Porto, Portugal

Susana Coimbra, University of Porto, Portugal

This exploratory cross-sectional study aims to compare LGBTQ+ parents, LGBTQ+ individuals without children, cis heterosexual parents, and cis heterosexual individuals without children regarding (i) sociodemographic characteristics and (ii) experiences of discrimination, mental health, life satisfaction, and social safeness. We analyzed secondary data from a survey conducted between 30 September and 21 October 2022, using a representative sample of the Portuguese population ($N = 1067$). First, we divided the sample into four groups based on the intersection of parenthood and sexual orientation. A balanced sample of 32 participants per group was randomly selected ($n = 128$). Chi-squared and analyses of variance were performed to compare the four groups. LGBTQ+ parents were predominantly plurisexual, had better economic conditions, and were more politically right-wing and less centrist compared to LGBTQ+ individuals without children. In comparison to cis heterosexual parents, LGBTQ+ parents lived in better economic conditions. Furthermore, cis heterosexual people reported experiencing less discrimination and exhibited enhanced mental health and social safeness than did LGBTQ+ individuals. Notably, LGBTQ+ individuals without children were the most disadvantaged. These findings have practical relevance for informing inclusive public policies and targeted mental health interventions, particularly for LGBTQ+ individuals without children who face heightened vulnerability to discrimination and worse mental health outcomes.

Key words: LGBTQ+; parenthood; discrimination, mental health, social safeness.

Using Family Maps to Visualize the Family Trajectories of Nonbinary Young Adults

Fiona Tasker, Birkbeck University of London, UK

Laurence Chandlera, Birkbeck University of London, UK

Within psychology research is often focused on a young person's individuation from their family of origin, yet most young adults remain reciprocally connected to family of origin members, with new members becoming part of their family of formation over time. Thus, family relationships currently experienced by young adults without children therefore can be seen as a 'snapshot' of a family trajectory in motion over time. LGBTQIA+ young people and their families of origin find maintaining family relationships challenging, particularly when relationships cross gender-defined cultural expectations. Our UK study captured a 'snapshot' of family relationships by interviewing $n=5$ nonbinary young adults (aged 22-30 years) about their family of origin relationships, their current relationships, and their future vision for family development. Within semi-structured interviews, we employed an innovative genogram technique of family mapping (Tasker et al., 2020) that enabled participants to visually represent past, present, and future family relationships and enhance their verbal narrative. Using Elder's (1998) life course perspective to contextualize family relationships as 'linked lives' we interpret family relationship trajectories over time layered on to the potentially childfree family trajectories envisaged by most of our nonbinary young adult participants.



Exploring the Uniqueness of the Parenthood Aspirations and Perceptions of Plurisexual Individuals

Inês Santos, *University of Porto, Portugal*

Pawel Ciesielski, *Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland*

Susana Coimbra, *University of Porto, Portugal*

Kamil Janowicz, *SWPS University, Poznań, Poland*

Geva Shenkman, *Reichman University, Israel*

Fiona Tasker, *Birkbeck University of London, UK*

Jorge Gato, *University of Porto, Portugal, Portugal*

Sexually minoritized individuals face several barriers to parenthood, leading them to view this role with less optimism than heterosexual individuals. However, little is known about the specificities of prospective parenthood among plurisexual individuals (bisexual, pansexual, demisexual, and queer), as most studies group them with lesbian and gay individuals. This study examined the parenthood aspirations (desires, intentions, and expectations) and perceptions (anticipation of stigma and social support upon parenthood) of plurisexual individuals ($n = 303$) compared to their monosexual lesbian and gay peers ($n = 261$). Within the plurisexual group, we analyzed the role of own and partner's genders. Although the groups did not differ in their desire to have children, plurisexual individuals intended and expected more to have children and anticipated less stigma upon parenthood. Among women sexual orientation was not associated with parenthood aspirations and perceptions, whereas plurisexual men recorded greater expectation of fatherhood and lower anticipation of stigma upon parenthood than did monosexual gay men. Neither own gender nor partner's gender had a significant effect on the parenthood aspirations and parenting perceptions of plurisexual individuals. This study addressed a gap in understanding the uniqueness of prospective parenthood among plurisexual individuals and highlights the importance of distinguishing plurisexual experiences from those of monosexual lesbian women and gay men.

Key words: parenthood aspirations; parenting perceptions; LGBTQIA+ parenthood; plurisexuality; gender

Attitudes Toward Adoption by Nonbinary Adults

Silvia Di Battista, *Marconi University, Rome, Italy*

Geva Shenkman, *Reichman University, Israel*

Jorge Gato, *University of Porto, Portugal*

Marco Salvati, *University of Verona, Italy*

Valerio Pellegrini, *Sapienza University of Rome, Italy*

Daniele Paolini, *Università Telematica Pegaso, Italy*

Valeria De Cristofaro, *Sapienza University of Rome, Italy*

Fiona Tasker, *Birkbeck University of London, UK*

Previous research has shown that attitudes toward children's development may hinder transgender people's adoption aspirations. However, few studies have explored attitudes toward nonbinary prospective parents. This study aimed to examine people's attitudes toward nonbinary adults and identify factors that might influence adoption support in these cases. We hypothesized that participants with low support for LGBTQIA+ rights would perceive nonbinary adults as less suitable parents compared to binary adults, and adoption would be rated more favorably for children raised by binary adults. Italian cisgender participants ($N = 407$; aged 18-72, $M_{age} = 34.41$, $SD = 11.42$; 48.4% women; 96.3% heterosexual) read one of four fictional vignettes in which a couple (binary; two nonbinary people; a nonbinary person and a man; a nonbinary person and a woman) intended to adopt twins. Participants then completed measures assessing their beliefs about children development, adoption agreement, and support for LGBTQIA+ rights.



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ANOVA analysis revealed that adoption support was higher for binary couples, and couples with a woman and a nonbinary person, compared to the other family configurations. Moderation analysis confirmed that participants with low LGBTQIA+ rights support viewed children adopted by nonbinary couples as more likely to experience poor psychological adjustment and were less inclined to support adoption, compared to those adopted by binary couples. These findings support previous studies regarding negative attitudes toward reproductive and family rights for transgender and nonbinary individuals.

Key words: attitudes; cis-normativity; nonbinary parents; reproductive justice.

Prospective Parenthood Among Transgender and Gender Diverse Individuals: An International Study

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Pawel Ciesielski, *Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland*

Susana Coimbra, *University of Porto, Portugal*

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Jorge Gato, *University of Porto, Portugal, Portugal*

There is a lack of research in several key areas regarding prospective parenting among trans and gender diverse (TGD) individuals. These include their aspirations regarding parenthood, including desires, intentions, and expectations, as well as their perceptions of parenting. This study explored prospective parenthood among TGD and cisgender and heterosexual (cisheterosexual) individuals without children from Portugal, Israel, Poland, and the UK. Trans and gender diverse participants reported lower levels of desire, intention, and expectation towards having children compared to their cisheterosexual counterparts. Similarly, they anticipated less enrichment and more stigma upon parenthood, although they expected similar levels of social support. The TGD individuals from Portugal, Israel, and Poland exhibited similar parenthood aspirations and anticipated enrichment upon having children. However, Polish and Portuguese TGD individuals indicated a greater likelihood of experiencing stigma associated with parenthood than their Israeli counterparts. In Israel, TGD participants also anticipated greater social support than in Poland. Given that parenthood is a fundamental human right, it is recommended that health, education, social service professionals, and political decision-makers demonstrate greater sensitivity to the specificities of prospective parenthood among TGD individuals.

Keywords: parenthood aspirations; parenting perceptions; trans and gender diverse; cross-cultural



THURSDAY, 26th JUNE 2025
14:00 - 15:30

S7 - The next chapter of Families on the Move - what we have learned (Room 13)

Chairs: Michele Falcone, Saba Alempour Rajabi, Lucrezia Cavagnis, Marta Żegleń and Katharina Monz

Open and exchange discussion session in a collaborative setting Scientific exchange thrives on dialogue, yet bringing together researchers from diverse backgrounds and disciplines remains a challenge. This symposium proposes an interactive approach to fostering interdisciplinary discussion by focusing on shared keywords and embodied participation. The session will begin with brief, focused presentations (5 minutes per speaker) centered on unifying themes such as Movement & Family, Mobility vs. Stability, and Well-being as a Goal. To initiate engagement, participants will use Mentimeter to identify three key terms that define their research. These keywords will then be used to create diverse discussion groups. Through a dynamic, movement-based activity, participants will position themselves in the room according to their research perspectives, reflecting on their conceptual and methodological approaches (e.g., migrant generations, cross-cultural studies, qualitative vs. quantitative methods, top-down vs. bottom-up frameworks). By interacting with those around them—on their left, right, front, and back—they will identify common keywords and collaboratively refine working definitions. This embodied exchange serves as both a metaphor for borders and mobility and a method for integrating research perspectives. The session will conclude with a collective reflection on the key concepts used (and omitted) in our work, fostering a deeper understanding of interdisciplinary connections.

Key words: Movement & Family; Mobility vs. Stability; Well-being.

S8 - The Lighthouse Parenting Programme and the Power of Co-Design: Supporting Parents through Research and Practice (Room 14)

Chair: Célia Sales

Discussant: Yenny Pestana

This symposium explores innovative approaches to supporting high-risk caregivers through a mentalization-based parenting intervention and participatory research methods. The presentations comprising the symposium are based on work developed at the University of Porto, with the support of Dr. Gerry Byrne (University of Oxford). The first presentation introduces the Lighthouse Parenting Programme, a manualized, group-based Mentalization-Based Treatment (MBT) designed to enhance caregivers' ability to understand and respond to their child's needs. The second presentation will showcase key techniques from the Lighthouse Parenting Programme, illustrating how MBT principles and structured activities help caregivers develop a deeper understanding of their child's inner world. The third presentation features testimony from therapists who have implemented the Lighthouse Parenting Programme with mothers facing complex challenges, offering a real-world perspective on the impact of this approach in high-risk environments. The final presentation will share findings from a participatory study with caregivers facing adversity, focusing on how to best tailored data collection procedures. The symposium will provide practical insights into innovative intervention strategies and data collection practices for parenting support in the context of adversity. Attendees will gain valuable knowledge and tools to enhance their clinical practice, improve intervention design, and implement inclusive research methods in supporting vulnerable families.

Key words: Parenting Programme; High-risk Parents; Mentalization-based Treatments; Child maltreatment; Participatory Research; Co-design.



Symposia

Tackling Child Maltreatment through a Mentalization-based Treatment: Lighthouse Parenting Programme

Dora Pereira, *University of Madeira, Portugal*

Filipa Martins,

Mentalization is the capacity to make sense of subjective states and mental processes of others and the self, and is developed during early childhood in the context of secure attachment relationships. Adults who have experienced trauma or have developed disorganized attachment are less likely to mentalize adequately. Therefore, their capacity to accurately perceive their child's inner world and produce adequate responses is hindered, and can promote instances of child maltreatment or neglect. The Lighthouse Parenting Programme is a Mentalization-based Treatment (MBT) developed specifically to foster the mentalizing capacity of high-risk caregivers. This intervention is a manualised group parenting programme of 20 weekly sessions. The programme's main working tool consists of the use of metaphors related to parental mentalization and attachment. The central metaphor around which the programme develops depicts the caregiver as a lighthouse, allowing the child to navigate life with proper guidance and attention and helping her go back to the safe harbour when in need of support. In this presentation, we will present the programme's theory of change, curricular structure, and empirical support, exploring how these components help caregivers develop a deeper understanding of their own and their child's mental states.

Keywords: Parenting Programme; High-risk Parents; Mentalization-based Treatments; Child maltreatment.

How to Foster Mentalizing with Parents: Real-Play Activities from the Lighthouse Parenting Programme

Dora Pereira, *University of Madeira, Portugal*

The Lighthouse Parenting Programme was developed as a Mentalization-Based Treatment (MBT) to help high-risk caregivers strengthen their mentalizing abilities. It is a structured, manualized intervention consisting of 20 weekly group sessions. A key feature of the programme is its use of metaphors to illustrate mentalization and attachment processes. Central to this approach is the image of the caregiver as a lighthouse—offering guidance, stability, and a safe harbor for the child. By reinforcing caregivers' capacity to reflect on their own and their child's mental states, the programme promotes more attuned and responsive parenting. Beyond structured interventions like the Lighthouse Parenting Programme, MBT principles offer valuable tools for enhancing clinical practice across different formats. Whether in individual therapy, family interventions, or broader community-based services, fostering mentalization can help professionals build stronger therapeutic alliances, support emotional regulation, and create opportunities for more meaningful interactions. By integrating mentalization-based strategies into various clinical contexts, practitioners can improve engagement, reduce conflict, and enhance the overall effectiveness of their interventions. This presentation will provide an overview of how mentalization is fostered within the intervention. A selection of experiential group activities will be demonstrated through real-play exercises, allowing attendees to observe key therapeutic techniques in action. In addition to gaining insight into the programme's theoretical foundations and session structure, participants will see how facilitators model effective mentalization, encourage reflective discussions, and create opportunities for mentalizing moments within both individual and group settings.

Keywords: Parenting Programme; High-risk Parents; Mentalization-based Treatments; Child maltreatment.



Therapist's Testimony on the Lighthouse Parenting Programme with Mothers in Residential Care

Yenny Pestana,

Mothers in residential care often face a unique set of challenges, including limited financial resources, lack of stable housing, and social stigma, all of which can contribute to stress and isolation. These challenges can also hinder their ability to develop secure, support with their children, especially when they have experienced trauma or neglect themselves. The therapists involved in the delivery of the Lighthouse Parenting Programme will share their experiences and reflections on the challenges and successes encountered throughout the process. Emphasizing the impact of mentalization-based treatment (MBT) on both caregivers and their children, the therapists will explore their perceptions of change observed in the mothers, particularly in their ability to reflect on their own mental states and those of their children. The session will address the practicalities of embedding the programme within the service's routine, discussing how the structured short version (12-week) of the Lighthouse Parenting Programme was integrated and adapted to meet the specific needs of this group. By illustrating the therapeutic process through real-life examples, the presentation will highlight the significance of metaphors in helping participants develop a secure attachment framework. Therapists will also discuss the importance of fostering reflective parenting through MBT techniques, and how this approach can be applied across different care settings. This testimony will contribute to a broader understanding of the Lighthouse programme's adaptability and its transformative effects on mothers facing complex challenges.

Keywords: Parenting Programme; Mentalization-based Treatments; Residential Care

Defining Best Data Collection Procedures to Evaluate a Parenting Intervention: a Consultation Study

Filipa Martins,

Michelle Slead,

Nick Midgley

People in a context of deprivation and social exclusion are frequently affected by concomitant vulnerabilities, as low literacy skills and learning disabilities, for which traditional research procedures (e.g., self-report measures) are not suitable. In the field of parenting interventions, the inadequacy of research methods frequently results in low response rates to psychological assessments and low adherence to treatments in research projects. These limitations not only hinder research quality, but also reinforce essentialist and harmful attributions about caregivers experiencing social vulnerability, becoming labelled as "hard-to-reach". In this presentation, we will share the results of a participatory study that consults a group of parents on how to best collect data for research. The aim of this consultation study is to inform a prospective clinical trial examining the innovative *Lighthouse* Parenting Programme. Caregivers who have previously received the *Lighthouse* programme (n=6) will be invited to a series of four participatory workshops to provide feedback on data collection procedures. During the workshops, caregivers will respond to a preliminary battery of data collection instruments proposed by the research team and then provide feedback on their intelligibility, comfort and relevance through round table discussions. A final data collection protocol will be attained, based on the participants' suggestions. This study shifts the essentialist paradigm which frames vulnerable caregivers as "hard-to-reach", emphasising the need to involve subjects in the design of efficient research protocols. This consultation approach supports the identification of research methods that enable the inclusion of individuals whose characteristics are not well accommodated by standard procedures.

Keywords: Participatory Research; Parenting Programmes; High-risk Parents.



THURSDAY 26 JUNE, 2025
14:00 - 15:30

S9 - Family dynamics and well-being in culturally diverse and transnational contexts (Senado Room)

Chair: Isabelle Albert

Discussant: Gisela Trommsdorff

Family relationships are characterized by complex dynamics and negotiation processes between parents and their children across the family life cycle which have important well-being implications. The present symposium brings together scholars from Romania, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Luxembourg to provide insights into these processes by considering transitions across time and space. The first contribution by Ouissam Abattouy examines autonomy and relatedness negotiations between adolescents and parents in the Netherlands, considering immigration background, cultural orientations, relationship quality, and socioeconomic status. Second, Viorela Ducu and colleagues will focus on the active roles of adolescents living in Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine in negotiating the relationships with their parents who migrated leaving their children behind. Third, Isabelle Albert and Thalia Azmeh will concentrate on how family dynamics experienced by emerging adults living in Luxembourg are related to their self-esteem in the context of migration and cultural diversity. The fourth presentation by Beate Schwarz will also focus on the transition between adolescence and adulthood by examining whether living in different educational contexts than parents is experienced as harmonious or conflictual by emerging adults in Switzerland. Finally, a multigenerational perspective is taken by Elke Murdock and Lisa Rousseau who will concentrate on the processes of continuity and change in transmission processes over three generations of a family with Italian roots in Luxembourg. The contributions are discussed with regard to different aspects of family dynamics in culturally diverse and transnational contexts at different points in the family life cycle highlighting implications for family interventions to support well-being.

Keywords: family dynamics, adolescence, emerging adulthood, parent-child relations, migration

Autonomy Desire and Support Differences: A Person-Centered Approach Examining Person and Familial Environmental Factors in Adolescents With and Without an Immigration Background

Ouissam Abattouy, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Adolescents may differ in the extent to which their desire for autonomy aligns with the autonomy support they perceive from their parents, particularly when studying those with and without an immigration background, where both personal characteristics and familial environmental factors influence this perception of an autonomy gap. The current study uses a person-centered approach to identify variation in clusters of autonomy desire-support differences based on person and familial environment characteristics, including immigration background, cultural orientation, family relationship, and family socioeconomic status. Using latent cluster analysis, this study aims to identify patterns of varying differences between adolescents' autonomy desires and perceived parental autonomy support. Survey data will be collected from adolescents ($N \approx 800$, aged 16-25) between March 8 and April 6, 2025. The results are forthcoming, but we expect to identify distinct clusters characterized by varying autonomy desires-support differences, with some adolescents reporting a smaller autonomy gap while others reporting a greater gap. Cluster membership is predicted to be significantly associated with both person and familial environment characteristics. With the predicted results, the findings can advance our understanding of the complex nature of autonomy within families with and without an immigration background, which can inform culturally sensitive approaches to supporting adolescent autonomy.



Symposia

Voices of Resilience: Agency and Well-Being of Stay-Behind Children in Transnational Families

Viorela Ducu, *Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca*

Áron Telegdi Csetri, *Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca*

Georgiana Udrea, *National University of Political Studies and Public Administration*

Parental migration brings a complex set of challenges and changes for both families and children, with its impact varying based on numerous factors. While migration can improve the welfare of stay-behind children, particularly when remittances help alleviate poverty or reduce abuse, it can also lead to significant social and psychological difficulties. A key factor influencing children's development in this context is the absence of parental emotional support. However, migrant parents often continue to play an active role in their children's lives, maintaining communication and emotional connections despite physical distance. The present study challenges the conventional view of stay-behind children as passive victims of parental migration, often defined solely by their emotional struggles or victimhood. Based on interviews with adolescents in Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine who did not migrate with their parents, the study highlights that these children play an active role in shaping family dynamics and their own future. Our findings show that they demonstrate significant resilience, adaptability, and decision-making capacities. Their agency emerges in actions such as maintaining links with absent parents, participating in household decisions, and developing strategies to cope with the challenges they encounter. By focusing on the voices of stay-behind children, this study contributes to the broader conversation on children's rights and wellbeing in the context of migration. It underscores the importance of listening to children, not only to gain a deeper understanding of their perspectives on transnational family dynamics and challenges they encounter, but also to recognize their agency in navigating these complex familial situations.

Family Dynamics and Self-Esteem of Emerging Adults in the Context of Cultural Diversity

Isabelle Albert, *University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg*

Thalia Azmeh, *University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg*

The family plays a crucial role in the development of self-esteem, and these effects continue beyond moving out from the parental home. Earlier research has shown that how family climate and parenting are perceived and intercorrelated can differ across cultural contexts. In a culturally diverse society such as Luxembourg where people with different family cultures come together, the question of how family factors are related to subjective well-being is therefore particularly interesting. In the present study, we focused on the question of how experienced parenting styles and family dynamics are related to emerging adults' self-esteem, and we investigated the roles of cultural orientations in these relationships. A sample of $N = 367$ emerging adults between the ages of 18 and 30 years living in Luxembourg and neighboring areas completed an online survey regarding experienced parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian, permissive), family dynamics (cohesion, enmeshment, disengagement), cultural orientations (individualism, collectivism) and self-esteem. Participants indicated diverse cultures of origin and only a fifth of the sample was born in Luxembourg. Preliminary analyses showed similarities and differences in correlational patterns across different cultural backgrounds. More precisely, authoritative parenting was positively and authoritarian parenting negatively related to self-esteem. Further, cohesion was positively and disengagement negatively linked to self-esteem. However, collectivistic orientations partially moderated these relationships. Interestingly, different correlational patterns were found regarding the links between cohesion and enmeshment depending on cultural background. Results will be discussed in the framework of a culturally-informed model of intergenerational family relations in the light of migration and cultural diversity.



Symposia

Social Mobility and Intergenerational Relationships

Beate Schwarz, *Zurich University of Applied Sciences*

The concept of social mobility is defined as the attainment of a distinct socio-economic status compared to that of one's parents. While there has been some research on the effects of social mobility on psychological well-being and health, research on the association between social mobility and intergenerational relationships is scarce. The present study aims to address this research gap. Therefore, a sample of $N = 150$ emerging adults, ranging in age from 18 to 29 years, the majority of whom are enrolled in a university of applied sciences, will be interviewed using an online questionnaire. Additionally, we are interested in the psychological processing of social mobility. Therefore, we assess whether living in a different educational context than the parents is (a) perceived as harmonious or conflictual and (b) whether the different expectations inherent in these contexts can be integrated by the child. Multivariate regression analyses will be conducted to explore the effects of intergenerational differences in education and the psychological processing thereof on the quality of the intergenerational relationship.

Doing Family in a Transnational Context: A Single Case Study Exploring Relationships across Three Generations in an Italian Emigrant Family in Luxembourg

Elke Murdock, *University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg*

Lisa Rousseau, *University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg*

First-generation immigrants leave their home country and face acculturation challenges in their new country of residence. The second generation grows up in this new country and faces different challenges. Usually, these challenges are addressed separately in research. In this single case study of one family who emigrated from Italy to Luxembourg, we explore the relationship with the country of origin and the country of residence and the changing dynamic over time across three generations. We do this by conducting biographical interviews and using network charts (Kahn & Antonucci, 1980) with seven members of the same family - the first generation, now grandparents, their three daughters born in Luxembourg, and one granddaughter also born in Luxembourg. Overall, the interviews show how the attachment to country of origin and country of residence changes over time for both first and second generation. The grandparents play an important role in maintaining language competence and traditions. The interviews with the three daughters highlight within family differences in the importance placed on maintaining links with their parent's country of origin and the role Italy plays in their daily lives. They place different emphasis on language practices at home. This highlights processes of continuity and change in transmission processes. The interviews show that overall, the emotional attachment to the country of origin weakens over time, while social relationships and integration in Luxembourg become increasingly important and have a positive influence on well-being. However, for all interviewees, the Italian roots continue to be important, although varying in strength.



THURSDAY 26 JUNE, 2025
17:00 - 18:30

S10 - Inclusion of transnational families' children: challenges, and contribution of education system (Room 13)

Chair: Vida Česnuitytė, *Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania*

Discussant: Brigita Kairienė, *Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania*

An idea of this Symposia session was inspired by evidences obtained from social research on transnational families revealing numerous challenges in inclusion of children from transnational families. Children often are left behind without at least one parent, and sometimes - without parental daily care, sometimes children move from country to country not accompanied by family members of other close adults, etc. Education system is that which may not only contribute to inclusion of transnational families' children, but also substitute absent parents in variety of ways: by supporting emotionally, giving information and advices, helping physically, etc. Even more, the roles of formal education differ from non-formal education considering forms of children in its involvement. The first is related with obligations, while the latter is based on talents and interests to develop individual skills. The aim of this Symposia is to discuss, based on the latest research findings, and to fulfil the gap of scientific knowledge on how formal and non-formal education systems contribute to abolition of challenges in the way of transnational families' children inclusion of home or destination country.

Keywords: Children From Transnational Families; Social Inclusion Of Children; Emotional Well-Being; Education System; Formal Education; Non-Formal Education

Navigating parental absence: the psychological, academic, and coping mechanisms of adolescents with migrant fathers in albania

Eglantina Dervishi, *University of Tirana, Tirana, Albania*

Marilda Caushllari, *University of Tirana, Tirana, Albania*

Arjana Mucaj, *University of Tirana, Tirana, Albania*

Parental migration has become a common phenomenon in many parts of the world, including Albania, where many parents migrate in search of better economic opportunities. While migration often benefits the family economically, it can profoundly affect the children left behind, particularly adolescents. This study aims to explore the psychological well-being, academic performance, and coping mechanisms of adolescents in Kukës City, Albania, whose fathers have migrated abroad. It also seeks to understand how the absence of a parent affects their daily life, academic motivation, and emotional health. A focus group discussion was conducted in May 2024 with 12 adolescents (7 females and 5 males), aged 15-18 years, from an urban school in Kukës. All participants had fathers who migrated abroad, primarily to the United Kingdom (9), with one in Greece and two in Italy. The duration of their fathers' absence ranged from 5 to 12 years. The focus group explored their emotional responses, academic performance, coping strategies, and changes in daily routines through structured open-ended questions. The findings reveal that the absence of a father has a significant emotional impact on adolescents, with feelings of sadness, loneliness, and occasional anger. Despite these challenges, the participants have developed various coping strategies, including increased independence, reliance on other family members for support, and maintaining regular communication with their fathers. While the absence of their fathers affected their academic focus, the adolescents demonstrated resilience by staying motivated with the help of extended family and mothers. Many participants also reported taking on additional household responsibilities, which altered their daily routines and social lives.



Symposia

The role of non-formal education in the inclusion of children from transnational families in Lithuania

Gintė Martinkėnė, *Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania*

Dainius Bernotas, *Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania*

The aim of the presentation is to discuss the role and possibilities of non-formal education in the inclusion of children from transnational families. The research idea was inspired by finding of variety of previous researchers, as well, increasing importance of children from transnational families in mass global migration context. Successful child development depends not only on formal education, but also on non-formal education. Non-formal education often plays a significant role in shaping a child's personality. Children from transnational families often face the challenge of successfully participating in non-formal education activities. A combination of several researches was used to reveal this goal. *First*, the focus groups with experts from various fields of non-formal education in Lithuania. *Second*, a qualitative study was conducted with members of Lithuanian transnational families. Empirical data of both surveys collected at the beginning of 2025. In order to comprehensively analyze the experiences of transnational families, both parents and child(ren) of the same family were interviewed. The visual map method was used for conducting interviews, the uniqueness of which is manifested through the opportunity to receive not only verbal, but also non-verbal information, to engage the research participant and to obtain visualizations of the research participants' descriptions. The conducted research revealed the main challenges faced by transnational families during the provision of non-formal education for children, highlighted the resources used by families, good practices, and possible.

Melodies of learning: how transnational mothers use music to support children's education across borders

Serra Sevede Hatipoğlu, *Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University, Turkey*

Mirjana Matovic, *Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University, Turkey*

This study examines the temporalities of transnational families, particularly focusing on how geographic distance shapes the experiences of time within families separated by migration. From a sociological perspective, this paper explores how migration influences women's perceptions of their roles as mothers, using the unique methodology of music listening and the presence of music in their everyday lives to delve into these emotional and cultural dynamics and discover how migrant mothers use music to help their children manage their education during transitional stages, evoke memories, and explore. Music, integral to cultural identity and emotional expression, serves as a conduit for understanding the complex interplay of memory, distance, and maternal responsibilities. This research uncovers how temporal experiences, shaped by migration, followed by cultural, traditional changes, and adaptation dynamics, affect familial relationships and the maternal role across transnational spaces.



War refugee children from Ukraine in Lithuania: school environment, and intentions of inclusion

Brigita Kairienė, *Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania*

Vida Česnaitytė, *Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania*

After Russia's invasion into the Ukraine, Lithuania receive immigrants - children with mothers, which fathers left in war in home country. War refugees often are from transnational families, as many of them have members residing across state borders. Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, approximately 86,000 Ukrainian refugees have arrived in Lithuania in search of temporary settlement. The majority of these arrivals were women with preschool and school-aged children, as well as unaccompanied minors. Therefore, a qualitative study conducted in 2024, aiming to explore the social inclusion of Ukrainian war refugee children, focusing on their social inclusion into the education system. The participants were upper-grade students who arrived in Lithuania from Ukraine after the outbreak of hostilities, along with teachers who work with Ukrainian refugee children. All participants either have family members still in Ukraine, or members who have migrated to other countries. The research results reveal that the most pressing issue of social inclusion relates to learning the Lithuanian language. Motivation to learn Lithuanian primarily depends on the family's decision about their future. If the family decides to stay in Lithuania, parents encourage their children to learn the language. The extent of the child's interaction with Lithuanian peers greatly influences language learning. Similarly, how much those around the child encourage them to speak Lithuanian also plays a significant role. It became evident that Ukrainian children show a strong interest in Lithuanian history, customs, and culture, eagerly participating in celebrations of commemorative days and seeking similarities with Ukrainian history and traditions.



Symposia

S11 - Family support: Contributions to quality standards, professionals' skills, and development (Room 14)

Chair: Ana Pereira Antunes, *University of Madeira, Portugal*

Discussant: Dora Pereira, *University of Madeira, Portugal*

Family intervention services are diverse as well as the family support professionals. The aim of this symposium is to contribute to the awareness for the need of quality standards and evidence-based in family support services. To achieve this aim four communications addressing related topics to this issue will be presented. During the symposium will be discussed the importance of family support programmes formulation consider evidence-based standards; the existence of a Quality Assurance Protocol to identify challenges and strengths in the services; a comprehensive model of the core and field-specific skills essential for family support professionals; and the use of artificial intelligence as a new tool that might be incorporated in family and professionals' practices. We hope this symposium contribute to dissemination of concrete studies' results and to the improvement of the family support provided.

Keywords: Family Support, Evidence-based Programmes, Quality Standards, Professional skills, Quality protocol, Artificial intelligence.

Are evidence-based standards a frame to family support programmes in Southern European countries?

Ana Almeida, *University of Minho, Portugal*

Isabel M. Bernedo, *University of Malaga, Spain*

Orlanda Cruz, *University of Porto, Portugal*

Lucía González-Pasarín, *University of Malaga, Spain*

Sonia Byrne, *University of La Laguna, Spain*

Evidence-based programmes are increasingly accredited as decisive to improve the intervention's efficacy in family support delivery across a wide variety of services in the European context. Based on a representative collection of family support programmes, this paper's focus has a twofold aim. First, to assemble the programme descriptors, operational aspects and implementation components. Second, to sort out the most represented criteria to feature the extent the programmes meet evidence-based standards for programme formulation. Third, complete the typological profile of sampled programmes in Southern European countries. The Family Support Programmes' Survey (Rodrigo et al., 2023) was used to identify existing programmes addressing family support. The sample included 193 support programmes from 17 European countries, members of the European Family Support Network (EurofamNet) corresponding to three regions of Europe (Northern, Southern and Central-Eastern). Data analyses included descriptive and clustering statistics. Showcasing that in Southern European countries a large majority of programmes target universal through indicated population groups, results resume that a large number of programmes fulfil evidence-based standards for programme formulation, such as clearly defined theoretical framework, manualization, and methodology components. Countrywide, the diversity of family support programmes fit the family needs, service organizations, and cultural specificities. Focusing the Southern European region, implications for research and stakeholders on the development of family support programmes according to evidence-based standards for programme formulation will be highlighted.



A quality assurance protocol for family support services in Europe: Insights from the Portuguese system

Orlanda Cruz, *University of Porto, Portugal*

Ana Catarina Canário, *University of Porto, Portugal*

Ana Almeida, *University of Minho, Portugal*

Cristina Nunes, *University of Algarve Portugal*

Acknowledging children as subjects of rights and families as primary responsible carers for their development and well-being calls for the need to support families, especially parents, in the exercise of positive parenting. Although the provision of family support by public agencies is framed by legal regulations, the quality of services delivery may vary within and across countries. In the scope of the COST Innovators Grant QA[4]EuroFam “A quality assurance protocol for family support services in Europe: An evidence-based and culturally informed model for professional practice” a Quality Assurance Protocol (QAP) was developed by the European Family Support Network, EurofamNet. The QAP is a self-assessment instrument developed to identify challenges and strengths at three levels of family support: the family support practice system, family support provision system, and the family support evidence system. The QAP was completed by the 19 European countries that participated in the QA[4]EuroFam, using a participatory methodology. In each country, the National Working Group was composed of researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and family representatives in the field of Family Support in the educational, social, health, and justice sectors. In the current presentation, we will present the QAP, results of the Portuguese data, and compare them to those of the other countries. We expect these findings to impact the management of family support services in Portugal, following European recommendations, and to contribute to the empowerment of services and the well-being of families and communities in the medium and long term.

Family Support Workforce Skills: A conceptualization through a Delphi Study

Cátia Martins, *University of Algarve, Portugal*

Nina Mešl, *University of Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Anita Burgund Isakov, *University of Belgrade, Serbia*

Nikola Jovic, *University of Belgrade, Serbia*

Cristina Nunes, *University of Algarve, Portugal*

When promoting family support, the workforce involves several professionals and skills, and the definition of the main skills can constitute a manifold challenge. Therefore, we implemented a Delphi study to explore the core and field-specific skills essential for family support practitioners, and their implications regarding the development of a comprehensive model. Three rounds and 31 family professionals participate in 1st round, 27 in 2nd and 3rd rounds. The data collected in the initial round were the main core to the subsequent rounds. Afterward, experts were asked to answer to a structured questionnaire (122 variables across 11 questions), composed of Likert-type scales and ranking options, developed after the 1st round. The 3rd round involved panellists responding to 15 dichotomic questions and to deliver explanations, when answering negatively. The results made it possible to recognize the core and field-specific family support skills, as well as to identify their interplay, knowledge, approaches, personal traits, and amalgam qualities within the family support workforce. A final comprehensive model was presented. Overall, this work identifies and highlight the need for more accurate operational definitions to enable various research endeavours in this field.



Can artificial intelligence be a family support? Evidence from a scoping review

Ana Pereira Antunes, *University of Madeira, Portugal*

Carlota Fernandes, *University of Madeira, Portugal*

Artificial intelligence is a topic that is changing and challenging society. Consequently, these changes also affect families, their dynamics, and the intervention of family support professionals. The purpose of this study was to explore how artificial intelligence has been associated with the family context through the analysis of studies that have been published on this subject. A scoping review was conducted to achieve the defined goal. An online search was made on b-On and Google Scholar platforms searching publications between 2020 and 2025 and using descriptors such as Family AND Artificial intelligence, and Parenting AND Artificial intelligence. The English language was considered in the articles search. 16 articles were selected after title and abstract reading. Then, full articles were read, and thematic categories were built. The results indicate that artificial intelligence can be associated with: the development of children's skills; the use by professionals and services; parents' support; and research. However, despite the potential of artificial intelligence, there is also mentioned the need for ethical precautions, and some parallel consequences like the substitution role that artificial intelligence can take on, as well as the anxiety it can cause associated with a constant monitoring system. The importance of parents' and professionals' knowledge and preparation for the use of artificial intelligence is also highlighted. We think these results are stimulating and further research is needed. Research in the field can be an important resource for parents, professionals, and policymakers to adopt the best practices using artificial intelligence.



THURSDAY 26 JUNE, 2025

17:00 - 18:30

S12 - Configurations and meanings of coparenting: qualitative insights from ICOPAR group (Senado Room)

Chair: Anna Rönkä, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

Discussant: Angela Abela, *University of Malta*

The concept of coparenting denotes the ways in which parents or other caring adults work together as parents. The forms and meanings of coparenting are shaped by parents' beliefs, values, and expectations, which in turn are affected by the dominant culture, as well as by different work and family policies. Furthermore, the social context of the family and the material resources available influence the extent to which individual parents and families can manifest their beliefs in practice. This symposium focuses on configurations and meanings of coparenting by approaching these issues with qualitative methods. The strength of qualitative methods is that they offer new tools to understand different forms and meanings of coparenting which may differ between countries and sub-groups of families. Qualitative research is particularly pertinent in understanding coparenting in complex family situations where, for example, parenting responsibilities are divided between birth parents and foster parents. Qualitative methodologies suit also well in analyzing clinical practices of professionals in supporting coparenting. The symposium presentations address the topic of coparenting in a variety of familial and cultural contexts. The presentations also deal with the role of other caring adults as part of coparenting. The presentations offer also insights into coparenting in foster families and clinical support offered by professionals in coparenting. The methods include cross-national comparison, mixed method, participatory method and discourse analysis. The participants of this symposium belong to an international ICOPAR coparenting research network coordinated by Penn State University. The aim of ICOPAR is to advance research and policy on coparenting.

Keywords: coparenting, qualitative methods, cross-national study, social networks parenting support, family professionals, complex family situations.

The role of other caring adults in coparenting: a cross-national qualitative study of Finnish and Japanese parents

Chino Yabunaga, *Toyo University, Japan*

Anna Rönkä, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

This study focused on the role of other caring adults in coparenting among Finnish and Japanese parents with their firstborn of age 18 months. The study extends earlier knowledge of coparenting by widening the definition of coparenting of a parental couple to coparenting between parents and other caring adults and using a cross-national research design. We explored in what way other people are involved in parenting and childcare among Finnish and Japanese parents? Are there cultural differences between in the roles and significance of other caring adults between the two countries? We expected to identify cultural variation in the configurations of coparenting - that is, who participate in caring and parenting of the child. This is because in countries high in collectivist values, such as Asian countries, mutual support, solidarity and sharing care between family members is highly valued. Furthermore, other adults are often involved in caregiving. In Western societies like Finland, which hold individualistic values, grandparents have not traditionally been involved in caring for grandchildren. The sample of this qualitative, cross-national study comprised Finnish and Japanese heterosexual couples with their firstborn of age 1,5 years. They participated in individual semi-structured interviews on coparenting including also questions concerning the role of other adults in sharing responsibilities and getting emotional or practical support. Thirty couples per country were selected for the thematic analysis. The results showed both similarities and differences between Finnish and Japanese parents in the configurations of coparenting as well as in the roles of other caring adults in coparenting.



Symposia

Coparenting, social support, and fertility decisions: insights from couples in the transition to parenthood

Marisa Matias, *University of Porto, Portugal*

Jessica Silva Fernandes, *University of Porto, Portugal*

The decision to have a second child is a significant social issue, especially with declining fertility rates in Western countries, including Portugal. Perceptions of social support—both instrumental and emotional—during the transition to parenthood may influence couples' assessments of their context as favorable or not to having a second child. This study, part of the CopaGloba project, uses Portuguese data from questionnaires and semi-structured interviews with both parents of an 18-month-old child. Participants were divided into two groups based on responses to a survey item about their intentions to have a second child: one group intended to have more children, and another group did not. Data from 20 semi-structured interviews (10 per group) were qualitatively analyzed in a blind manner, focusing on perceptions of parenting support, family dynamics, and the co-parenting system. The findings reveal that positive co-parenting (including paternal involvement and effective spousal communication) and strong social network support were more evident in the group intending to have a second child. This group also expressed higher satisfaction with institutional support, including social and healthcare services. Both groups faced work-family balance challenges, with fathers experiencing work-related stress and mothers shouldering a disproportionate share of caregiving responsibilities. The study highlights the importance of addressing gendered caregiving roles and suggests that enhancing co-parenting support, strengthening social networks, and improving formal support from health and childcare institutions may support parents' decisions regarding a second child.

Interpreting the concept of coparenting: Insights from a participatory, multivoiced research project in foster care

Johanna Moilanen, *University of Helsinki, Finland*

Kaisa Malinen, *JAMK University of Applied Sciences, Finland*

Anu-Riina Svenlin, *Kokkola University Consortium Chydenius, Finland*

The presentation will focus on coparenting relationships in the context of foster care, with the understanding that the placement of a child into foster care results in the division of parental responsibilities and rights between the birth parents and foster parents. Furthermore, coparenting relationships also involve social workers and other child protection professionals, who play a pivotal role in the coordination and support of foster care processes. The presentation draws on a participatory, multivoiced research project being conducted in Finland. The project is guided by a participatory research design which acknowledges epistemic plurality and the existence of multiple forms of knowledge. The research group comprises birth parents, foster parents, child protection professionals from public organisations and NGOs, and experts by experience. Alongside researchers, they participate in all stages of the research, from planning the data collection to analysing the data. This presentation is founded on empirical data derived from three group discussions that are to be held during the co-research group meetings in Spring 2025. The focus of the analysis of these discussions is the multivoiced interpretation and assessment of co-parenting as a concept.



Symposia

Discourses of coparenting support in family center service *Marjatta Kekkonen, Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland* *Angela Abela, University of Malta, Malta*
Marja-Leena Böök, University of Jyväskylä, Finland
Kaisa Malinen, JAMK University of Applied Sciences, Finland
Johanna Moilanen, University of Helsinki, Finland
Anna Rönkä, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Along the increased interest in coparenting relations, research on coparenting support has also become more prevalent. Knowledge about targeted coparenting interventions has increased, but there is a gap in the literature about how professionals in preventive and early support services can intentionally support all families in their goal of coparenting. The study focuses on the clinical practices of professionals by exploring, what kind of discourses they use to support parents to cooperate. By adopting a discursive approach, coparenting is not seen merely as a practical matter of family life, but rather as a matter of talk and discursive meaning making and speech actions. The study is part of the larger longitudinal, cross-national Copagloba -research project. The data was collected in five focus group interviews from professionals (n = 21) working in family centers integrating health, social and well-being services for all families with children. The data was analysed by using a discourse analysis. By identifying three professional positions and two dichotomous agencies of parents, three distinctive discourses of coparenting support were formed: coparenting involvement, coparenting capacities, and coparenting reconciliation. These professional discourses contribute to a new understanding on the ways of supporting co-parenting in universal and early support services, including routine health checks, family work, home visits, child welfare and family counseling. The study highlights the potential of any child and family service to contribute to co-parenting support.

FRIDAY 27 JUNE, 2025
11:30 - 13:00

S13 - Coparenting and parents' health: new quantitative findings from ICOPAR group (Room 13)

Chair: **Tiago Miguel Pinto**, *Lusófona University, Portugal*

Discussant: **Anna Rönkä**, *University of Jyväskylä*

Coparenting is a major element of the family system. Coparenting cooperation is associated with associated with parents' health and well-being, while coparenting conflict is associated with mental health problems and negative family outcomes. The international ICOPAR coparenting research network coordinated by Penn State University was developed to advance research and policy on coparenting. The ICOPAR coparenting research network designed this symposium to provide new findings on the role of coparenting on parents' health, using data from different studies. Specifically, it aims to provide new evidence on the (1) moderating role of psychological distress in the early development of coparenting (oral presentation 1), (2) association between coparenting quality and parental physical health outcomes (oral presentation 2), (3) moderating role of coparenting in the association between background factors and parental burnout, and (4) moderating role of coparenting conflict in the association between obstetric and neonatal adverse experiences and childbirth-related posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms (oral presentation 4). Findings will be discussed considering their contribution to research and policy on coparenting.



Does psychological distress moderate the early development of coparenting?

Emmi Lindroos (University of Jyväskylä)

Eija Räikkönen (University of Jyväskylä)

Kaisa Malinen (JAMK University of Applied Sciences)

Liana Leach (The Australian National University)

Marisa Matias (University of Porto)

Anna Rönkä (University of Jyväskylä)

Previous research has shown that prenatal and postnatal coparenting are associated and that there is a connection between poorer coparenting and psychological distress. Yet very little prior research has explored whether prenatal coparenting expectations impact not only level of postnatal coparenting (i.e. quality), but also variability in postnatal coparenting. Nor has research focused on psychological distress as a potential moderator of early coparenting development. Therefore, in this study we investigated whether parents' prenatal expectations of coparenting predict level and variability in postnatal coparenting, and whether family's prenatal psychological distress moderates these associations in early parenthood. The coparenting relationship was examined with a longitudinal design that utilized survey data and daily diary data among 144 Finnish couples expecting their first child, through six months postpartum. Structural equation modeling was used to estimate both one's own (actor) and their spouse's (partner) associations between prenatal expectations of coparenting (measured by the CRS-CPV) and postnatal coparenting (as measured by the D-COP), and how prenatal psychological distress (assessed using the MHI-5) might moderate these associations. We found that parents' prenatal expectations of coparenting predicted level of their own postnatal coparenting, but little of the variability in postnatal coparenting. In addition, family's prenatal psychological distress strengthened some associations between prenatal expectations of coparenting and postnatal coparenting. Only few gender differences between mothers and fathers emerged. These findings suggest that even nonclinical levels of prenatal psychological distress shape development of coparenting during transition to parenthood.

Prenatal romantic attachment and coparenting during the postpartum period: the mediating role of couple relationship satisfaction

Raquel Costa, *Universidade Lusófona, Portugal*

While the link between romantic attachment and couple relationship satisfaction during the perinatal period is well-established, less is known about its role in the coparental relationship and the mechanisms that may account for it. Considering the centrality of the couple relationship for the development of coparenting, this study aimed to analyze whether romantic attachment during pregnancy predicts coparenting cooperation and conflict during the postpartum period, and if couple relationship satisfaction mediates this association. The sample was composed of 109 mothers that completed questionnaires assessing romantic attachment (Experience in Close Relationships Scale) and couple relationship satisfaction (Couple Satisfaction Index) at the 3rd trimester of pregnancy, and assessing coparenting cooperation and conflict (Coparental Relationship Scale) at 2 months postpartum. The results showed that (1) higher levels of attachment-related anxiety and avoidance predicted lower coparenting cooperation and relationship satisfaction, and higher coparenting conflict; (2) higher levels of relationship satisfaction predicted higher coparenting cooperation and lower coparenting conflict; and (3) relationship satisfaction mediated the relationship between romantic attachment and coparenting. Early screening of romantic attachment representations and relationship satisfaction during pregnancy is crucial to identify women at higher risk of coparenting conflict after childbirth.



Coparenting and parental burnout: Can a high level of positive coparenting mitigate the burden caused by risk factors?

Anna Rönkä, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

Kaisa Aunola, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

Parenting is often a source of joy, but it can also be experienced as demanding, stressful, and burdening. Parental burnout means distress specifically related to the parental role, and studies indicate that certain risk factors such as poor financial situation and challenging behavior of the child may increase the probability of parental burnout. The key interest in our study is coparenting, that is, how parents work as a team in parenthood. We investigated whether effective coparenting denoting to positive collaboration between parents and mutual sharing of parenting tasks can mitigate the burden affected by background factors such as SES, child age and special needs of a child. Our study had three aims: we explored first the association of various background factors with coparenting and parental burnout (PBA). Secondly, we studied whether coparenting affects parental burnout after controlling for the background factors, and thirdly, the extent to which coparenting moderates the effects of background factors on parental burnout. We replicated the study by Favez and colleagues (2023) on the linkages coparenting and burnout first time in Finland. The study used a large Finnish sample (n=675) from a diverse range of mothers representing different family types, socioeconomic backgrounds, and age groups of children. Participants completed online questionnaires about parental burnout (PBA), their coparental relationship (Brief version of CRS), and sociodemographic characteristics. Based on structural equation modelling, higher SES was found to predict more positive coparenting and lower parental burnout, whereas special needs of the child were associated with less positive coparenting and higher parental burnout. Having infant (< 1 yr old child) at the house predicted higher parental burnout but only when the level of positive coparenting was low. In other word, high level of positive coparenting functioned as a protective factor against parental burnout affected by the intensive care of an infant.



Coparenting conflict can exacerbate childbirth-related posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms in mothers exposed to obstetric and neonatal adversity

Tiago Miguel PintoMargarida Pratas, *Lusófona University, Portugal*

Rodrigo Vasconcelos, *Lusófona University, Portugal*

Matilde Sousa, *Lusófona University, Portugal*

Daniela Fidalgo, *Lusófona University, Portugal*

Ana Morais, *Lusófona University, Portugal*

Daniela Tavares, *Lusófona University, Portugal*

Inês Jongenelen, *Lusófona University, Portugal*

Diogo Lamela, *Lusófona University, Portugal*

Raquel Costa, *Lusófona University, Portugal*

Stephanie Alves, *Lusófona University, Portugal*

Coparenting is an important family process that plays a crucial role in perinatal mental health; however, little is known about its role in the development of childbirth-related post-traumatic stress disorder (CB-PTSD) symptoms after exposure to obstetric and neonatal adverse events. This study examined the moderating role of coparenting cooperation and conflict on the association between exposure to obstetric and neonatal adversity and CB-PTSD symptoms. A sample of 240 mothers recruited in Portuguese public health facilities completed questionnaires assessing level of exposure to obstetric and neonatal adversity (sum of instrumental vaginal delivery/emergency caesarean section, severe obstetric complications, severe fetal/neonatal medical complications, and prematurity), coparenting cooperation and conflict, and CB-PTSD symptoms at 2 months postpartum. Higher exposure to obstetric and neonatal adversity was associated with greater overall CB-PTSD symptoms, re-experiencing, avoidance, and negative cognitions/mood symptoms severity at 2 months postpartum. The association between exposure to obstetric and neonatal adversity and re-experiencing and negative cognitions/mood symptoms severity was stronger at high levels of coparenting conflict, while for overall CB-PTSD and avoidance symptoms the association with exposure to obstetric and neonatal adversity was stronger at high and medium levels of coparenting conflict. Coparenting conflict seems to exacerbate CB-PTSD symptoms in mothers who experienced more obstetric and neonatal adversity. Screening of exposure to obstetric and neonatal adversity and coparenting conflict could be an effective strategy for identifying those mothers who are more vulnerable to developing CB-PTSD symptoms.



FRIDAY 27 JUNE, 2025
14:00 - 15:30

S14 - Formal and non-formal education in implementing children's rights in transnational families (Senado Room)

Chairs: Gintė Martinkėnė, *Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania*

Discussant: Brigita Kairienė, *Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania*

The United Nations Convention provides the following basic principles for ensuring child rights: (1) non-discrimination; (2) the best interests of the child; (3) the right of the child to express his opinion and to be heard; (4) the child's right to live and development. In the process of children's rights implementation, formal and non-formal education play significant role. Adults' task is both to respond to the child's needs, and to ensure his rights. At the same time, children and their parents from transnational families face variety additional socio-economic challenges. The aim of the Symposia is to discuss how to ensure quality of children's rights via educational systems when one or both parents live at a distance - across state borders.

Keywords: Formal Education; Non-Formal Education; Children's Rights; Transnational Families

Educational policies for transnational families: comparative perspectives from OECD countries and Türkiye

Kübra Yenel, *Manisa Celal Bayar University, Türkiye*

Özgün Çekiç, *İstanbul Gelişim University, Türkiye*

This study explores educational policies for transnational families, offering a comparative analysis of Türkiye and OECD countries. Transnational families, shaped by globalization and migration, face unique educational challenges that demand inclusive and equitable policy interventions. Drawing on OECD reports and comparative studies, this study examines Türkiye's educational reforms within a global context. The *OECD Education Policy Outlook* highlights Türkiye's strides in expanding access to education and aligning with global trends, particularly in early childhood and basic education (OECD, 2023). Additionally, *Policy Options for Stronger Student Outcomes in Türkiye* underscores the need for equitable strategies to address diverse student populations (OECD, 2023). Comparative insights reveal that educational expenditures and outcomes, as highlighted in PISA performance studies, play a critical role in shaping policies for inclusion (Keleş, 2020). Furthermore, global perspectives on transnational families emphasize their distinct socio-cultural dynamics and educational needs (Mazzucato & Dito, 2018). This study integrates these findings to propose policy recommendations, including fostering social acceptance in schools, leveraging digital tools for inclusivity, and implementing culturally responsive curricula. By synthesizing Türkiye's experiences with OECD benchmarks, this study offers valuable insights into designing equitable educational policies that cater to transnational families across diverse contexts.



Agency and educational trajectories of stay-behind children in transnational families from Romania, Moldova and Ukraine

Viorela Ducu, *Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Áron Telegdi Csetri, *Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Georgiana Udrea, *National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania*

Transnational labour migration has profound implications for children whose parents seek employment abroad. While much research has focused on the emotional and psychological effects of parental absence, this study shifts attention to the role of children's agency in shaping their educational outcomes, challenging common assumptions of victimhood and passivity in migrant households. Drawing on in-depth interviews with over 100 children from transnational families in Romania, Moldova and Ukraine, the paper explores how these children navigate their educational trajectories, despite the physical absence of one of both parents. Rather than following the anticipated path of underachievement or school dropout, many stay-behind children demonstrate an intensified commitment to their studies, maintaining and oftentimes enhancing educational performance. This is often driven by a sense of responsibility and a desire to honour their parents' sacrifices, but is also due to open, meaningful communication among family members. Briefly put, our results reveal that most of these children, motivated by a deep awareness of their parents' hard work and sacrifices, are determined to succeed academically as a means of reciprocating parents' efforts and securing a better future for themselves. In this way, the research contributes to a more nuanced understanding of education in transnational families, emphasizing not only the challenges faced by stay-behind children following parental migration, but also their resilience and agency in navigating them.

Ensuring children's rights in transnational families settled in Lithuania: the case of war refugee children from Ukraine

Vida Česnuitytė, *Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania*

Brigita Kairienė, *Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania*

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, approximately 86,000 Ukrainian refugees have arrived in Lithuania in search of temporary settlement. The majority of these arrivals were women with preschool and school-aged children, as well as unaccompanied minors. The Government of Lithuania swiftly mobilized its education, social, health, and other systems to receive war refugees from Ukraine. Initially, the most pressing concerns were accommodating refugees and addressing their basic needs. War refugee children represent a particularly vulnerable group, and their social inclusion is essential for their full development and well-being. Aiming to investigate the situation of child right implementation among Ukrainian war refugee children in Lithuania, a qualitative study conducted in 2024. The participants were upper-grade students who arrived in Lithuania from Ukraine after the outbreak of hostilities, along with teachers who work with Ukrainian refugee children. All participants either have family members still in Ukraine, or members who have migrated to other countries. The main focus was on the role and efforts of the education system in the process of child right implementation. The research results reveal that the rights of Ukrainian war refugee children are not sufficiently guaranteed in Lithuania. The main problems are based on discrimination because of the language, insufficient living conditions, complicated learning process, lack opportunities to be involved into non-formal education activities.



The last stranger. Integration in the Italian school system

Patrizia Rinaldi, *University of Granada, Spain, and University of Salerno, Italy*

Quality schools are among the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (and assessment systems can significantly contribute to this), and among these goals is the reduction of inequality and poverty in all its dimensions, including education. This research examines the Italian school system to focus on certification and methods for assessing the educational background of first- and second-generation migrant children. In Italy, the INVALSI test results of pupils with non-Italian citizenship are compared with their native peers. In particular, the differences between natives and first- and second-generation foreigners in standardised tests in Italian and mathematics (G8) will be examined. The research questions are: Is the current Italian school system sufficient for integration? Is it suitable for combating inequalities? Is it prepared for multiculturalism? While the literature has focused on the benefits of education in the host country for the first generation, little has been written about how education affects the 'life chances' of the second generation. To close the gaps between native and migrant children or children of migrant origin often highlighted by assessment tests, it would be necessary not only to promote widespread excellence but also to identify bad practices to implement the required corrective interventions and understand and apply so-called 'intercultural education'. Bearing that parents' socio-cultural resources are associated with their children's academic performance, school assessment should also consider how inclusive the school is, i.e. how well it can guarantee similar results for students with Italian citizenship and potential "new citizens".



Oral Communications

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25th 2025
10:00 - 11:30

Thematic Session 1

The role of Affectionate Touch in Romantic Relationships: Perspectives from experts in couple therapy

Sílvia Santos, *University of Coimbra, Portugal*

Alda Portugal, *University of Madeira, Portugal*

Isabel Lisboa, *University of Minho, Portugal*

Ana Paula Relvas, *University of Coimbra, Portugal*

Affectionate touch, such as kissing, hugging, or holding hands, plays a fundamental role in romantic relationships by enabling partners to express emotions, offer support during stressful moments, and foster greater intimacy. This study aims to explore the perspectives of experts in the field of couple therapy regarding the relationship between affectionate touch, dyadic coping and emotional coregulation, as well as the impact of these variables on marital satisfaction. A focus group was conducted with five couples therapists (three women and two men), employing a qualitative approach to examine the intersections among these variables. Preliminary findings highlight several key themes regarding the role of affectionate touch in romantic relationships, as it facilitates emotional coregulation, strengthens intimacy and contributes to marital satisfaction. Participants also noted that affectionate touch contributes positively to couples' ability to manage challenges and provides support during stressful situations. This study aims to deepen the understanding of affectionate touch in couple dynamics and its implications for clinical practice.

Keywords: Focus Group, Experts, Affectionate Touch, Emotional Coregulation, Couples, Marital Satisfaction

Consensual Non-Monogamy: Qualitative analysis of the functioning and dynamics of these relational configurations through the analysis of two podcasts

Alda Portugal, *University of Madeira, Portugal*

Sara Cabral, *University of Madeira, Portugal*

Luana Cunha Ferreira, *University of Lisbon, Lisboa-Portugal*

Over the past decade, the scientific community has shown growing interest in relationship configurations, particularly in Consensual Non-Monogamy (CNM). This study aimed to deepen the understanding of CNM functioning and dynamics through a case study analysis. Using a qualitative methodology, 15 episodes were randomly selected, transcribed, and analyzed from two Portuguese podcasts. The findings identified central themes such as the critical role of emotional management, the necessity of open and honest communication, and the importance of agreements and negotiations between partners. Additionally, consent, honesty, trust, and flexibility emerged as essential elements for relational satisfaction and conflict reduction within CNM. This research contributes to clinical practice by offering therapists valuable insights into the specific characteristics of CNM relationships, thereby enhancing healthcare provision for CNM individuals. Furthermore, it enriches the scientific field by providing a more nuanced conceptualization of CNM functioning. The study underscores the need for further empirical research to explore the diversity and complexities of CNM relationships.

Keywords: Consensual Non-Monogamy, Qualitative study, Case study, Relationship configurations, Relational dynamics and functioning.



Oral Communications

Infidelity in consensual non-monogamy: rethinking boundaries and clinical implications

Jorge Peixoto-Freitas, *University of Porto, Portugal*

Diego Lasio, *Università degli Studi di Cagliari, Italy*

Conceição Nogueira, *University of Porto, Portugal*

Infidelity is an impacting relational event that often generates conflict and can lead to the end of the couple's relationship. It is also among the most common reasons for seeking couples therapy. Despite the extensive literature on the subject, infidelity has traditionally been associated with adultery and within the framework of monogamous relationships. Our research project intends to place this phenomenon in a broader context, considering consensual non-monogamy (CNM). The present communication summarizes how infidelity and the boundaries of involvement in external relationships have been defined in the context of CNM by researchers and people enrolled in these relationship models. Findings highlight the unique challenges faced by couples in CNM relationships when navigating infidelity, emphasizing the need for clinicians to adopt a more nuanced and inclusive approach to couple therapy. This research contributes to a growing body of literature on CNM relationships and provides valuable insights for clinicians working with couples in diverse relationship structures.

Keywords: infidelity; consensual non-monogamy; couple therapy; romantic relationships; sexuality

Women's Health: The Biopsychosocial Impact of Menopause on Women

Alda Portugal, *University of Madeira, Portugal*

Catarina Freitas, *University of Madeira, Portugal*

Isabel Lisboa, *NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal*

In today's context, characterized by rapid transformations, the need for increasing integration of roles, time and space, the challenge of balancing parenting with work becomes increasingly demanding. New theorizations in family-work reconciliation include the possibility of generating well-being not only for the individual worker, but also for personal relationships, primarily family. (Manzi, Mazzucchelli, 2020). In this context, the FamILens® represents a model for assessing the impact of policies and services on family wellbeing. It is a model inspired by American experiences (Carrà, Moscatelli 2024, <https://centridiateneo.unicatt.it/studi-famiglia-familens>), imported into Italy by a group of researchers from the Catholic University of Milan, who, with the appropriate changes, have developed a tool for assessing the impact on families of corporate practices/initiatives. The rationale behind this work is that the positive integration of the family and work dimensions produces benefits for both workers and their families and companies, according to a win-win logic. This contribution presents a tool called the Family Impact Checklist based on 6 key objectives to promote family well-being: Empowering families, Promoting family stability, Promoting the quality of family relationships, Valuing family diversity, Actively involving families, Promoting family networks. The tool was administered in 2024 to a representative sample of 360 Italian companies, highlighting the presence of a culture aimed at promoting the reconciliation and well-being of employees and their families, with a focus on the principles of responsibility, stability, diversity and relationships. A lower impact of companies on the ability to actively involve families and promote family networks has been highlighted.



Oral Communications

Exploring Couples' Dynamics Through Time: An Approach of Qualitative Dyadic-Longitudinal Analysis

Carolina Garraio, Universidade do Porto, Portugal

Marc Grau-Grau, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, Spain

Paula Mena Matos, Universidade do Porto, Portugal

Marisa Matias, Universidade do Porto, Portugal

Few studies adopt either dyadic or longitudinal approaches to explore topics related to evolving dynamics of couplehood. To our knowledge, no study has integrated both approaches in qualitative research. We aim to propose and discuss an approach for analysing dyadic-longitudinal data from interviews conducted separately with both members of the couple across multiple time-points. We propose an integration of dyadic and longitudinal analysis through an iterative and reflexive process that moves between individual, dyadic, and longitudinal levels. The process of analysis identifies main themes by synthesizing insights across these dimensions. This approach combines (1) Eisikovits and Koren's (2010) dyadic analysis, which examines overlaps and contrasts between partners' interviews; (2) Saldaña's (2003) approach to longitudinal analysis, which allows researchers to capture changes through time; (3) and Braun and Clarke's guidelines for reflexive thematic analysis. Building on these approaches, we propose an integrative methodology designed to optimize the benefits of combining dyadic and longitudinal qualitative analyses, organized in seven stages. We illustrate this approach using data from our study about couples' transition to parenthood. Despite being resource-consuming, this analysis is highly beneficial as it offers a comprehensive understanding of couple dynamics by capturing both partners' perspectives and tracking how their interactions evolve through time. This approach allows researchers to explore patterns and contextual factors, making it invaluable for studying the complexity of relationships during significant life transitions.

Keywords: Qualitative Research, Dyadic-Longitudinal Analysis, Couples' Dynamics

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25th 2025
10:00 - 11:30

Thematic Session 2

Improving Family-School Relationship: Contribution of an Evidence-Based Program

Sofia Major, *University of Azores*

M. F. Gaspar, *University of Coimbra, Portugal*

The participation of parents in preschool dynamics and activities has been a growing research topic across the last decades. The Incredible Years® Teacher Classroom Management Program (IY-TCM) is an evidence-based intervention designed for preschool and primary school teachers working with children aged 3-8 years old. Besides promoting teachers' self-confidence and competence in using positive and proactive classroom management strategies; and building positive relationships with children; one of its main goals is to promote home-school collaboration. Although the effectiveness of the IY-TCM program has been well sustained by quantitative data, fewer qualitative studies were conducted. This study aims to explore the teachers' perceptions of the impact of the IY-TCM training on their relationship with the parents. Eleven preschool teachers ($M_{age} = 48.82$, $SD = 4.60$) participated into a focus groups 2 weeks after completing the IY-TCM training. After the transcription process, thematic analysis was conducted to define the themes and subthemes. One of the identified themes was the impact of the training on teacher-parents relationship, which integrated two subthemes: school-home communication and involvement of parents in teachers' action. After completing the IY-TCM effective improvements were perceived by teachers in teachers-parents relationship, underscoring the recognized effectiveness of the IY-TCM program across contexts.

Keywords: Incredible Years®, TCM, focus group, home-school relationship.



Oral Communications

Differential Effects of a Nationwide Curriculum-Based Intervention on Student Mental Health: The Role of Socioeconomic Status

Yuan Fang, University of Oslo, Norway

Nikolai H., Eftedal, University of Oslo, Norway

Maud Edvoll, University of Oslo, Norway

Anne T. Klomsten, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway

Siri H. Folstad, University of Oslo, Norway

Gunnar Bjørnebekk, University of Oslo, Norway

Ragnhild B. Nes, University of Oslo, Norway

Egil Nygaard, University of Oslo, Norway

Norway implemented a nationwide core curriculum change in schools in 2020 which aims to improve mental health and life skills/mastery. This study investigates how students with different socioeconomic status react differently to the curriculum change regarding mental health outcomes and if the curriculum change could contribute to the reduction of inequalities in mental health among students. The effects of the curriculum change on mental health in children and adolescents (aged 6-18 years old) were moderated by socioeconomic status as indicated by parental educational level, parental occupation, family income and wealth, and immigration status. Children from lower SES families may benefit more from the nationwide curriculum-based intervention. Data were obtained from several national health registry and Statistics Norway. Using mixed effects regression, we estimated the potential differential impact of a nationwide school curriculum change on mental health outcomes in children and adolescents by socioeconomic status.

Keywords: adolescence; children; curriculum change; mental health; schools; school reform; natural experiment; naturalistic; socioeconomic status; health inequalities; observation study;

Children's experiences with and wishes for digital support services

Lars Jørn Langøien, *Norwegian institute of public health (NIPH), Norway*

Heid Nøkleby, *Norwegian institute of public health (NIPH), Norway*

Trine Bjerke Johansen, *Norwegian institute of public health (NIPH), Norway*

Hans Bugge Bergsund, *Norwegian institute of public health (NIPH), Norway*

Ingeborg B. Lidal, *Norwegian institute of public health (NIPH), Norway*

Children aged 9-12 might have questions they cannot ask their family or friends about. Digital support services for children could provide information, advice, or guidance, but there is a lack of knowledge about children's wishes for and experiences with such services. We conducted 29 focus group interviews with a total of 92 children from eight schools in Norway. Additionally, we interviewed 20 young people aged 16-19. Children reported some knowledge of, but limited experiences with, and different wishes for support services. Many children preferred asking their parents (or other close adults) for help. They underlined that services aimed at children should be offered as both physical and various digital services. The services should be flexible and cover a wide range of topics (e.g. bullying, family relations and mental health) and multiple forms of contact, depending on topic and perceived severity. Additionally, children were concerned with questions regarding anonymity and confidentiality when in contact with support services. Today's digital support services in Norway seem insufficiently adapted to the needs of children aged 9-12. There is a need for physical support services, strengthening and making them visible and known to children. As children are different there is an additional need for developing digital services that enables children's help seeking. This is the first Norwegian study to collect children's views on support services and their needs from such services and should be considered when establishing or adjusting support services to children aged 9-12.

Keywords: Support services, children's need for support, hotlines, children's help seeking



Oral Communications

Children's wellbeing and play across the family and ECEC

Frederikke G. Eriksen, Aalborg University & VIA University College, Denmark

In this presentation, I will discuss my ongoing PhD project, which explores the collaboration between families and early childhood education and care (ECEC) professionals in promoting children's wellbeing and play. Denmark has a long-standing tradition of emphasizing play in ECEC, a focus that has expanded in response to growing concerns about children's wellbeing. Both national and international research suggests that children's play is becoming increasingly adult-supervised and restricted, driven by discourses and politics surrounding children's safety, early learning, and the "risk society". This shift is linked to a decline in children's wellbeing, as they are afforded fewer opportunities for free, independent play compared to previous generations. While children's play opportunities across both the home and ECEC settings, there is limited understanding of family-based play practices and how parents perceive their children's wellbeing and play. This highlights the need for a more in-depth exploration of families' values and beliefs regarding play as well as the conditions they have for children's play within the home. This PhD study examines this topic through ethnographic field work, using participant observation and interviews conducted in both home and ECEC settings. The study contributes with a deeper understanding of how families' social, material, and practical conditions influence children's play within the home, and how these practices can inform collaborative efforts between families and ECEC professionals in supporting children's wellbeing. To this end, I will share a tentative analysis of the play practices of families in a multicultural and marginalized neighbourhood in Denmark.

Keywords: children's wellbeing; family play practices; parental collaboration; marginalized neighbourhoods

Thematic Session 3

Intergenerational Bonds Across the Life Course. Continuity in Mother-Child and Father-Child Relationship Quality from Adolescence to Mid-Adulthood

Romain Jammal-Abboud, *University of Tel Aviv and Zefat Academic College, Israel*

Fred Berger, *University of Innsbruck, Austria*

To date only few longitudinal studies have permitted the investigation of continuity in parent-child relationship quality over a longer period of the life course. Most previous studies were based upon retrospective data or examined over only a few years. According to these studies, the early stages of a parent-child relationship influence its emotional quality in later life. However, whereas the predictive power of early parent-child relationships is relatively high in the first years following adolescence, it decreases the further away one moves from adolescence. This study draws upon data from a study spanning 30 years. Data came from the German longitudinal Life study, in which respondents were asked about parent-child relationships, parenting practices, and the stability of their parents' relationships in adolescence (age 15), as well as about emotional closeness with their parents in mid-adulthood (age 45). The study contains information on 1152 mother-child and 895 father-child relations. Data were analysed using linear regression. Results support the notion that emotional closeness between the generations in mid-adulthood is affected considerably by more long-standing characteristics of the relationship in adolescence. In comparison to the mother- adult child relationship, the father-child relation in mid-adulthood was found to be less predictable from parent- child relationship quality in adolescence and to be to a greater extent influenced by parental divorce in childhood or adolescence. Our findings show that adult children's emotional closeness to their parents not only depends upon current interactions and life situations, but also on the relationship that they had with them whilst growing up.

Keywords: Continuity in Parent-Child Relationship Quality; Mother-Child and Father-Child Relationship; Long-term Consequences of Parental Divorce; Longitudinal Study



Oral Communications

Intervention for intergenerational families to improve relationships between grandmother caregivers and adolescents

Maretha Visser, University of Pretoria, South Africa

The HIV epidemic in South Africa resulted in large numbers of orphaned children, cared for by grannies in intergenerational families. Because of the age difference, relationships between grannies and adolescents are often strained. Through a structured family intervention for caregivers and adolescents using cognitive behaviour theory, we aimed to improve their relationships. The eight-session intervention was developed through a needs assessment, key informant interviews, and various rounds of implementation. The intervention focused on caregiver emotional well-being and improving family relationships through developing a deeper understanding of adolescent behaviour, learning communication skills, building family strengths, setting boundaries, solving problems, and managing difficult family situations. Simultaneously, adolescents focused on their mental well-being, learning to cope with difficult emotions, setting personal goals, and reducing family conflict. Through two joint sessions caregivers and adolescents worked together to build mutual understanding, explore family strengths, and manage difficult situations at home. Trained community-based care workers presented the intervention in twelve small family-centered groups. Results of a mixed methods evaluation showed that after the intervention the mental health of caregivers (n=105) and adolescents (n=95) improved significantly, as well as their assessment of their relationships. Focus group discussions showed that as caregivers learned to listen and understand adolescents, the adolescents learned to deal with their emotions, felt accepted, and started to share their concerns with their caregivers, resulting in closer relationships. The intervention has the potential to contribute to more positive parenting, adolescent self-efficacy, and improved family relationships.

Keywords: family intervention, intergenerational family, HIV-orphaned adolescents, mental health, improved family relationships

Involving grandparents in everyday family life

Allan Westerling, *Roskilde University, Denmark*

This paper presents findings from a mixed method study on the involvement of grandparents in everyday family life in Denmark, from the perspective of parents. It reports from a survey of everyday family life of parent with children between 1 and 5 years (N=5500) and includes qualitative interviews (N=17) about how parents involve social networks in the organization of family life. .

Parents in Denmark, as in the rest of Scandinavia, rely extensively on Early Childhood Education and Care services (ECEC). The survey data shows that 92 % of the parents report that their children attend public ECEC, and the average reported hours spend in these settings are 34,7 per week with no significant variation across age. The extensive use of public care means that parents are less dependent of the support of social networks in everyday life, yet they choose to involve grandparents to a high degree, and the paper will show that grandparents play a significant role in everyday family life.

Using the survey data the paper identifies the activities in which parents involve social networks and using the qualitative interviews it explores the dilemmas that are part of these collaborative practices. I will argue that the involvement of grandparents becomes both a resource and a challenge for parents, and by exploring parents' experiences, I will discuss the involvement of grandparents as part of managing contradictory demands and considerations of contemporary parenthood.



Oral Communications

Buying care for mom: Families negotiating marketized care for the elderly in Sweden

Sara Eldén, *Malmö University, Sweden*

Terese Anving, *Lund University, Sweden*

The marketization of elderly care in Sweden has changed understandings of and practices around care for the elderly, affecting also family relations. Since 2007, a politically subsidized market for so called RUT services - tax deductions of household services - has grown tremendously, with people over the age of 65 being a main user group (Riksrevisionen 2020:5). At the same time, it has become more difficult to get publicly funded home care for the elderly (Szebehely et al 2017). This means that elderly care is becoming stratified in relation to income, which represents a major break with precious Swedish equality politics (Andersson & Kvist 2014). It also means that increasingly, the organization, management and purchasing of care for the elderly falls upon adult children (Ulmanen 2015). Departing from semi-structured interviews with adult children and their elderly parents (n=20), this paper investigates the diversified elderly care situation on Sweden, focusing specifically family negotiations of what is “good care”, and attitudes towards responsibilities between family, market and publicly funded care actors in achieving this.

Keywords: Care for the elderly, Marketization, Intergenerational relations, Inequalities

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25th 2025
10:00 - 11:30

Thematic Session 4

Investigating risk factors for Suicidal Ideation: A study in the Autonomous Region of Madeira

Beatriz Castro, *Universidade da Madeira, Portugal*

Filipa Gomes, *Serviço de Saúde da Região Autónoma da Madeira (SESARAM), Portugal*

José Manuel Borges, *Serviço de Saúde da Região Autónoma da Madeira (SESARAM), Portugal*

Ana Lúcia Faria, *Universidade da Madeira, Portugal*

Suicide is a significant public health issue that affects families and communities worldwide each year. This study analyzes the correlations between suicidal ideation and the following variables: adverse childhood experiences, coping strategies, suicide risk, depressive symptomatology, and executive functioning. Additionally, it seeks to determine whether the reality of the Autonomous Region of Madeira aligns with the existing literature in this field, identifying the factors that best explain suicidal ideation. To achieve this, data is being collected through the Suicide Prevention Consultation Service at the SESARAM Psychiatry Department. The study includes quantitative data from the following assessment tools: the Adverse Childhood Experiences Questionnaire, the Brief COPE, the Suicide Risk Index, the Beck Depression Inventory-II (BDI- II) and the Trail Making Test (TMT). The main goal is to explore the variables that best explain suicidal ideation, identify risk factors and contribute to the development of mental health policies and practices better tailored to the region. At the moment, the sample comprises 10 participants with a mean age of 45 years old, 2 males and 8 females; 70% present a diagnosis of depressive disorder, and 50% already made at least one suicide attempt. In this sample, we have found a large negative correlation between age and suicide ideation ($r(10) = -.646$, $p=.044$), a large positive correlation between depressive symptomatology and suicide ideation ($r(10) = .722$, $p=.018$) and a large positive correlations between executive functioning (TMT) and adverse childhood events ($r(10) = .778$, $p=.008$), more specifically emotional abuse ($r(10) = .791$, $p=.006$) and physical neglect ($r(10) = .737$, $p=.015$). Preliminary findings highlight the significant associations between suicidal ideation and key psychological and cognitive factors in the studied sample. The negative correlation between age and suicidal ideation suggests that younger individuals may be at higher risk, while the strong positive correlation between depressive symptoms and suicidal ideation underscores the role of depression in suicide risk. Additionally, the link between adverse childhood experiences—particularly emotional abuse and physical neglect—and executive functioning suggests long-term cognitive impacts of early adverse experiences.

Keywords: Suicidal ideation; psychopathological symptoms; hopelessness; adverse childhood experiences.



Oral Communications

Understanding parent-child relationship in autism: The role of parents' perceptions of their children's socio-emotional abilities

Andreia P. Costa, *University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg*

It has been found that parents of autistic children interact less with their children than parents of neurotypical children (Costa et al. 2019) and that the quality of the relation worsens with increased severity of the autistic symptoms (Beurkens et al. 2013). Parents' depressive symptomatology has been pointed as a crucial factor explaining the quality of parent-child relationship in autism (Hickey et al. 2020). Furthermore, parents' perceptions of their autistic children socio-emotional abilities are related to parents' mental health (Costa et al. 2017). In the present study we analyzed the role of parents' depressive symptomatology and parents' perception of their children's socio-emotional skills in parents' reported quality of their relationship (closeness and conflict) with their child. In a sample of 37 parents (19 of autistic children; 18 of neurotypical children) of children aged 6 to 12 years, we found that parents' perception of their children's socio-emotional ability was a stronger predictor of both parent-child closeness and parent-child conflict than the diagnosis of the child or parents' depressive symptomatology. Beyond demonstrating once again the challenges that autistic children and their families face, these results highlight the important role that children's socio-emotional skills play for family interaction quality.

Child Temperament as a Moderator of the Link Between Parental Burnout and Violence: The Role of Sibling Temperament Similarity in Belgian Families

Garance Paimparet, *Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium*

Moïra Mikolajczak, *Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium*

Isabelle Roskam, *Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium*

Parental Burnout (PB) is an exhaustion syndrome resulting from chronic stress exposure in the parental role. While research has revealed a causal link between PB and violence, not every burned-out parent is violent, suggesting that moderating variables play a role. While recent studies have explored the parent's characteristics, the moderating potential of the child's characteristics has not yet been investigated. Since the child's temperament is linked to both stress in the parental role and violence, it represents a promising candidate for investigation. This study examines the role of child temperament traits as potential buffers or aggravators of violence in Belgian families using a cross-sectional design. Data were drawn from the 3.1 study of the International Investigation of Parental Burnout (IIPB) database. In a sample of N = 572 families with an only child under or equal to 8 years of age, Surgency/Extraversion was examined as a buffering variable, Negative Emotionality as an aggravating variable, and Effortful Control was investigated in an exploratory analysis. Additionally, the impact of temperament similarity or dissimilarity among siblings on violence was assessed in an independent sample of N = 510 families with two children. Findings emphasize the importance of considering the child's characteristics in the study of parental burnout and violence. Implications for future research and clinical practice are discussed.

Keywords: parental burnout, temperament, siblings, violence



Oral Communications

Family Climate Perception among High School Teenagers

Heldemerina S. Pires, *University of Évora, Portugal*

Isabel C. Almodôvar, *University of Évora, Portugal*

Maria G. Franco, *University of Madeira, Portugal*

Maria J. Beja, *University of Madeira, Portugal*

Adolescence is known to be a phase of change, and in those changes are included their family relationships and dynamics. In this regard, the main objective of this study was to observe the perception of High School teenagers regarding their Family Climate. Ninety-six students of both genders aged between 16 and 21, attending high school took part in the study. A sociodemographic questionnaire and the Family Climate Inventory (ICF) were used to collect the data. The results show that, in general, this group showed a good perception of their family climate, only with a lower perception of their family hierarchy. Regarding gender, boys seem to have a worse perception of their family climate when compared to their female peers. Finally, in terms of age, there is a correlation between aging and a worse perception family climate, meaning that older students showed a worse perception of their family climate. Keywords: Family; Adolescents; Family Climate; Conflict; Hierarchy.

Thematic Session 5

Experiencing generative care by lesbian teachers in middle adulthood

Jerzy Bandel, *University in Poznań, Poland*

Adam Mickiewicz, *University in Poznań, Poland*

In middle adulthood, generativity is a key need of focusing on the care and well-being of younger generations. It is expressed, for example, through having children, raising them, passing on traditions, or mentoring and teaching. LGBTQIA+ individuals, due to their experiences with discrimination and minority identity development, often experience generativity in specific ways, such as the need to pay particular attention to the care of younger LGBTQIA+ individuals.

This study aims to explore lesbian teachers' experience of generative care. Teachers are considered a highly generative group due to their long-term commitment to educating and raising young people. In-depth interviews were conducted with 10 lesbian women, aged 32 to 52, working in Polish schools for at least five years. The interviews were transcribed and analyzed using the Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis procedure. In six main themes was described that generative care 1) is rooted in participants life histories and values, 2) is based on relationships with students, 3) is being carried out in a planned way, 4) is something the participants benefit from, 5) may be aggravating, and 6) is influenced by external circumstances. The important conclusions, among others, are that the experiences of the discrimination and development of homosexual identity are one of the factors that take part in the formation of generativity in lesbian teachers and that teaching is an important way to fulfil generative needs outside of parenting. The findings will be discussed in relation to existing research on generativity and the social situation of LGBTQIA+ people.

Key words: education; generativity; homosexual identity; qualitative research



Oral Communications

More Than Just Single: The Relationship between Self-Defined Singlehood and Singlehood Satisfaction

Elise Thoen, University of Antwerp, Belgium
Elke Claessens, University of Antwerp, Belgium
Dimitri Mortelmans, University of Antwerp, Belgium

Following the rise in unpartnered individuals, research is becoming increasingly attentive to the multi-faceted nature of how “being single” is perceived and experienced. A broad division is made between those considering their single status as their personal choice and those who would rather have a partner (Stein, 1978). Next, how singlehood is experienced has been found to vary by demographic factors, with e.g. women more likely to be satisfied with being single than men (Hoan & MacDonald, 2024; Yang & Chang, 2024), and middle-aged adults to be less satisfied than individuals of other age groups (Yu & Hara, 2023). These variations are important to recognise, as the way the single status is defined relates to satisfaction with the situation and, in turn, overall well-being. Given the worldwide rise in singlehood, understanding how the intersection between one’s self-definition of singlehood and demographic characteristics functions in light of singlehood satisfaction is becoming increasingly relevant. This study builds upon existing research by examining in detail how individuals’ self-definition of singlehood relates to their satisfaction with being single, using the recently released 2024 singlehood module from the Gender and Generations Survey II (GGS). Chi-square tests assessed associations between key demographic characteristics (gender, age, and education level) and self-definition of singlehood, while Kruskal-Wallis tests examined how the intersections between demographics and self-definitions were associated with satisfaction with singlehood. By focusing on variations within the single population, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of how personal definitions of singlehood shape satisfaction, offering insights into the diversity of singlehood experiences. Keywords: singlehood satisfaction, self-definition, voluntary and involuntary singlehood, GGS.

Emerging Adulthood, Civic Engagement & Wellbeing during College Years - a Community Psychology Approach

Catarina Rivero, ISPA - Instituto Universitário, Portugal
Maria João Vargas-Moniz, ISPA - Instituto Universitário, Portugal
Sónia P. Gonçalves, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal

In an era of social uncertainty and growing concerns about the health of democracies, we can question: Can higher education contribute to the co-construction of a democratic society where individuals, families, and communities can thrive? What role can emerging adults play during their college years? With several challenges facing emerging adults today, particularly related to mental health, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) can play a crucial role in supporting both students' well-being and the health of democratic societies. This support can be achieved through solutions co-created between universities and communities, as outlined in the University’s Third Mission. Community Psychology has significantly contributed to this discussion by emphasizing the importance of civic participation as a cornerstone of the social and civic identity development of emerging adults, which is also vital for sustaining healthy democracies.

This study aims to reinforce the importance of the Third Mission through the promotion of students' civic engagement (CE), addressing the well-being needs of emerging adults, and responding to the current democracy crisis. We will present the results of an exploratory survey conducted with Portuguese students (n=52), covering dimensions of CE (multidimensional CE scale), well-being (well-being index; Purpose scale), and mental health (CES-D8, GAD-7), along with sociodemographic information. The results suggested an association between well-being and CE, namely on its dimensions social responsibility, Informal helping and volunteering, that are negatively associated with anxiety and depression symptoms. These findings will be analyzed alongside a systematic literature review on the same topics, considering two main databases: Web of Science and ERIC. The data analysis will provide evidence-based insights and highlight potential directions for the future.

Keywords: Civic Engagement; Democracy; Higher Education; Third Mission; Emerging Adulthood; Community Psychology.



Oral Communications

The University-to-Work Transition and Parental Attachment in Emerging Adulthood: The mediating role of Personal Agency

Sofia Sousa, *Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Portugal*

Filipa Nunes, *Universidade do Porto, Portugal*

Catarina P. Mota, *Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Portugal*

The transition from university to the labour market is marked by changes in consolidating young people's personal and occupational identities. The quality of parental attachment and a sense of personal agency can facilitate a successful transition to the labour market. This research analyses the contribution of the quality of attachment to parents to the success of the university-work transition and the mediating role of personal agency in this association. The sample comprised 217 young adults of both sexes, aged between 22 and 30. The quality of the emotional bond with the father was positively associated with professional integration and satisfaction, alongside confidence in the future of one's career. Separation anxiety towards the father is negatively associated with these variables, while separation anxiety from the mother is positively associated with professional integration and satisfaction. The sense of personal agency plays a mediating role in the association between the quality of parental attachment and the success of the transition to the labour market. The results will be discussed in the light of attachment theory, emphasising the relevance of affective relationships with significant figures in developing personal agency and the success of young adults' transition to the professional world.

Keywords: university-work transition, attachment, personal agency, young adulthood

Exploring Children's Experiences in Dissolving Stepfamilies: A Qualitative Analysis

Kimberly Jacobs, *University Antwerp, Belgium*

Sarah Van de Velde, *University Antwerp, Belgium*

Dimitri Mortelmans, *University Antwerp, Belgium*

This research delves into the experiences of children navigating the dissolution of stepfamilies, focusing on the impact on their mental health. Existing studies predominantly adopt a retrospective approach or explore long-term consequences, overlooking the critical period of the divorce itself. Acknowledging this gap, the study leverages data from Awel, an organization providing support to children and youth (6-25 years) facing various life challenges. In 2022 alone, Awel facilitated 22,165 interactions, with a notable portion related to familial struggles. This study employs a qualitative in-depth thematic analysis of chats and emails between Awel and children specifically addressing the challenges arising from the dissolution of stepfamilies. In total, 1920 chats and 1278 mails will be analyzed. Initial examination of the data reveals two distinct perspectives on the dissolution of stepfamilies. The first perspective centers on relief, where children express hope for the dissolution. For some, the separation brings relief, because they still harbor dreams of their parents reuniting, facilitated by the absence of parental relationships. These children seek support during their time within the stepfamily. The second perspective revolves around stress, capturing the experiences of children who successfully integrated into the stepfamily. For these individuals, the disruption of their established family life becomes a significant stressor. Awel receives most contacts from this group during the dissolution phase, as they seek guidance on navigating the aftermath of a second dissolution. This study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of how children give a place to their family struggles during a conversation with the helpline.



Oral Communications

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25th 2025

12:00 - 13:30

Thematic Session 6

Família de pessoas com deficiência intelectual. O cuidado na rede parental de apoio (*Families of people with intellectual disabilities. Care in the parental support network*)

Cláudia Paranhos Portela, UNEB, Brazil

Livia Fialho Costa, UNEB - UCSAL, Brazil

O tema da deficiência implica variados cenários e invoca uma compreensão da complexa relação indivíduo--família. Lidar com a deficiência é lidar com as muitas fases da deficiência, com as várias demandas da pessoa com deficiência e com os diversos desafios (afetivos, financeiros, de atribuição de significados para os processos saúde-doença etc.) enfrentados pelas famílias. Isto porque tanto a pessoa, quanto a família vivem diferentes fases, adaptações e transições próprias do dinamismo familiar. A necessidade de refletir sobre o papel que assumem as redes de apoio parental e social no cuidado e educação da pessoa com deficiência, mais especificamente a deficiência intelectual, além da importância dada ao tema nos meios educacionais com o surgimento da discussão sobre a escola inclusiva, fizeram-nos desenvolver este trabalho. Analisamos as estratégias de cuidado elaboradas e experienciadas pelas famílias diante da necessidade de cuidar, educar e socializar filhos(as) com deficiência intelectual. A pesquisa seguiu o modelo de um estudo empírico de cunho exploratório, cujo universo de participantes envolveu cuidadores(as), das camadas popular e média, com filhos(as)/parentes a partir de 18 (dezoito) anos, em processo de escolarização, de ambos os sexos, do município de Salvador, Bahia, Brasil. Privilegiou um universo de 16 (dezesesseis) famílias de pessoas com deficiência. Optamos pelo enfoque qualitativo, caracterizado pelo estabelecimento de uma relação direta do pesquisador com a situação pesquisada. A entrevista semiestruturada se constituiu no principal instrumento de coleta de dados. Ao pesquisarmos sobre aspectos que vão além do cuidado institucionalizado, este estudo olhou para o interior das famílias, dando especial atenção ao trabalho “profano” desempenhado por elas (como e quem cuida e educa a pessoa que tem baixa ou nenhuma autonomia?). Os resultados obtidos na investigação revelaram uma realidade familiar em que as mães aparecem como as principais cuidadoras dos(as) filhos(as). Evidenciou-se também que o apoio fornecido pelas redes parental e social se revelam como fatores determinantes no processo de cuidado, educação e socialização do(a) filho(a) com deficiência intelectual, tendo em vista que quanto maior é o apoio recebido, mais qualidade de vida se dá às pessoas com deficiência e às suas famílias. Quanto aos doadores das redes de entreeajuda parental e social, as mulheres se destacam como protagonistas das redes de solidariedade. Sobre a relação existente entre a escolha das redes de entreeajuda e o posicionamento das famílias na estrutura socioprofissional, a constatação é que quanto mais elevado é o grau de escolaridade e a estrutura socioprofissional dos(as) cuidadores(as), menor é a proporção dos apoios recebidos. Por último, o que pudemos concluir é que as pessoas eleitas pelos(as) cuidadores(as) para compartilhar seus sentimentos sobre a criação, educação e socialização dos(as) filhos(as), sobretudo daqueles com deficiência, são as pessoas que usufruem da sua confiança. Neste caso, embora presentes, os parentes consanguíneos ou afins não aparecem como os únicos sujeitos privilegiados nas relações de apoio e entreeajuda. Amigos e mesmo terapeutas se revelam, com suas especificidades, como agentes importantes no processo de cuidado. O mapeamento da rede de relacionamentos e dos recursos sociais acessados pelas famílias participantes dessa investigação revelou o entrelaçamento de relações entre os familiares, demais parentes, amigos, vizinhos, profissionais, organizações privadas e serviços públicos.



Oral Communications

Mixed national family constellations: a qualitative study on their impact on identity construal processes in emerging adults

Elke Murdock, *University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg*

Emilie Backes, *University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg*

Given migration flows and increased interconnectedness across societies, more and more children are growing up in mixed national families and/or outside their or their parents' country of birth. Growing up, these children are exposed to different cultural influences and must navigate, negotiate and integrate these. The present qualitative study investigated how persons growing up in different mixed national family constellations perceive parental efforts to transfer traditions, values and language and how this affects their self-perception and identity construal strategies. Building on the Multicultural Identity Framework (Yampolsky et al., 2013), we investigated the preference for categorization, compartmentalization or integration strategy and explored the reasons why. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with nine young adults (age range between 19 and 23 years) growing up in different family constellations. Some had mono-national, others mixed-national parents - but all grew up in a country different to their parents' nationalities. Some parents were still together - others were separated. We investigated to what extent and how these microecological factors within the family structure impact the identity construal process of emerging adults. The study shows that individual family constellations and cultural influences affect identity strategies in transcultural contexts in a multifaceted way. In our sample, participants growing up in mono-national families in a third country tended to exhibit bicultural competence and positive attitudes towards their cultural influences and followed an integration strategy. In mixed-national families, language transmission could be hampered, especially in separated families, and different identity strategies were adopted. The findings will be explained and implications discussed.

Dynamics of Parent-Child Communication about Inherited Conditions: Genetic Healthcare Professionals' Roles and Perspectives

Catarina Seidi, *University of Aveiro, University of Porto, Portugal*

Liliana Sousa, *University of Aveiro, Portugal*

Álvaro Mendes, *University of Porto, Portugal*

Inherited genetic conditions (IGCs) present challenges extending beyond medical concerns, deeply impacting families' emotional, psychological and relational dynamics. Difficulties arise when parents communicate sensitive and often distressing information to their children (<18 years). Parents frequently struggle between protecting their children and fostering open communication. This dilemma is influenced by many factors, including family dynamics and emotional readiness of both parents and children, impacting how and when such conversations occur. This presentation explores the dynamics of parent-child communication about IGCs, drawing on two complementary studies. The first, a scoping review, identified five studies and highlighted a lack of research on how genetic healthcare professionals (GHPs) perceive and support these conversations. The second, a quantitative study with a sample of 32 Portuguese GHPs, explored their attitudes, clinical practices, and perceptions of how parents approach discussing IGCs with their children. Findings from both studies reveal that while GHPs feel responsible for facilitating parent-child communication and acknowledge parents' responsibility in initiating these discussions, they often lack training to provide effective support. Current clinical practices tend to focus on informing parents about the need to communicate with their children but offer limited guidance on navigating these conversations tailored to the child's developmental stage and within the family context. Given the increasing accessibility of genetic testing and the transgenerational impact of IGCs, there is a pressing need for family-centered approaches. This includes enhancing GHPs' training in family system evaluation and consultation, as well as developing tailored interventions to better support parents in managing these complex discussions.

Keywords: genetic counselling; inherited conditions; family communication; family dynamics; healthcare professionals



Oral Communications

The parent´s perspective of children with Dyslexia on school and family support

Inês Ferraz, *Universidade da Madeira, Portugal*

Carla Gonçalves, *Universidade da Madeira, Portugal*

Children with a Specific Learning Disorder with a reading deficit (Dyslexia) have difficulties in acquiring reading. It is now known that the acquisition of this complex skill is influenced by family involvement. Taking into account the role of the family, the following objectives were set: to analyze how parents understand the process of diagnosing Dyslexia; to identify the measures implemented by the school; to recognize the agents who provide support to children; to identify the main needs of parents. The research involved 86 parents. A questionnaire was used which was filled in online by the parents of children with Dyslexia. Most of the parents had a university or secondary education. As far as the children were concerned, no significant differences were observed in terms of gender. The measures used by schools to support children with dyslexia were those recommended in the legislation in force - Decree-Law 54/2018 of 6 July - and teacher support. The results show that the majority of children benefit from support outside the school context. For parents, support at home is seen as one of the main factors for success at school. However, they identify teachers' lack of knowledge about dyslexia and non-compliance with established pedagogical measures as obstacles. Parents expressed concerns about the future and their children's lack of motivation to study, as well as their difficulties in achieving the proposed objectives. The results reinforce the importance of effective coordination between school and family, emphasising that this partnership is fundamental for the well-being of children and families.

Keywords: family; dyslexia; parents' perspective; support



Oral Communications

Thematic Session 7 (Room 11)

Parenthood Unfiltered: How Parental Regret Impacts Sexual Life and Happiness

Dominika Bartoszak, *Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland*

Natalia Andrzejczyk, *Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland*

This study uniquely contributes to psychology by exploring parental regret's psychological and relational consequences. Specifically, it examines how parental regret and burnout affect sexual satisfaction and overall life satisfaction. Additionally, it investigates the distinctive role of relationship satisfaction and adaptive coping strategies in mitigating the potential effects of these experiences.

Methods: The research involved a sample of 70 parents aged 18-40, collected via online surveys addressed to individuals in reproductive age groups. The study utilized various validated tools, including the Parental Burnout Assessment, Davies Sexual Satisfaction Scale, New Sexual Satisfaction Scale, and Satisfaction with Life Scale. Recruitment was conducted through targeted social media outreach to groups of parents expressing regret about parenthood and broader public announcements. Data analysis was performed using SPSS.

Results: The findings of this study are significant. They reveal that parents who regret their decision to have children report significantly lower levels of sexual satisfaction and overall life satisfaction compared to those who do not. Parental burnout was identified as a key factor exacerbating these outcomes. Relationship satisfaction and effective coping strategies were found to moderate these effects, helping to buffer the negative impact of parental regret.

Conclusion: Regretting parenthood and experiencing parental burnout have profound implications for psychological and relational health. Addressing these issues in therapeutic and preventive interventions may offer hope for the quality of life and intimate relationships of parents facing these challenges.

Keywords: parental regret, parental burnout, sexual satisfaction, life satisfaction, relationship satisfaction, coping strategies

Solo Parenting in Slovakia: How Social Networks and Everyday Geographies Shape Well-Being

Alena Rochovska, *Comenius University, Bratislava*

Single-parent families in urban settings face interconnected challenges affecting both material well-being and social inclusion. While material deprivation—linked to income insecurity, inadequate housing, and limited access to basic services—is well-documented, social exclusion remains an equally pressing concern, significantly influencing emotional and psychological well-being.

This study examines how social networks, and their geographies shape the well-being of single parents. Supportive social ties provide emotional validation, practical assistance, and a sense of belonging, whereas weak or absent networks contribute not only to difficulties in reconciling work and family life, but also to social isolation and stress. Geography plays a significant role in shaping these social networks. Geographic factors, such as proximity to family, availability of community spaces, and neighbourhood cohesion, further influence these experiences, either reinforcing or mitigating social exclusion.

The study is based on 15 in-depth semi-structured interviews with single parents in urban Slovakia. Narrative analysis was used to capture the complexity of participants' lives, experiences, and behaviours, providing deeper insight into their coping strategies for material deprivation, the role of social networks, and the impact of spatial factors on daily life. Findings reveal that strong social connections enhance resilience, while challenges arise when spatial relationships—such as distances between home, work, and key social ties—limit access to support and resources.



Oral Communications

Transnational Childhood Experiences and Adulthood Trajectories: A Linked Lives Perspective

Ginte Martinkene, *Vilnius University, Lithuania*

Irma Budginaite-Mackine, *Vilnius University, Lithuania*

This article explores the complexity of adulthood as a life course stage through the lens of the “linked lives” perspective. Drawing on qualitative in-depth interviews with 18 young adults (aged 18-35) from Lithuania who experienced transnational life during childhood, the study employs a methodologically innovative approach, combining timelines and visual mapping methods. The findings reveal that the life course of young adults is shaped not only by their individual readiness to take on adult responsibilities but also by the family and social contexts surrounding key life events. Experiences of living apart from parents during childhood result in a distinct life course trajectories in adulthood, articulated through linear, fragmented and projective life course narratives. This research advances sociological understanding of family dynamics and adulthood, emphasising the important role of “linked lives” in shaping individual trajectories.

Keywords: adulthood, life course, transnational families

Early Childhood Intervention: Perspectives of Families

Vânia Oliveira, *University of Porto, Portugal*

C. Grande, *University of Porto, Portugal*

Background and Aims: This study explores families' perceptions regarding the professional practices implemented by Local Early Intervention Teams within the Portuguese National System of Early Childhood Intervention³, fourteen years after lawmakers enacted Decree-Law 281/2009, establishing guidelines for early childhood intervention services in Portugal. The study's primary objective is to evaluate the effectiveness of the current intervention practices from the families' perspective and identify potential areas for improvement to ensure a more family-centered approach.

Method: The study employed a qualitative research design, utilizing semi-structured interviews to gather in-depth insights from families. Thirty-five families with children between 0 and 6 years (receiving services from Early Intervention Teams for at least two years) participated in the study. Collected data were subjected to content analysis, allowing the identification and categorizing of recurring themes and key concerns expressed by the participants.

Results: Findings revealed that, overall, families expressed a general sense of satisfaction with the support and services provided by the professionals. However, several respondents highlighted gaps in implementing a genuinely family-centered approach, emphasizing the need for more individualized support and greater collaboration between professionals and families. The study identified key challenges families face, such as communication barriers, limited resources, and the need for personalized interventions. Families also provided valuable feedback to improve the quality and responsiveness of early intervention services.

Conclusion and Implications: This study offers key insights to enhance Early Childhood Intervention services under SNIPI by incorporating family feedback. It underscores the importance of ongoing evaluation and adaptation to better address the needs of families.

Keywords: Early Intervention; family-centered approach; Qualitative study



Oral Communications

Do Values Matter in Parenting? Findings and Insights from a Psychosocial Study with Mothers and Fathers of Adolescents

Daniela Barni, *University of Bergamo, Italy, Italy*

Francesca Danioni, *Catholic University of Milan, Italy*

Claudia Russo, *European University of Rome, Italy*

Valentina Valtulini, *University of Bergamo, Italy*

Ioana Zagrean, *LUMSA University of Rome, Italy*

This study examines the relationship between parents' values and their parenting styles. Although values are widely recognized as guiding principles in life and crucial factors in intergenerational and family relations and dynamics, few studies have examined their role in shaping individual and couple parenting practices. These few studies have mainly conceptualized parental values as standards of desirability that guide parents' decisions in selecting approaches to child-rearing. Building on Schwartz's Theory of Basic Human Values, the present contribution aims to explore the diverse roles of parents' values (i.e., personal values), the values they perceive their adolescent children hold (i.e., perceived children's values), and those they wish to transmit to them (i.e., socialization values). In doing so, the study considers the interdependence between parents, as it is reasonable to expect that the values held by both partners have a reciprocal impact on behaviors and attitudes, just as parenting styles can mutually affect each other. The sample consists of 418 Italian parental couples (mothers: $M_{age} = 44.93$, $SD = 4.68$; fathers: $M_{age} = 48.19$, $SD = 5.46$), all with at least one adolescent child. They separately completed a self-report questionnaire, including the Portrait Values Questionnaire and the Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire. The data analysis is still in progress, and the forthcoming results will be discussed in relation to their potential implications for parenting and the enhancement of parent-child relationship quality during adolescence.

Keywords: values, parenting styles, parent-child relationship quality, adolescence.



Oral Communications

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25th 2025

12:00 - 13:30

Thematic Session 8

Shifting Roles and Disrupted Identities: The Impact of Forced Displacement on Syrian Refugee Families in Germany

Shaden Sabouni, *Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany*

The experience of forced displacement profoundly alters the familial dynamics of Syrian refugees, reshaping roles, positionality, and identities (Taleb et al., 2015). Based on ethnographic research with 24 Syrian families living in Germany, this paper explores how social changes brought by displacement disrupted the traditional roles within refugee families, focusing on fathers, mothers, and adolescents, each navigating a new reality in exile. Through in-depth interviews, fieldwork conducted between 2022 and 2024, and participant observation, I examine how these family members, once attached by familiar social norms, are forced to assume new positions, often without their consent, in response to the challenges of integration into Germany.

Methodology: The study employed a qualitative ethnographic approach to capture the nuanced experiences of Syrian refugee families in Germany. The sample consisted of 24 Syrian families residing in various areas across Germany, selected through purposive sampling to ensure diversity in terms of family size, socioeconomic background, and length of residence in Germany. Each family included at least one father, one mother, and one adolescent aged between 13 and 18 years, allowing for a comprehensive exploration of intergenerational dynamics. Data collection involved three primary methods: (1) in-depth semi-structured interviews conducted with each family member individually, focusing on their experiences of displacement, role changes, and integration challenges; (2) participant observation in family settings, community gatherings, and integration programs to contextualize the interview data; and (3) field notes documenting interactions, behaviors, and environmental factors influencing family dynamics. Interviews were conducted in Arabic, and later transcribed and analyzed using thematic analysis to identify recurring patterns and themes.

The study followed to ethical research practices, including obtaining informed consent from all participants, ensuring confidentiality, and providing access to psychological support services for participants who expressed distress during the research process. The longitudinal nature of the fieldwork, conducted over two years, allowed for the observation of evolving family dynamics and the long-term impacts of displacement on roles and identities.

Findings: For fathers, the loss of their societal roles and professional identities leads to a profound sense of marginalization and emotional isolation. Their inability to re-establish themselves as providers and protectors within the family unit fosters a crisis of identity and purpose. Mothers, in turn, often face the dual burden of managing the emotional and daily challenges of resettlement while striving to maintain the continuity of their roles as nurturers and protectors. Adolescents, caught between their parents' shifting positions and the societal pressures of their new environment, experience a sense of loss, both from their families and their peers, complicating their integration and sense of belonging.

This study sheds light on the hidden, yet deeply significant, transformations within refugee families and their complex negotiations of power, authority, and family bonds. It emphasizes how the effects of displacement extend beyond physical relocation, deeply affecting familial relationships, and reveals the broader implications for integration and family figuration in a new sociocultural context. Ultimately, this research underscores the need for more comprehensive approaches to refugee integration that acknowledge the profound, sometimes invisible, changes within the family unit.



Oral Communications

Arranged marriage, marginalization and intergenerational vulnerabilities in migrant households

Naema Tahir, *UCERF Utrecht University, Netherlands*

This paper examines intergenerational vulnerabilities in migrant households that practise the arranged marriage. It argues that such vulnerabilities are misunderstood in analyses on the arranged marriage that emphasise individual consent. Marital consent is interpreted to support individual choice and the language thereof captures the realization of the individual self and free will. However, this language is unable to address dynamics in the arranged marriage system in which individuals act as members of an interconnected family in which parental involvement is highly valued. Not recognising that parental authority and endorsement speak to the well-being of those involved in arranged marriage systems leads to marginalization of migrant families that practise said systems. In addition, it is only through giving articulation to the role of parental authority and familial endorsement that intergenerational vulnerabilities in migrant households practising arranged marriage can be adequately understood and that can result in mitigating those very vulnerabilities.

“Mind the gap”: Exploring international female students’ challenges and experiences associated with transnational intergenerational care and minority language revitalisation via the use of social media in the post-Covid-19 era

Eleni Meletiadou, *London Metropolitan University, United Kingdom*

Higher education Institutions (HEIs) in the UK have recently welcomed an increasing number of international students - especially women - who face numerous challenges as they have to leave their families (minor children and aging parents) behind physically but maintain contact digitally. The current study, therefore, aimed to: (a) explore the experiences and more specifically the barriers female international students living in transnational families (TNFs) face in the post-COVID-19 era as they try to balance their caring responsibilities and their studies, and (b) unravel how HEI can support female international students living in TNFs. This comparative study used a mixed methods approach. The research team collected data from 60 female international students studying in the UK and Turkey using semi-structured interviews and an online survey. Thematic analysis was used to analyze the qualitative findings of the study. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the quantitative findings of the project. The current study unveiled the gendered challenges, (e.g., academic, personal, digital, and professional) female international students living in TNFs face. It also offers recommendations on how HEIs can support these students and facilitate communication with their families as HEIs need to cater to their international students and their families’ well-being and mental health.



Oral Communications

Thematic Session 9

Contributions to Social Diagnosis in Situations of Danger for Children/Youth and Their families within Promotion and Protection Process

Ana L. Santos, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Portugal

Ana C. Oliveira, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Portugal

This study analyzes the fundamental elements of social diagnosis in cases of children and young people at risk, examining how socioeconomic transitions and public policies impact family assessment dimensions. Through a literature review and case study, we investigate the adequacy of diagnostic tools in the face of rapid social, economic, and political changes affecting Portuguese families. The research explores the interconnection between family vulnerability indicators and macro-structural factors such as social protection policies, labor market conditions, and access to community resources. The study aims to contribute to the development of diagnostic methodologies that better capture the dynamics between families' internal challenges and external systemic influences, providing a more accurate understanding of situations of danger in the context of contemporary social transformations.

Keywords: Social diagnosis, Family transitions, Social Policy, Socioeconomic vulnerability

Analyzing the work developed by the Family Support and Parental Counseling Center (CAFAP) of Ílhavo (Portugal) over the last ten years: challenges and good practices

Fátima Oliveira, CAFAP, Portugal

Lara Garcia, CAFAP, Portugal

Diana Cunha, CAFAP, GOVCOPP, Universidade de Aveiro, Portugal

The present work aims to characterize the families that were users of CAFAP in Ílhavo ($n = 263$), in the last decade, and their respective intervention processes, considering variables such as the year the process was opened, the referring entity, the reasons for the referral and for closing the process, number of household members, age of minors, among others. From this general portrait, we intend to reflect on the main challenges of the work carried out in the field of family intervention in this context and highlight good practices. Descriptive statistics and group comparisons (Chi-square tests) were performed. The results show little variability in the data over the ten years analyzed. It was highlighted that the majority of monitoring requests are made by entities such as the Commission for the Protection of Children and Adolescents (CPCJ) or the Technical Advisory Sector for the Courts (SATT). The main reasons are related to the presence of multiple risk indicators (multi-challenged families), highlighting parental neglect. The intervention processes occurred mainly within the scope of family preservation and are closed, in most cases, because the intervention plan was fulfilled or because the families did not accept CAFAP's collaboration. We reflected on the role/recognition of CAFAP as a first-line psychosocial intervention entity, namely, on the challenges of intervention in a preventive and voluntary logic to the detriment of the mandated intervention that characterizes most processes. Good intervention practices in this context were also highlighted.

Keywords: Multi-challenged families; systemic family intervention; CAFAP



Oral Communications

Breaking the Cycle of Child Poverty: Narratives from families and professionals working with families in Portugal

Helena Carvalho, Universidade do Porto, Portugal

Catarina Gomes, Universidade do Porto, Portugal

Paula Matos, Universidade do Porto, Portugal

In 2022, approximately 20 million children in Europe faced the risk of poverty, intensifying the urgency to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of ending poverty and the European Pillars of Social Rights target to reduce poverty by 2030. Children, disproportionately affected by poverty, endure long-term developmental and psychological challenges that undermine their well-being and societal economic prosperity. Portugal exemplifies this crisis, with 21% of families living on minimum wage amidst rising living costs and insufficient social protection measures.

The research project RESPUBLICA aims to advance knowledge on the multidimensional nature of poverty and contribute to the development of evidence-based surveillance systems to inform policy monitoring. This presentation explores the lived experiences of families facing economic deprivation and evaluates the impact of family policies on poverty, social exclusion, and intergenerational adversity. Using data from 20 semi-structured interviews with families and five focus groups with frontline workers from the Family Support and Parental Counseling Centers, a thematic analysis identified key themes underlying the intergenerational transmission of poverty and exclusion, including the discontinuation of support measures, fragmented multiservice responses, the absence of systematic and long-term evaluations, and a lack of effective tools to address child and family poverty. The findings highlight significant gaps in the operationalization of current policies measures and emphasize the need for preventative, effective interventions to support families and break cycles of adversity. By engaging families and professionals, RESPUBLICA aims to shape policies with real-world expertise to help reduce child poverty by 2030.

Key words: Child Poverty, Family Policy, Social Exclusion, Intergenerational Adversity

Balancing Work, Finances, and Parenthood: Effects on Mental Health and Parenting

Manon Hoedt, *Ghent University, Belgium*

Sara De Bruyn, *University of Antwerp, Belgium*

Edwin Wouters, *University of Antwerp, Belgium*

Bart Boets, *Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium*

Koen Ponnet, *Ghent University, Belgium*

The birth of a child profoundly impacts a family, requiring both parents to navigate significant adjustments and challenges. These challenges manifest on both individual and relational levels. On the individual level, mental health concerns are prevalent, with 13% of new mothers experiencing mental disorders. On the financial level, childbirth-related expenses vary depending on factors such as delivery method, healthcare coverage, and additional necessities like baby supplies and daycare. In Belgium, these costs range from €350 per month (excluding daycare) to as much as 15% of a household's net income. The financial strain can, in turn, negatively affect parents' mental well-being.

Despite these pressures, limited research has examined the role of work-life balance in young families. Parents of infants, who require more time and attention, experience higher levels of work-family conflict than those with older children. Drawing on the Family Stress Model (FSM) and work-life balance literature, this study explores how financial and work-related factors influence the mental health and parenting abilities of parents with six-month-old children. Initial findings provide evidence of the complex interplay between financial stress, work-life balance, mental well-being, and parenting. A detailed analysis of the results will be presented at the conference.

Key words: Parental mental health; Parental abilities; Family Stress Model; Work Life Balance



Oral Communications

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25th 2025

16:30 - 18:00

Thematic Session 10

Are there Ways to Increase the Willingness to Participate in Large-Scale Surveys? Lessons Learned from Recruiting Paired-Marital Couples

Takayuki Sasaki, Tsuda University, Japan

Family researchers have attempted to collect data from multiple informants to understand family dynamics. However, there are still important questions that are left unanswered. One of the greatest challenges is to reduce biases (e.g., sampling biases, selection biases, response biases, etc.). The aim of the present study is to investigate whether a sample agreed to recruit his or her spouse in a survey represents the population by using a randomized controlled trial. A national sample of 3,200 adults with a one-year-old child will be split into a half randomly. One group is asked to participate in a survey individually, and the other group is asked to recruit his or her spouse. A list experiment will also be conducted to estimate what percentage of participants attempt to answer the survey by false pretenses. Research questions of the present study are as follows. Are marital couples who participated in the survey more than those who didn't likely in positive marital relationships (selection biases)? Do marital couples used mobile phones to answer survey questions return more honest answers than couples used traditional survey modes (social desirability biases)? Are spousal questionnaire really answered by target respondents' spouses (sampling biases)? Response rates and response patterns will be compared between control group and treatment groups. The empirical findings in this study expands our understanding of how we should collect data from marital couples.

Keywords : survey bias, mixed-mode, dyadic data, randomized controlled trial (RCT), list experiment, willingness to participate (WTP)

Ethical Commitments and Dilemmas in Research with Young Children and Families

Dorte Kousholt, Aarhus University, Denmark

Pernille Juhl, Roskilde University, Denmark

Ethical Commitments and Dilemmas in Research with Young Children and Families

In this paper we discuss the situated ethics of researching the everyday lives of children and families. Research conducted in close collaboration with participants in everyday contexts presents researchers with multiple ethical dilemmas involving doubt, uncertainty, often discomfort, conflicting emotions, and conflicting possibilities for action. However, the ethics literature often focuses primarily on standardized procedures, such as obtaining informed consent, preventing harm, and ensuring anonymity. While such procedures provide an important foundation for ethical reflection, they address only a limited part of the ethical concerns in research. Moreover, they often fall short of guiding the researcher's decisions when faced with ethical challenges in concrete situations at different stages of the research process: from entry to exit. We propose the formulation of specific ethical commitments that are grounded in the methodological approach and concrete conditions of a given research project. In addition, we explore the connections between ethical commitments, theoretical stances, and research ambitions, and how these connections can guide reflection and decisions about how to handle ethical dilemmas throughout the research process. We will draw on examples from our research on the everyday lives of children and parents, using social practice theory and collaborative research as starting points.

Keywords: Situated Ethics; Collaborative Research with Young Children and Families; Ethical commitments; Ethical dilemmas; Social Practice Theory



Oral Communications

Stereotypes or New Narratives? An Exploration of Changing Frames of Singlehood in Belgian Newspapers and Magazines

Margot Bracke, *University of Antwerp, Belgium*

Dries Van Gasse, *University of Antwerp, Belgium*

Dimitri Mortelmans, *University of Antwerp, Belgium*

Singlehood is on the rise, with more than one-fifth of the European adult population living alone (with or without children). Along with this social and demographic trend, single people still experience negative stereotyping and discrimination towards their relationship status on various domains, coined by DePaulo and Morris (2005) as singlism. While contemporary society remains relationship-centered, a growing single culture emerged, reflected in online communities and social events, a growing body of literature focussing on singlehood, and more visibility of single individuals in print and popular media. Moreover, single people are increasingly portrayed as independent and socially fulfilled rather than simply awaiting romantic partnership.

This study will explore these portrayals of single individuals, as media play a crucial role in shaping public perceptions, with cultivation theory suggesting that repeated exposure to media representations influences societal norms and beliefs. However, little research has examined how newspapers and magazines frame singlehood over time. This study addresses this gap by analysing how single individuals are framed in Belgian newspapers and magazines over time. Using SAS Viya Visual Text Analytics, we examined 7,744 articles published between January 1, 2000, and January 31, 2025, filtering for those that included the word “single” in the title or introduction. In our analysis we identified dominant frames and counter-frames surrounding singlehood. Our findings contribute to the theoretical discourse by expanding the focus beyond film and television portrayals, which often centre on single women. Moreover, this research has social relevance, as media framings of singlehood may influence public perceptions and reinforce—or challenge—stereotypical narratives about single or family life.

Keywords: Singleness, stereotypes, framing, alternative family forms

Representations of Family in Popular Culture: Mother's Day in Spanish Television

Mercedes Carbayo Abengozar, *Maynooth University, Ireland*

The concept of family, as something contextual and socially dynamic, is largely shaped by the perceptions and representations we consume through popular culture: television, streaming platforms, songs, films, etc. In this sense, every year, Spanish public television recommends a series of films to watch “with the family” on Mother's Day, emphasizing the significance of the maternal figure in the conception of the family. In this presentation, I aim to explore the films recommended from 2020, when I conducted my first study, to 2025, and examine which films are repeated, which are new, the themes, and whether there are differences between those directed by men or women, and, most importantly, what themes are chosen. In sum, do the selected films reflect the “horizon of expectations” of the audience (Jauss, cited in Neale 2003, 171)? What model(s) of family are chosen when we consume culture? What does this tell us about our society's constitution and support of the family? This research follows a content analysis approach focusing on thematic content, gender representation among directors, and recurring patterns. Additionally, it draws from theoretical frameworks such as Jauss's horizon of expectations to assess audience anticipation and reception. Preliminary findings suggest a shift toward more diverse family representations in recent years, with an increasing presence of non-traditional family models. There is also a noticeable difference in the thematic choices between male and female directors, with female-directed films often focusing on exploring social issues rather than individual circumstances.

Keywords: Mother's Day, family television, family films.



Oral Communications

Thematic Session 11

Measuring the standard of living in shared care families ' challenges and insights

Mikko Niemelä, *University of Turku; Finland*

Mia Hakovirta, *University of Turku, Finland*

Markus Jäntti, *Stockholm University; Sweden*

Eija Lindroos, *University of Turku; Finland*

Mari Haapanen, *University of Turku; Finland*

An increasing number of children with parents who are separated are living in two households. However, when measuring these households' standard of living, current income distribution and poverty statistics still are based on traditional assumptions concerning household and family structures, the unit of analysis and the pooling of resources within each household. This presentation aims to acquire a better understanding of how current research in the traditional income distribution literature approaches complex family configurations and what kind of implications these approaches pose for measuring the economic well-being of children living in two homes. We provide insights on how to measure the economic standard of living in shared care families, particularly children who spend almost equal time in two homes. These aims are related to research gaps identified in extant literature on separated families. To address these issues, discussing the problems involved, highlighting some of these issues' magnitude and proposing ways to reduce bias in estimates of income inequality and poverty in post-separation families we have reviewed the previous literature. We demonstrate a need to revise current theoretical and empirical assumptions to estimate the standard of living of children and parents in shared care families accurately.

Informal Families in Law: Addressing Gaps in Recognition and Responsibility

Wendy M. Schrama, *Utrecht University, Netherlands*

The question of whether society should place greater or lesser reliance on families remains a pressing one. Families are heavily regulated by the state, which imposes numerous expectations about their composition and responsibilities. In this context, the roles of the state, families, and individuals are carefully delineated. Historically, legal systems have prioritized married families, but informal cohabitation has become increasingly common in many countries. Despite this societal shift toward more informal family structures, the law often fails to reflect or support these changes. These emerging family forms challenge traditional models and call for legal recognition and adaptation. This paper explores the legal treatment of informal families, with a particular focus on the expectations placed upon them. Using Dutch law as a case study, this paper will show how the concept of family has expanded to include a broader range of nuclear families, for example, in areas such as social security. Yet, significant legal disparities remain in how informal partner relationships are treated, especially in comparison to married families. These disparities extend to the legal implications for both the partner relationship and their children, leaving informal families at a disadvantage. Given the risk of separation, which is particularly high for mothers with lower education levels, these disparities influence poverty rates in single mother families. The paper will address the challenges arising from these legal gaps and propose potential solutions. At the same time, it highlights notable trends in the allocation of family responsibilities and the provision of state support. By examining these issues, this paper aims to contribute to the broader discussion of whether informal families should receive more robust legal recognition and how legal systems might adapt to address the evolving nature of family life. This paper contributes to the conference's aim by giving input for the interdisciplinary debate necessary to tackle the problem of the law lagging behind reality.



Oral Communications

Partner-reported or Perceived Parental Gatekeeping? What is More Important in Shaping First-Time Parents' Parental Identity?

Kamil Janowicz, *SWPS University, Poland*

Konrad Piotrowski, *SWPS University, Poland*

Parental gatekeeping is an aspect of the co-parenting relationship, which refers to how one parent influences the second parent's functioning in a parental role. Although some theoretical work suggested that someone's parental gatekeeping may influence the second parent's parental identity, it was not empirically verified yet. Thus, we conducted dyadic research to investigate this topic. Moreover, we considered both declared (by one parent) parental gatekeeping and how the second parent perceives it.

We recruited 347 dyads of first-time parents with a child up to three years old. Parents were aged from 21 to 46 ($M = 31.19$; $SD = 4.05$). Parental identity processes were measured by the Utrecht Management of Identity Commitments Scale adopted for a parental domain, while parental gatekeeping was by the Parental Gatekeeping Scale.

As initial correlational analyses revealed differences between mothers and fathers in terms of associations between parental gatekeeping (both partner-reported and perceived) and parental identity, further analyses (structural equation modelling) were conducted separately for mothers and fathers. We found that the pattern of these associations was completely different for mothers and fathers. For mothers, higher encouragement reported by a partner was the main predictor of the mother's parental identity processes, while for fathers, the most important was their perception of their partner's encouragement.

Our findings partially (for mothers) confirmed theoretical assumptions that one's partner's gatekeeping may shape the second parent's parental identity. Moreover, in some cases (mostly for fathers), one's perception of a partner's behaviors seems to be more important, which has significant practical implications for working with couples.

Young People's Propensity to Parenthood in Italy: Between Proximity Networks and Institutional Distrust

G. Masullo, *University of Salerno, Italy*

F. Pillozzi, *"Dante Alighieri" University for Foreigners of Reggio Calabria, Italy*

F. Cubeddu, *Institute for Research on Population and Social Policies-National Research Council (IRPPS-CNR), Italy*

M. Matteo, *University of Salerno; Italy*

E. Mangone, *University of Salerno; Italy*

Birth rate data in Italy continue to be discouraging and increasingly take on the character of a structural problem given the continuous demographic decline not accompanied by significant structural policies to promote parenthood and support the births of fertile generations. Regarding the average number of children per woman in Italy for 2023, the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) has provided a projection of 1.20, this data, although due to the structural reduction of the female population of childbearing age (15-50 years), is also linked to the postponement over time of the choice to have a child (average age of a woman at the first child is 32.4 years).

Considering this premise, the proposal presents the results of a national survey that wanted to investigate the "propensity to parenthood in young Italians" - whose biographies seem to be "biographies without a project" - to be able to prepare an adequate evaluation and planning of interventions to promote parenthood. Net of other factors, the data shows that the social capital possessed (both in terms of institutional trust and in terms of resources to be mobilized in case of need) plays an important role in orienting young people about the decision to bring a child into the world in the future. These aspects lead to the conclusion that policies are needed that, in "promoting" paths of support for parenthood, must call into play a more active role played by the community of proximity, both formal and informal.

Keywords: Parenthood, Italy, Proximity network, Institutional distrust.



Oral Communications

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25th 2025
16:30 - 18:00

Thematic Session 12

The Effect of Commitment on Marital Adjustment: A Study in Spanish-Speaking Couples in Transition to Marriage

Gabriela Garcia-Zavala, *Universidad Católica San Pablo, Peru*

Alfonso Osorio, *Universidad de Navarra, Spain*

Jokin de Irala, *Universidad de Navarra, Spain*

The objective of this study was to examine the effect of commitment on marital adjustment. A prospective cohort study was conducted to explore this by following couples from the engagement period until the early years of marriage, specifically during the transition to marriage. A total of 112 couples (N = 224) completed a questionnaire both before marriage and approximately two years after marriage. Overall, 68% of participants lived in Spain and 32% in Latin America countries. We expected that previous commitment would predict later relationship adjustment, and our findings partially supported this hypothesis. An Actor-Partner Interdependence Model (APIM) was used to evaluate this, and only one actor effect was found significant, which was in women. No significant partner effects were observed. Additionally, correlations were calculated, revealing that men's commitment was significantly positively related to women's adjustment. We also evaluated whether the difference in commitment levels within the couple and the weak-link (the lowest commitment score between the members of each couple) were associated with marital adjustment. We found only one significant correlation, which was between the weak-link and adjustment in women. These findings highlight the importance of addressing commitment in premarital preparation programs to promote better marital adjustment in the early years of marriage, at least for women. It is essential to consider that the transition to marriage is characterized by its volitional nature, which may lead couples to be more open to receiving education and guidance during this time.

Keywords: commitment, marital adjustment, marital transition, weak-link.

Gendered positions constructed in couples therapy for intimate partner violence

Hautala, Anni, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

Joanna Kallio, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

Juha Holma, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

This study examined the gendered positions of women and men constructed in multi-couple group therapy for intimate partner violence (IPV). The data, consisting of videotapes and transcriptions of talk from 12 multi-couple group therapy sessions, were analyzed using discourse analysis. Four positions of women were identified: the unpredictable, the nagger, the woman who stays, and the caring woman. Five different positions of men were identified: the authoritarian, the straight, the egalitarian, the man who leaves, and the self-caring man. Both men and women constructed gendered positions, but men constructed positions more than women. Women's positions were mainly related to relationships and ways of interacting, some of which drew on traits of traditional femininity. Positions of men were constructed primarily based on conventional masculinity, such as power and heterosexuality. We also identified one egalitarian position of men relating to parenthood. By maintaining traditional gender positions, gender-role expectations are repeated. It is important to question and eradicate harmful positions of women and men to change the ideas and beliefs that sustain violence.

Keywords: gendered positions, family roles, family violence



Oral Communications

The distribution of gender and labour force participation & filial support types in Europe and Israel

Zeynep Zumer Batur, *University of Antwerp, Belgium*

Jeroen Vermunt, *Tilburg University, Netherlands*

Dimitri Mortelmans, *University of Antwerp, Belgium*

Jorik Vergauwen, *University of Antwerp, Belgium*

Using latent Markov analysis, we classified filial support into seven distinct states, ranging from no support to very intense support. A multi-level latent approach was applied to examine the relationship between filial support types and the gender and employment status of adult children, along with the influence of country groups. Our analysis revealed three dominant country clusters characterized by different support types: low involvement in support, moderate involvement in support, and higher involvement in support. Significant differences in filial support patterns were observed based on gender and employment status. Daughters were more likely to provide intensive care compared to sons, with this disparity persisting even when comparing employed daughters to unemployed sons. In countries where low involvement or higher involvement in support prevailed, approximately 20% of unemployed sons offered intensive care, with this figure tripling in countries focused on moderate involvement in support. Employed sons, by contrast, provided lower levels of support. Daughters, regardless of employment status, showed a greater likelihood of providing intensive care, particularly in moderate involvement country cluster (81% of unemployed daughters), as compared to low involvement in support (50%) and higher involvement country clusters (42%). Employed daughters typically provided about 10% less intensive care across all clusters. These findings are consistent with previous research, suggesting that daughters offer more flexible and responsive care, often adjusting their work schedules to meet caregiving demands. The gender gap in caregiving can be linked to differences in employment opportunities and job demands between men and women. This study highlights the complexity of filial support, shaped by gender and employment factors, across various cultural and national contexts.

Keywords: intergenerational solidarity, informal care, latent Markov model, mixture models, multilevel latent model

Exploring the idea of the family in Urban India

Smriti Bhatia, *University of Delhi, India*

Mila Tuli, *University of Delhi, India*

Punya Pillai, *University of Delhi, India*

With urbanization and global influences contemporary family configurations have become increasingly open and inclusive. The premise of heterosexual couples with biological children isn't anymore an overriding parameter framing family composition. Additionally, familial roles have become more fluid, challenging conventional expectations. Several of such changes are also visible in modifications to Indian laws. This paper presents some preliminary experiences and findings from my ongoing doctoral research titled "The changing notions of the family in urban India". The method for this study was carefully developed to capture cultural themes around researching urban Indian families using an ethnographic qualitative research design. The participants for the study are from two Indian cities New Delhi and Mumbai, where cross section of 40 families have been selected and different generations are being interviewed. Several iterations were made to design methods and research tools to facilitate an understanding of changes in perception and functioning of family life. The tools serve as a cornerstone for understanding evolving dynamics of families offering deeper insights into social, cultural and legal transformations. These include an active interview schedule adopting a constructionist approach to co-create meaning with participants and tools comprising of incomplete statements and pictures to elicit responses on several hypothetical situations. These prompts participants to reflect on what constitutes a family beyond everyday reality To explore positions of law, selected Indian court judgements are being studied using cue cards. Detailed case studies are also planned to further illuminate everyday family dynamics. This research aims to encapsulate the complexity and diversity of emerging family configurations in India without imposing generalizations, offering a nuanced understanding of their evolving structures and roles within the broader socio-legal framework.

Keywords: Urban Indian family, Contemporary variations, Family structure, Emerging families, Familial roles



Oral Communications

THURSDAY, JUNE 26th 2025
11:30 - 13:00

Thematic Session 13

Exploring the psycho-politics of nordic parenting

Noomi Matthiesen, *Aalborg University, Denmark*

This presentation I develop a historical analysis of the pedagogical ideals in Denmark and show the emergence of specific psychologized demands on parents in a neoliberal and risk-averse society. In the late 1800's there was an increased attention to the importance of the free development of the child, considered necessary for the development of democratic citizens. In the 1950's this focus on freedom merged with specific strands of developmental psychology placing focus on the importance of children's freedom in the emotional sphere. Parallel to this strand of pedagogical thought, another tradition emerged, rooted in behaviorism. This tradition was concerned with how to employ the "right" techniques to optimize development of children and ensure adequate competencies in adult life. In the early 2000's this understanding of pedagogy had a strong revival within the Danish competition state, placing new demands on parents as responsible for "investing" in their children. In recent years the two pedagogical ideals of ensuring freedom and optimizing the child's development have merge together into what I have termed "coaching parenting." The ideal is for the child to internalize appropriate norms through choice, thereby allowing parents to avoid using oppressive authority. This merging of "freedom" and "optimization" occurs on the backdrop of a risk society, creating a sense, that if this parenting task is not done adequately, it may have severe consequences for the child's chances of having a good adult life. I argue that this approach to parenting creates an over individualized and psychologized responsabilization of parents.

Relationships Change? Processes of Transformation in the Transition to (Re-Newed) Parenthood

Sylvia Jäde, *Osnabrück University, Germany*

Studies on the transition to parenthood usually focus on the birth of the first child. If processes of changing relationships are explored, the primary focus lies on the couple relationship and the division of labor (e.g. Miller 2007; Miller/Nash 2017; Twamley/Faircloth 2023). Based on a practice-theoretical approach that conceptualizes becoming a family and the transition to parenthood as a complex social process (Morgan 2020; Stauber et al. 2022), the contribution addresses similarities and differences in relationship-transforming processes that emerge when comparing the transition to first-time and multiple parenthood. First-time parents experience changes in their relationships with friends, but also with their families of origin; multiple parents experience changes primarily between themselves and their older children. The transition to (re-newed) parenthood offers an opportunity for temporary and permanent relationship-related changes that challenge all actors and all generations involved in everyday family practices. The contribution is based on the author's completed qualitative longitudinal PhD study, with three data collection points (during pregnancy, six and twelve months after birth; Jäde 2024). Eight opposite-sex couples and one single mother (first and multiple parents) were accompanied during their transition to (re-newed) parenthood. Three semi-narrative, guideline-based couple interviews (Bjørnholt/Farstad 2014) and, in the single mothers' case, single interviews were conducted. The data was analyzed using the documentary method (Przyborski 2024). The central result is a typology of transition to parenthood that consists of the affective and self-sufficient Type A and the shaping and planning Type B.

Keywords: educational science; family practices; intergenerational relationships; longitudinal qualitative research; transition research.



Oral Communications

Parental Gatekeeping and First-Time Parents? Mental Health

Kamil Janowicz, SWPS University, Poland

Konrad Piotrowski, SWPS University, Poland

Parental gatekeeping (PG) is a widely studied phenomenon referring to how parents influence the functioning of the second parent in a parental role by a various range of behaviors, including monitoring, limiting, controlling, criticizing and undermining, or, conversely, encouraging and supporting. Former research suggested that gatekeeping parents tend to be overwhelmed by parental duties and family work. However, little is known about the possible consequences of parental gatekeeping on parents' mental health. Thus, we examined how parental gatekeeping behaviors are linked with various aspects of parents' mental health. We recruited 445 first-time parents aged from 21 to 46 ($M = 30.89$; $SD = 3.99$) and adopted structural equation modelling (SEM) to examine links between various aspects of parental gatekeeping and parents' general well-being, depressive symptoms and parental burnout. We tested these models separately for mothers and fathers. We found much more significant associations between PG and mental health in fathers than in mothers. Both for mothers and fathers, being more discouraging predicted lower well-being. Additionally, for mothers, being more controlling predicted higher parental burnout. For fathers, being more encouraging predicted higher well-being and lower parental burnout, while being more discouraging also predicted more intense depressive symptoms and higher parental burnout. Our findings shed new light on possible harmful consequences of PG and suggest that being too controlling and discouraging toward a partner may be a risk factor for parents' mental health and well-being. It could be considered both in parents' psychoeducation as well as counselling and psychotherapy.

Building families in Italy between new imaginaries and structural problems

G. Masullo, *University of Salerno, Italy*

F. Cubeddu, *Institute for Research on Population and Social Policies-National Research Council (IRPPS-CNR), Italy*

M. Matteo, *University of Salerno, Italy*

F. Pillozzi, *"Dante Alighieri" University for Foreigners of Reggio Calabria, Italy*

E. Mangone, *University of Salerno, Italy*

A qualitative research study that examined the propensity to parenthood of Millennials in Italy revealed that the choice to become parents is not only connected to socio-economic issues or to the presence/absence of services and incentive measures, but also relates to emerging cultural models that require a deep understanding to be addressed. These models and imaginaries were intercepted through focus groups (conducted in 2022) involving Millennials belonging to different regions of Southern Italy, using as a visual stimulus to animate the discussions: the images of the social communication campaign 'Fertility Day', commissioned by the Ministry of Health for the day of 22 September 2016. Each Focus Group (realised online) consisted of 6-8 participants respecting in its composition the criterion of gender and age parity (25-31 years old). The results make it clear how the decision to bring a child into the world today relates to emerging needs for self-determination among young people (particularly women), to a rethinking of gender relations involving new ways of approaching parenthood (particularly men), to imaginaries relating to new ways of building, forming and starting a family, and to the techniques of medically assisted reproduction now available. An understanding of these imaginaries is fundamental for promoting policies in support of parenthood that are more convergent with the new ways of thinking and feeling of the new generations than those hitherto designed by the institutions to solve the problem of the birth rate in Italy.

Keywords: Parenthood, Family, Italy, Imaginaries, Structural problems.



Oral Communications

Two Is More Than the Sum of Its Parts: An Exploratory Study on Couple Values and Dyadic Coping

Francesca Danioni, *Catholic University of Milan, Italy*

Silvia Donato, *Catholic University of Milan, Italy*

Claudia Russo, *European University of Rome, Italy*

Ioana Zagrean, *LUMSA University of Rome, Italy*

Camillo Regalia, *Catholic University of Milan, Italy*

Daniela Barni, *University of Bergamo, Italy*

The study of value priorities among romantic couples has increasingly attracted the attention of several scholars. However, values in couple relationships have been almost exclusively considered as individual constructs (i.e., what is important for oneself), while recent studies have emphasized the importance of specifically investigating couple values, that is, what matters to the couple as a whole. Indeed, the couple represents a unique entity that may hold specific values, which only partially correspond to those of the partners within it and may, in turn, be linked to various qualities of the couple's relationship. Among other processes, dyadic coping, which can be conceptualized as the coping efforts of one partner to support the other in times of stress and the common attempts of both partners to cope together with a shared stressor, is particularly important for studying couple resilience and for developing interventions aimed at couples. We therefore collected data from 546 individuals (54.1% women; Mage = 41.52 years, SD = 7.19) all having a couple relationship and from 167 couples (Mage of women = 42.14 years, SD = 6.78; Mage of men = 45.41 years, SD = 7.57) to measure the link between couple values and dyadic coping. Participants were asked to complete a self-report questionnaire including the Portrait Couple Values Questionnaire and the Dyadic Coping Questionnaire. The data analysis is still in progress and the forthcoming results will be discussed in relation to their potential implications for research and clinical and social interventions in the field of couple relationships.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26th 2025

11:30 - 13:00

Thematic Session 14

Migrant Women's Cultural Capital and Labor Market Participation in Europe: A Literature Review

Saba Alempour Rajabi, *University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg*

Migrant women, especially those from gender-traditional societies, face pronounced barriers in European labor markets despite possessing qualifications from their countries of origin (OECD, 2018). While the skills and high qualifications of these women can be among the highly sought professions and answer the urgent demands of the labor market, they face many challenges and barriers in entering the labor market and transferring their skills to the new context. Current research in the field has addressed barriers such as the non-recognition of foreign credentials, language, cultural differences, and lack of family support, hindering their ability to leverage their skills and integrate into new labor markets and societies (Schwarz, 2020). This review adopts an intersectional approach to analyze the integration of migrant women in the European labor markets by extending Bourdieu's notion of cultural capital to include the interplay of gender, ethnicity, class, and transnational relations (Christou & Kofman, 2022; Jungwirth, 2019; Lutz & Amelina, 2021). The main focus of the review is placed on existing theories, policies and recent empirical data to shed light on the status and experiences of highly educated non-EU migrant women in the European labor market and the degree to which their capital is valued and convertible across borders, especially those who migrate primarily as accompanying partners. By synthesizing the empirical studies and theoretical perspectives, the review aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the research in this area in Europe and it concludes by offering the research gaps and potential future directions.

Key words: migrant women, labor market, cultural capital, gender equality



Oral Communications

Social Rights and Social Protection of Transnational Families in Portugal: Policy Frameworks and Emerging Challenges

Bárbara Backstrom, *Open University, Portugal*

Catarina Pinheiro Mota, *University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro (UTAD), University of Porto, Portugal*

Carlos Barros, *Portuguese Catholic University Palma de Cima, Portugal*

Daniela Monteiro, *Portuguese Catholic University, Portugal*

Emília Araújo, *University of Minho, Portugal*

Recent global crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, have exacerbated the challenges to transnational families (TNFs), placing additional pressure on social protection systems and revealing critical gaps in available support. This study examines the social protection frameworks and policies affecting TNFs in Portugal, a country with a complex history as both an emigration and immigration hub. The primary objective is to critically assess how Portugal's legal and policy structures support TNFs, with particular attention to the intersections of migration, family reunification, and access to social rights. Existing literature and legal documents reveal that, while Portugal has implemented progressive policies, including the Immigration Law and Family Reunification programs—ensuring access to healthcare, education, and legal protections—TNFs continue to face numerous challenges. Key issues include the obstacles faced by undocumented migrants, significant bureaucratic delays in family reunification processes, and the insufficient provision of social services. Beyond policy analysis, this study investigates the role of media, particularly social media, in shaping public discourse and influencing public perceptions and policymaking regarding TNFs. While narratives promoting integration exist, negative depictions of migrants persist, complicating their social inclusion and contributing to ongoing social challenges. The findings indicate that, although Portugal's legal framework provides a robust foundation for protecting TNFs, substantial improvements at implementation and evaluation levels are needed to reduce bureaucratic obstacles, ensure equitable access to services, and address the specific vulnerabilities of various family members, including women, children, and the elderly, at national and local levels.

Keywords: Transnational families, social protection, family reunification, Portugal, migration policy.

How does work impact on family well-being? The FamILens Model for the Assessment of family-work reconciliation in the Italian context

Maria Letizia Bosoni, *Catholic University of Milan, Italy*

Matteo Moscatelli, *Catholic University of Milan, Italy*

Sara Mazzucchelli, *Catholic University of Milan, Italy*

Elisabetta Carrà, *Catholic University of Milan, Italy*

In today's context, characterized by rapid transformations, the need for increasing integration of roles, time and space, the challenge of balancing parenting with work becomes increasingly demanding. New theorizations in family-work reconciliation include the possibility of generating well-being not only for the individual worker, but also for personal relationships, primarily family. (Manzi, Mazzucchelli, 2020). In this context, the FamILens® represents a model for assessing the impact of policies and services on family wellbeing. It is a model inspired by American experiences (Carrà, Moscatelli 2024, <https://centridiateneo.unicatt.it/studi-famiglia-familens>), imported into Italy by a group of researchers from the Catholic University of Milan, who, with the appropriate changes, have developed a tool for assessing the impact on families of corporate practices/initiatives. The rationale behind this work is that the positive integration of the family and work dimensions produces benefits for both workers and their families and companies, according to a win-win logic. This contribution presents a tool called the Family Impact Checklist based on 6 key objectives to promote family well-being: Empowering families, Promoting family stability, Promoting the quality of family relationships, Valuing family diversity, Actively involving families, Promoting family networks. The tool was administered in 2024 to a representative sample of 360 Italian companies, highlighting the presence of a culture aimed at promoting the reconciliation and well-being of employees and their families, with a focus on the principles of responsibility, stability, diversity and relationships. A lower impact of companies on the ability to actively involve families and promote family networks has been highlighted.



Oral Communications

Intergenerational care in local, long-distance, and transnational families: The role of geographical distance and cross-border separation on subjective care burden

David Schiefer, *German Center for Integration and Migration Research, Germany*

Magdalena Nowicka, *German Center for Integration and Migration Research, Germany*

Due to international migration, adult children and their aging parents increasingly live separated across national borders. Previous studies document well that migrated children continue to provide care for their stayed-behind parents across borders and distance but also experience specific challenges in fulfilling their role as caregivers. Yet, similar results are provided by research on long-distance carers who are not international migrants. So far, it remains unclear how challenges of providing support to family members relate to the geographical distance between them, or rather to the cross-border character of migration, it is when the (expected) caregivers and care-receivers live in two different nation-states. The study presented during this talk thus investigated the role of geographical distance and cross-border separation on perceived intergenerational care burden of residents in Germany who feel in responsibility or provide care to their parents. We used data from a survey with 2900 migrant and non-migrant residents in Germany. Intergenerational care burden was assessed with four questions that cover different domains of burden among individuals caring for their parents (e.g. “I am burdened by the financial effort of supporting my parents”). Main explanatory variables included distance (travel time to parents) and cross-border separation (parents abroad), respondents’ perceived barriers to visit their parents (e.g., formal requirements, time effort) as well as visa requirements for parents wanting to visit their children. Findings reveal that geographical distance and cross-border separation constitute two independent, accumulating stressors for burden experienced by individuals caring for their parents. Furthermore, we can show that the link between cross-border separation and intergenerational care burden is due to increased time and financial costs but particularly due to legal restrictions to mobility such as non-German citizenship or visa restrictions. The study represents one of the initial attempts to elucidate the mechanisms underlying distance and cross-border separation in transnational intergenerational care, demonstrating that general theoretical frameworks for understanding burden in intergenerational care relationships can be applied to cross-border family constellations.

Empowered Through Migration: Transformative Experiences of Romanian Migrant Women in Italy and France

Georgiana Udrea, *National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania*

Elena Popa, *University of Akron, United States America*

Tanja Schroot, *University of Turin, Italy*

In 2021, around 4 million Romanian migrants were living abroad with women making up more than half of this population. By of 2023, women continued to represent the majority of Romanian emigrants (52.4%). This trend reflects the broader phenomenon of the “feminization of migration”), which highlights not only the increasing participation of women in global migration flows, but also evolving migration patterns influenced by expanding occupational sectors. East-to-West European migration studies oftentimes framed Romanian women’s migration—particularly towards gendered labor markets—as economic. However, recent scholarship has begun to challenge this narrative and explore the diversity of experiences within this group, including urban and high-skilled female migrants. Despite this growing body of literature, there remains a gap exploring broader motivations, expectations, and everyday experiences of Romanian migrant women throughout their migratory journeys. In particular, insufficient attention has been given to the transformative impact of migration on women’s personal, professional, and familial identities. In this context, our paper investigates how migrant women navigate the emotional and practical aspects of their lives abroad, focusing on how migration reshapes their roles within families and society. Does migration generate feelings of sacrifice and guilt, or does it empower women by allowing them to redefine their identities and embrace roles beyond traditional family structures? Drawing on ethnographic research and in-depth interviews conducted in Italy and France between 2013 and 2024, this paper argues that family dynamics influence both imagined and lived migration trajectories and significantly reshape Romanian women’s roles within the family and broader society.

Keywords: migration as empowerment, identity transformations, gender roles, Romanian migrant women



Thematic Session 15

Families across crisis: Family resilience during Covid-19 in Portuguese families with adolescent children

Joana Carvalho, *Instituto Superior Miguel Torga, Portugal*

Karina Souza, *Instituto Superior Miguel Torga, Brazil*

The COVID-19 pandemic was an unforeseen crisis that heightened family vulnerability and significantly impacted family dynamics. Grounded in the field of Family Psychology and a systemic perspective, the primary objective of this cross-sectional study was to analyze perceptions of family resilience among Portuguese families with adolescent children during this pandemic period. A total of 252 individuals participated in the study (132 adolescents aged 12-18 and 120 parents aged 32-55), completing measures related to their sociodemographic situation and family resilience (Walsh Family Resilience Questionnaire - WFRQ). Both quantitative and qualitative analyses were conducted. Findings indicated that older participants perceived family resilience more positively. Parents reported higher levels of family resilience than adolescents, with this difference being particularly pronounced in the dimension of communication and problem-solving. Male parents perceived their families as more resilient, especially in the dimension of belief systems. Among adolescents, family resilience was perceived as higher in intact nuclear families and lower in single-parent families. Among parents, higher economic income was positively associated with greater family resilience, particularly in communication and problem-solving dimensions. This study highlights notable differences in how parents and adolescent children perceive the impacts of the pandemic on family resilience, particularly regarding the challenges experienced and the adaptation strategies employed to navigate the crisis.

Keywords: COVID-19; Family resilience; Families with adolescent children.

Family life and family time during the COVID-19 pandemic in Finnish families with financial difficulties

Katja Repo, *Tampere University, Finland*

Petteri Eerola, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

Finnish families with children faced first waves of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 when schools and most day-care centres closed, and most parents worked from home. The situation made parents to evaluate the foundations of family life from a new perspective. This study captures the meanings that the parents with school-aged children attach to family life and family time during the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic. The focus of the study is on parents facing financial difficulties. Analysis is based on an online survey conducted in May 2020. The online survey form was sent to the parents of primary-school-aged children in a middle-sized Finnish town. The Survey contained open questions on daily life during the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 836 individuals responded to the survey. Qualitative thematic analysis was used as the method of analysis. The respondents portrayed a complex picture of family life. On one hand - as described by the themes of a talking family, a family that is together, a family that does things together, a calm family and a close-knit family - they emphasised the positive effects of the pandemic, especially in terms of family togetherness and interaction. On the other hand - as the themes of a concerned family and an isolated family describe - their accounts highlighted the anxiety caused by economic stress and isolation.

Keywords: Family time, COVID-19, financial difficulties, families with children



Oral Communications

Do I care? Maternal self-care during the COVID-19 pandemic in Austria

Vera Dafert, *University of Vienna, Austria*

During the COVID-19 pandemic, mothers faced high demands and often role overload, fuelled by feelings of uncertainty, by a strong sense of responsibility, and often accompanied by a guilty conscience. At the same time, opportunities for time off and for practices of self-care or balance were limited due to the pandemic. To understand how mothers experience and manage self-care during times of high stress while caring for other family members, it is essential to explicate how mothers created time for themselves during the pandemic, how they used these scarce time resources, and which challenges they faced. Theoretically based on emotional work theory, this contribution relies on an Austrian qualitative longitudinal study with a subsample of 84 mothers of kindergarten- or school-aged children. Respondents were surveyed repeatedly (12 waves of data collection) over a 2-year period (March 2020 to June 2022), using problem-centered telephone interviews and diary entries. Data analysis is based on the grounded theory coding scheme. Results show that mothers were challenged to maintain self-care due to fast changing pandemic conditions that required constant (re-)organization of everyday family life and thus did not allow for the establishment of stable routines. Mothers prioritized the well-being of their family members over their own, which affected their self-care practices. Four distinct types of maternal self-care during the COVID-19 pandemic could be identified: devoters, squeezers, combiners, neglecters. To conclude, I point out the danger that mothers' constant subordination of their personal needs may lead to a decrease in resilience.

Keywords: COVID-19, mothers, self-care, emotional work, qualitative longitudinal data

THURSDAY, JUNE 26th 2025
14:00 - 15:30

Thematic Session 16

Intergenerational Transmission of Positive Parenting: Findings on the Moderating Role of Parents' Gender and Level of Involvement in Childcare and Parenting Activities

Fred Berger, *University of Innsbruck, Austria*

Romain Jammal-Abboud, *University of Tel Aviv and Zefat Academic College, Israel*

Previous research has provided consistent evidence that present-day parents tend to use similar parenting practices that they experienced themselves in childhood and adolescence. However, a considerable body of work remains to achieve greater understanding of the mechanisms which account for intergenerational transmission of parenting. This study investigates intergenerational transmission in positive parenting and possible differences in the transmission patterns due to gender of parents and the level of parental involvement in childcare. Data came from a German longitudinal study containing information on positive parenting practices from 406 pairs of parents from two inter-linked generations. The surveys of parenting practices were conducted 30 years apart, using the same instruments of measurement. Results of structural equation models show that positive parenting in generation 1 predicts similar behaviour in generation 2. Furthermore, findings display that generation 2's gender and level of parental involvement in childcare both play a moderating role in the intergenerational transmission of positive parenting. However, when both moderators were included at the same time in a latent congruence model, only the unique effect of involvement in childcare remained significant, indicating that parental involvement is the predominate moderating variable. Altogether, results suggest that generation 2 parents with low involvement in childcare rely more often upon the parenting that they observed and experienced while growing up, whereas parents with high involvement in childcare seem to be more often challenged to adjust their parenting behaviours to the concrete parenting situation, drawing on their own competencies rather than on their parents' role model.

Keywords: Intergenerational Transmission of Positive Parenting; Parental Involvement in Childcare; Moderating Factors; Longitudinal Study; Structural Equation Modelling; Latent Congruence Modelling



Oral Communications

Exploring the Role of Grandparents in Families with a Child with Autism: A French perspective

Mathilde Duflos, *Université de Tours, France*

Caroline Giraudeau, *Université de Tours, France*

Grandparents are recognized as being an important source of family support and has having a role towards the maintain of family balance, however, the experience and role of grandparents within families with an autistic child are less defined in the literature. The aim of this study is to explore the role, emotional experience and needs of grandparents of a child with ASD. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 10 French grandparents (eight grandmothers, two grandfathers) of a child with ASD aged between 4 and 14 years old (eight boys, two girls). Using a thematic analyses, we identified ten themes, two related to the role of grandparents (i.e., acting as a scaffold, developing awareness to the particularities of autism, reinvesting parenthood, helping the grandchild developing socio-emotional skills), two related to the needs of grandparents (i.e., need for competence, need for relatedness), and four related to the emotional experience of grandparents (i.e., from sanguinity to despair, anger, sadness, Kindenschema). Our study underlines the importance of considering the role of grandparents in the lives of families of children with autism and to better support them by acknowledging their crucial role in the family dynamics.

Keywords: Grandparents; Intergenerational Relationships; Autism; Qualitative study

Mourning a Child with a Beating Heart: The Invisible Struggle of Mothers and Fathers Raising a Child with Persistent, Severe Regulatory Problems

Febe Hertveldt, *University of Antwerp, Ghent University, Belgium*

Guido Van Hal, *University of Antwerp, Belgium*

Edwin Wouters, *University of Antwerp, Belgium*

Koen Ponnet, *Ghent University, Belgium*

Sara De Bruyn, *University of Antwerp, Belgium*

The first 1000 days of a child's life are marked by a transition from almost absolute reliance on the caregiver (i.e. co-regulation) to the attainment of independent self-regulation. This period lays the foundation for the child's mental health throughout its life. However, these processes are not always smooth, and regulatory problems (RP) can occur. The nature of RP varies with the child's age and developmental stage, but the most commonly reported RP are inconsolable crying, persistent sleeping difficulties and eating problems. Caring for a child with persistent, severe RP can place a significant and debilitating strain on the entire family. In extreme instances, the perception of excessive crying is hypothesized to be a precipitant of abuse and non- accidental trauma. However, existing research predominantly focuses on mothers caring for a child with RP, leaving a critical gap in our understanding of fathers' experiences. To address this, we explored the lived experiences of six father-mother dyads who received specialized family infant mental health treatment at Kleine K (Infant Unit of the University Psychiatric Centre of Leuven, Belgium) due to persistent, severe infant RP. This study employed an interpretative phenomenological approach, specifically multi-family member interview analysis, to examine the profound impact on families in crisis caring for a child with RP. At the conference, a detailed analysis of the results will be presented. This research holds particular importance for healthcare providers, who need to understand the complexities of caring for a child with RP to better support parents and improve children's outcomes.

Keywords: infant regulatory problems, family approach, lived experiences, interpretative phenomenological approach, multi-family member interview analysis, in depth-interviews



Oral Communications

Social inequalities in support between multiple generations in Europe over time

Christian Deindl, *TU Dortmund University, Germany*

Family members support each other. Parents help their adult children with financial transfers and hands-on-support and childcare, while children later on often support their older parents with help and care. However, profound social inequalities linked to different need and opportunity structures as well as public transfers within different contexts can be suspected. While there is some research on each aspect separately, and some research on the connections between certain transfer types at certain family stages, there is still no conclusive study bringing together all different support types between three generations from different social backgrounds over time. In our view, taking a longitudinal multi-generational perspective is essential to capture dependencies and negotiations within families. If middle-aged parents have to take care of their own older parents, they have fewer resources for their children, who might then receive less attention and support from their parents. This may differ according to individuals' access to support from public or private institutions. Here, country and regional specifics have a huge impact on support patterns within the family, which can only be captured when looking into developments and change. Using six waves of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) we look at intergenerational transfers between three generations over time across multiple European regions, considering mid-aged Europeans in the "sandwich" position between older parents and children and include both transfer directions over time to assess the links between social inequality, changes within the family and country level, and intergenerational solidarity. Our results show the importance of the middle-generation for transfers in the family. We are able to show that poverty has a tremendous negative effect on transfer pattern across all generation in Europe.

Keywords intergenerational transfers, poverty, Europe, longitudinal.

Thematic Session 17

Children's use of digital media to sustain contact with a non-resident parent

Thorsten Naab, *German Youth Institute, Germany*

Christine Entleitner-Phleps, *German Youth Institute, Germany*

Alexandra Langmeyer, *German Youth Institute, Germany*

A significant number of children are growing up in households without both biological parents due to parental divorce or separation. Existing research addresses the significance of digital media in these family constellations as a way for children to stay connected with both separated parents regardless of personal contact and/or care arrangements. The present study complements this work by looking at the children's perspective on communication with their non-resident parent. Furthermore, the study identifies potential correlates for the intensity of digital contact. Data stem from the representative German study "Growing up in Germany" collected in 2023. Based on data from 397 children. The analysis demonstrates that the majority of children have regular contact with their non-resident parent via digital media. There are strong correlations between digital contact and family socioeconomic status (SES) as well as the quality of the relationship with the non-resident parent. The formation of a new partnership by the resident parent correlates with a lower intensity of contact with the non-resident parent. In sum, the study paints a differentiated picture of digital contact between the child and non-resident parent, which fits in well with existing research and complements it.

Keywords: digital communication, non-resident parents, family connectedness, survey



Oral Communications

Turning the tide? An interdisciplinary evaluation of a Dutch pilot procedure for divorced and separated parents

Inge E. Van der Valk, *Utrecht University, Netherlands*

Christina De Boer Jeppesen, *Utrecht University, Netherlands*

In the Netherlands, more than 70,000 children each year face the divorce of their parents. Dutch law requires these parents to make arrangements and record them in a parenting plan. Most parents manage themselves to come to an agreement, but in a significant number of cases they have irreconcilable conflicts over many issues, such as care and access, maintenance, and property. Some of these parents turn to the courts to resolve these issues. However, court proceedings surrounding divorce are often accompanied by increasing escalation between parents. Factors involved include relatively long waiting times and the context of traditional divorce proceedings, in which parents are more adversarial, problems are more likely to polarize, and conflicts escalate. A pilot procedure was designed whereby divorcing parents who have minor children could jointly approach the court, with the aim of de-escalating conflicts in family law. This plan focused on prevention, early detection and mitigation of the consequences of complex divorces. An interdisciplinary research approach was used to investigate whether the pilot indeed had the desired effects. This approach included monitoring and comparing data from pilot and control courts, administering questionnaires to parents and lawyers, observing pilot and control procedures in courts, interviews with judges, lawyers, and parents, and a global cost-benefit analysis.

School-aged children's views on their parents' separation

Marja Leena Böök, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

Johanna Terävä, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

In Finland, it is increasingly common for parents to separate. The process of separation comprises a series of transitions over an extended period, also affecting to the children. These transitions involve the modifying and restructuring of family relationships - for example custodial arrangements as well as negotiations of parental roles and new family dynamics. Despite the significance of the topic in children's everyday lives, there is limited research-based information about children's perspectives on parental separation in the Finnish context. The aim of this study is to describe the meanings and emotions that Finnish children attach to their parents' separation. The data for the study was produced in "Children's separation groups" organized by the Finnish national child welfare NGO during 2022-2023. Group interviews were conducted in 8 different peer support groups for children (n = 32) aged 7 to 12 who had experienced parental separation. The research is based on constructivist research approach, and for analysis, we apply discourse analysis. Research ethics have been considered at all stages of the research process, paying special attention to the ethical questions related to the child informants.

Based on the children's group interviews, we can identify five different types of emotional stances concerning their parents' separation: surprised, sad, adapted, angry, and grateful. This oral presentation focuses on our preliminary findings about how children talk about the moment of their parents' separation as well as the identifiable emotions related to this life-changing occasion.

Keywords: children, parental divorce, qualitative research.



Oral Communications

Hidden Violence in High-Conflict Coparenting: Experiences of Women with Child Custody System in Slovakia

Zuzana Očenášová, *Institute for Research in Social Communication of Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovak Republic*

High-conflict parenting post-separation poses a significant policy challenge, as it consumes substantial child custody system resources. However, for some separated parents, high-conflict coparenting functions as a tool of control, contact enforcement, and condemnation of the other parent. Intimate partner violence often persists beyond separation, particularly in cases involving children. However, child custody systems frequently conflate high-conflict coparenting with intimate partner violence. This study explores how intimate partner violence survivors in Slovakia experience the child custody system. Reflexive thematic analysis was employed to analyse 27 interviews with women. Participants described various forms of post-separation violence through coparenting such as non-compliance with custody arrangements, child abduction, monitoring of women through children, or ongoing legal custody disputes that negatively affect the mental well-being of both mothers and children. Despite these challenges, women did not feel supported by the child custody system, their experience with intimate partner violence was frequently minimized, especially in cases of psychological violence or coercive control. The system was perceived as bureaucratic and formalistic, prioritizing shared custody arrangements over ensuring safety and preventing harm associated with post-separation violence. Women felt disadvantaged in child custody procedures and pressured into system-mandated practices such as mediation or couple counselling, which they found retraumatizing. These experiences led to a sense of institutional betrayal, highlighting the system's lack of preparedness to protect survivors and their children from post-separation violence.

Keywords: high-conflict coparenting, post-separation violence, child custody system



Oral Communications

THURSDAY, JUNE 26th 2025

14:00 - 15:30

Thematic Session 18

What Scandinavian parents think about parental involvement in children's digital activities in everyday life: a mixed method systematic review

I.B. Lidal, *Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway*

H. Nøkleby, *Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway*

T.B. Johansen, *Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway*

H.B. Bergsund, *Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway*

Introduction: "Digital parenting" signifies how parents relate to their children's (0-18 years) use of digital tools and media. Scandinavia is highly digitalized, and children spend many hours online every day. Our aim is to conduct a mixed methods systematic review on parents' involvement, boundary setting and concerns related to their children's digital everyday life outside of school. Method: We follow international methodological guidelines and involve a reference group to ensure high quality of the systematic review. Research questions are: 1) What are parents' thoughts about parental involvement in children's digital everyday life? 2) What do parents say about their boundary setting related to their children's digital activities? 3) What do parents say about their concerns related to children's digital everyday life? We limited the literature search to Scandinavian publications published between 2015- 2024. Preliminary results: We included 41 publications; the majority had a qualitative design. The studies comprise parents of toddlers, pre-schoolers, schoolchildren and teenagers, with various digital competences, living in rural or urban areas, minority parents and also parents of youth with intellectual disabilities. A broad range of topics were identified - and with rich and thick information from the parental perspective. Discussion: By June 2025, we will provide our review-findings about what parents living in Scandinavia say about their involvement, boundary setting and concerns regarding their children's digital activities in everyday life; digital culture, dilemmas, dualities, values, ambitions and struggles.

Keywords: "Digital parenting"; "Parental mediation"; "Family life"

Beliefs about the Best Interests of the Child in Narratives of Proponents, Doubters, and Decision-Makers on Joint Physical Custody

Malgorzata Sikorska, *University of Warsaw, Poland*

The main aim of my presentation is to reconstruct the beliefs about the best interest of the child (BIC) underlying the narratives of proponents of joint physical custody (JPC) - primarily fathers, its skeptics - mostly mothers, and decision-makers - judges, in Poland. I also explore how these narratives intersect with portrayals of the child as a victim. In Poland, debates over JPC are marked by a lack of data on its prevalence, court practices, and criteria, turning this issue into a "battleground" for competing narratives. The active engagement of social actors makes Poland a compelling case for analysis, as dominant narratives about BIC could significantly shape public policies and legal frameworks regarding JPC. Using the Narrative Policy Framework as both a methodological foundation and analytical tool, I analyze 5 in-depth interviews (IDIs) with fathers, 5 with mothers, and 8 with judges, alongside pre-existing data, including 53 court rulings, 16 citizen petitions, and transcripts of 5 parliamentary group sessions. My findings reveal differing narratives on BIC. Fathers focus on the child's right to maintain relationships with both parents as central to BIC, while mothers emphasize the child's agency, sense of security, and view JPC as potentially harmful to BIC. Judges' narratives, although ambivalent, often align more closely with mothers' views. Additionally, fathers see JPC as a solution to parental alienation (PA), while mothers express skepticism toward the concept. Across all narratives, the child is portrayed as a victim, but the identification of villains and heroes varies. While all narratives acknowledge the child's subjectivity, portrayals of the child as a victim highlight their objectification in post-separation situations.

Keywords: Best Interest of a Child (BIC); Joint Physical Custody (JPC); Narrative Policy Framework (NPF); Parental Alienation (PA); Poland.



Oral Communications

Affective dimensions of poverty in Finnish family life

Ella Sihvonen, *Tampere University, Finland*

Katja Repo, *Tampere University, Finland*

Mia Tammelin, *Tampere University, Finland*

This study examines how Finnish parents navigating poverty describe their daily family lives. Using affect theory as outlined by Sara Ahmed, the research explores the ways in which emotions, such as shame, fear, and frustration, are not merely personal experiences but socially mediated responses shaped by cultural and political contexts. The aim of the study is to understand what affective responses parents describe, and how this influence family life, potentially reinforcing social cohesion among marginalized groups while also exposing them to forms of exclusion. The dataset consists of qualitative writings (n=41) provided by parents, most of whom are single mothers, collected in 2024. The writings reflect the challenges of poverty. The data were analyzed using qualitative methods to identify key themes that emerged from the parents' experiences. Findings show that participants' emotions are deeply intertwined with the policies that structure their lives, manifesting as lasting affects that influence self-perception and social bonds. Feelings of frustration and fear embed themselves in daily interactions and the parental role, underscoring the intersection of class, family life, and social exclusion. The study concludes that poverty and austerity policies intensify emotional crises within family and highlights the political dimensions of emotions in everyday life. Analyzing these narratives through affect theory emphasizes the need for policy approaches that address not only material but emotional well-being, recognizing the resilience parents exhibit despite systemic adversity.

Keywords: poverty, affect theory, families with children



Oral Communications

THURSDAY, JUNE 26th 2025
17:00 - 18:30

Thematic Session 19

Can absent fathers be present? Perspectives of children and mothers

Miroslav Popper, *Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovak Republic*

Zuzana Očenášová, *Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovak Republic*

In the context of increasing divorce and separation rates, the dynamics of post-separation coparenting has gained significant academic attention, with much of the literature focusing on the well-being of children and parents, coparenting practices, and the role of non-residential fathers. This study shifts the focus to how children and mothers within residential families perceive the presence of non-resident fathers. It is based on 15 qualitative interviews with eight adult children who experienced parental divorce during childhood and seven divorced or separated mothers currently living in stepfamilies. The data were analysed using the method of thematic analysis. The findings reveal diverse levels of paternal involvement, ranging from complete absence to strong psychological closeness and availability. The analysed themes highlight that fathers' presence extends beyond direct physical interactions, with children valuing emotional closeness and accessibility, while mothers primarily recognize fathers' physical presence, financial, and material contributions. Our results suggest that a positive father - child relationship can be established even with limited physical contact, or if a father lives in a different country, provided there is regular communication, consistent paternal interest, emotional engagement, and a supportive coparenting approach from mothers.

Keywords: coparenting, non-resident fathers, presence, father-child relationship

Growing up in a military family: Risks and resilience in young people and military families

Gabriela Misca, *University of Birmingham, United Kingdom*

Military families, where one or both partners are in the Armed Forces, face challenges not experienced by their civilian counterparts, including recurrent separations and parental absence(s) from home, frequent relocations and ensuing disruptions to social networks, injury and/or death of serving parent, bringing wide-ranging risks for family members, including children. In the context of on-going European and world-wide armed conflicts, understanding the impact of parental military career on children, the 'invisible casualties of wars', has never been more apparent. This presentation reports on a study of 453 Royal Navy and Royal Marine families with school age children living in the UK. The data comprises parental reports on 645 individual children and 142 child self-reports.

Informed by previous research, the study deigns assessed a series of risk and protective factors including: family size (number of children in the family); where the families lived (on a military base/ outside/ dispersed); serving status of parents (mother/ father serving or dual-service couple); parental deployment status (both parents at home; serving parent 'weekending' or on deployment); stressful events experienced by the family within 6 months of the assessment (bereavement, serious illness of partner or child, change of school, change of housing, etc.). Parent and family functioning were also assessed (via standardized measures) as it may impact on child's outcomes: parent's self-reported resilience; parenting stress; family functioning; family conflict. Child outcomes were assessed via parents' reports on their child's school experience and adjustment. Children aged 10 and over also self-reported on their adjustment, self-esteem and resilience and provided qualitative insights and their views on the best and worst aspects of growing up in a military family. Statistical analyses explored the complex relationships between parent and family risk factors and children's outcomes; and qualitative analyses illustrate children's voices. Results highlight specific areas of resilience and risk which require further support. Implications for policy and practice are discussed.

Keywords: Military families; families and war; family risk and resilience.



Oral Communications

The impact of gender on Parenting Stress: the intersection of socio-demographic variables, parenting styles and workload

Karina Gomes, *Universidade da Madeira, Portugal*

Mary Barreto, *Universidade da Madeira, Portugal*

Ana Lúcia Faria, *Universidade da Madeira, Portugal*

Parenthood is a celebrated milestone but introduces psychological, physical, and economic challenges that impact professional and family dynamics, often increasing stress. In Portugal, women spend over four hours daily on housework and childcare—the highest gender disparity in unpaid work in Europe, according to the European Institute for Gender Equality. This imbalance shapes how men and women experience the challenges of balancing parenthood and careers: fathers report fatigue and less time for healthy habits, while women express anxiety and guilt. Given these persistent gender disparities, this study investigates the relationship between parenting styles, emotional regulation, feelings of parental competence, and parental stress among parents in Portugal with children aged 3 to 10 years. Data is collected through a self-reported questionnaire distributed via Microsoft Forms. The questionnaire gathers socio-demographic data and information on parental responsibilities and leisure activities. Parental stress is assessed using the Parental Stress Scale, parenting styles through the Egna Minnen Bertraffande Uppfostran - Parents, emotional regulation is measured using the Difficulties in Emotion Regulation Scale - Short Form, and the feelings of parental competence are evaluated using the Parenting Sense of Competence Scale. This ongoing study explores whether different parenting styles, emotional regulation, feelings of parental competence, and socio-demographic factors impact parental stress. By examining these relationships, the study seeks to address gaps in the literature, especially regarding gender-specific patterns in parenting stress. The findings are expected to enhance understanding of parenting challenges and inform the development of gender-sensitive policies to support equitable parenting practices in Portugal.

Keywords: Parenting Stress; Parenting Styles; Emotional regulation; Parenting Sense of Competence; Workload.

I have to be everyone for the kids? Multiple Responsibilities of Forced Transnational Families

Franziska Korn, *University of Kassel, Germany*

Manuela Westphal, *University of Kassel, Germany*

In the past decade, millions of people have fled their homes due to war, armed conflicts or persecution. For families, experiences of flight and asylum can lead to significant changes in their transnational family figurations and the upbringing of children (Westphal et al. 2025). Despite its importance, research on this has been limited so far. Drawing on the “transnational doing family” approach (Jurczyk 2020; Westphal et al. 2019/23), we present findings from a qualitative-ethnographic study on the changes and dynamics of Somali refugee families in Germany. They have previously been described as “global refugees” due to their ongoing forced worldwide dispersion (Hammond 2014). Data in our study includes network maps, photos, videos, participant observations, and interviews. Parents discuss and display multiple responsibilities towards their children and other family members, i.e. video calls, communication styles, remittances and prayers “to create something that can be seen as a feeling of collective welfare and unity, namely ‘familyhood’, even across national borders” (Bryceson/Vuorela 2002, p.3). In this presentation, we shed light on the multifaceted local and transnational efforts of refugee families in “doing family”, emphasizing their responsibilities in raising children and preserving a sense of familyhood and belonging across generations and spatial distance despite restrictive migration regimes.



Oral Communications

THURSDAY, JUNE 26th 2025
17:00 - 18:30

Thematic Session 20

Economic Abuse Against Children

Anniina Kaittila, *University of Turku, Finland*

Mia Hakovirta, *University of Turku, Finland*

Heini Kainulainen, *The Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, Finland*

Jarno Tuominen, *University of Turku, Finland*

Economic abuse against children remains a largely unexamined research topic. While violence against children has been studied primarily in the context of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, economic abuse has been conceptualized mainly within intimate partner relationships. There is a significant lack of research on the prevalence, manifestations, and consequences of economic abuse directed at children, and the concept itself has yet to be clearly defined. Method: This study synthesizes diverse literature on economic abuse against children, providing a comprehensive overview of key findings. While not a systematic review, it integrates insights from prior research to identify and highlight central themes in economic violence against children. Results: The analysis reveals that economic abuse against children can take various forms. We categorized this type of abuse into five distinct groups: 1) Neglect of a child's basic needs, 2) Economic exploitation of the child by a parent, 3) Repeated neglect or carelessness by the parent in managing the child's finances, 4) Unequal treatment of children within the family, and 5) Economic violence directed at the child by individuals outside the family. Implications: Economic abuse against children has received little attention in public discourse or in professional discussions within social, healthcare, or legal services. We argue that this issue should be integrated into the basic and advanced training of professionals in these fields. Additionally, systematic research initiatives are needed to collect data on children's experiences of economic abuse, its consequences, and the availability of support in Finland. The service system must identify areas for development to better recognize economic abuse against children and provide effective help to affected children. This requires professional expertise, collaboration between actors, and the development of support practices. The goal should be to ensure that support practices can adequately meet the needs of those who have experienced violence.



Oral Communications

Famílias religiosamente plurais. Tensões nos modelos educativos parentais (Religiously pluralistic families. Tensions in parental educational models)

Lívia Fialho Costa, *UNEB - UCSAL, Brazil*

Esta comunicação traz os resultados de uma pesquisa etnográfica desenvolvida na Bahia (Brasil) sobre tensões e conflitos que emergem em famílias marcadas por diferentes credos. Na contemporaneidade, a coabitação de diferentes credos tem-se tornado um fato comum e as conversões e reconversões dão a tônica de várias desavenças no seio familiar, impactando nas relações conjugais, parentais e de gênero. Os conflitos estendem-se para o exterior da privacidade da casa e da família, manifestando-se em outro espaço importante de socialização e construção de identidades/afetividades: a escola. A escola é, nestes casos, um dos espaços de emergência da tensão. Falar sobre religião na escola, seus conflitos e resistências, é, antes de tudo, falar de um terreno que se constrói para além dos muros da escola: o terreno da afetividade, da expressão e dominação dos corpos, cujas referências são dadas, em primeira instância, pela família. O trabalho de investigação parte da ideia de que para se investigar temas que dizem respeito à intimidade dos sujeitos (religião, por exemplo) é preciso realizar uma pesquisa extensiva, associando diferentes métodos (histórias de vida, narrativa autobiográfica e histórias de família) e interrogando o lugar dos sujeitos nas diferentes esferas de socialização às quais eles pertencem. A partir de um estudo exploratório, analisamos como se estruturam as práticas educativas em famílias em que pai e mãe não partilham dos mesmos valores religiosos e, conseqüentemente, os mesmos modelos educativos. Assim, interessa-nos compreender em que medida a divergência de modelos se traduz concretamente nas práticas educativas e como a educação das crianças se faz objeto de negociações e acordos entre os pais de confissões diferentes. A fim de responder a tais questionamentos, realizamos uma pesquisa de campo junto a casais com filhos cuja mãe era convertida a uma igreja protestante e o pai praticante de outra religião (ou nenhuma). A hipótese que orientava a pesquisa era a de que divergências e conflitos oriundos de opções religiosas diferentes têm um impacto nas opções de socialização/educação dos filhos. Este estudo exploratório apontou para uma série de aspectos que ampliam o escopo da referida pesquisa. Torna-se importante para a compreensão da pluralidade religiosa na esfera familiar e escolar, aspectos que tocam, por um lado, à formação conjugal (modalidades de organização conjugal) e, por outro, a trajetória religiosa da mãe (considerar se a sua opção religiosa é anterior ou posterior ao casamento e em que medida isso impacta na sua relação educativa com o(s) filho(s)). Da mesma forma, a compreensão das tensões nos relacionamentos no interior da escola (entre professores e estudantes e entre estudantes e estudantes) não pode estar dissociada das vivências e da socialização desses sujeitos educandos para além do espaço escolar, institucional.



Oral Communications

Parental disputes and the best interest of the child

Iris M. Reinders, *Utrecht University, Netherlands*

Imagine a scenario where two divorced parents, both sharing parental responsibilities, find themselves in persistent conflict over crucial decisions regarding their child. These unresolved disputes repeatedly bring them before a judge. Central to resolving these disputes is the principle of the child's best interest, a fundamental concept in family law. In this presentation, we explore the resolution of these disputes on the basis of the best interest of the child, using the Netherlands as a case-study. In the Netherlands, the law upholds the principle that parents share parental responsibilities over their child even after divorce. However, these shared responsibilities can become a source of disputes between parents in post-divorce situations. Recent trends in Dutch case legal practice reveal a growing number and variety of disputes between parents, ranging from medical treatments and educational choices to increasingly diverse topics like the choice for an office chair for the child. How does the Dutch judge assess the best interest of the child when resolving these disputes? And how can this assessment be improved? By critically analyzing how the best interest of the child is interpreted and applied by the Dutch judge, this presentation offers valuable insights on the concept of the best interest of the child. To conduct this analysis, a twofold methodological approach is used. First, a review of legal history and academic literature on the Dutch legal framework governing the resolution of parental disputes is conducted. This provides insight into how judges are expected—according to the legislator and legal scholars—to decide these cases and assess the best interests of the child. Second, a case-law analysis, more specially a qualitative content analysis, is undertaken to examine how Dutch judges actually apply the best interests principle in practice while resolving parental disputes. This analysis explores whether judicial decision-making aligns with legislative intent and academic perspectives on the matter. The results of both studies will be discussed in the presentation.

Keywords: post-divorce parenting; parents and children; disputes; best interest of the child.

Sibling Relationships in Divorced Families: An Analysis of Family Structure and Influencing Factors

Alexandra N. Langmeyer, *German Youth Institute, Germany*

Christine Entleitner-Phleps, *German Youth Institute, Germany*

In many separating families, there is more than one child. This sibling relationship can be a protective but also a risk factor for coping with separation. In addition, there are children who become siblings as a result of a new partner of one of the parents. To date, little is known about the quality of these sibling relationships and how they differ. Therefore this study examines sibling relationships in the context of divorced families, focusing on potential differences based on family structures (single-parent vs. stepfamilies) and sibling types (biological, social, or half-siblings). To achieve this goal, the recent German dataset „Growing up in Germany” from 2023 is used. We use a subsample of 742 children aged 5-17 whose parents have separated. These children report on 1,944 sibling relationships, indicating how well they get along. In a first step, differences in this quality of sibling relationships are examined to identify variations between different families. Furthermore, the study incorporates additional factors, including age gaps and gender constellations between siblings, to provide a comprehensive understanding of their influence on sibling interactions. Preliminary findings suggest that both family structure and sibling type significantly impact the quality of sibling relationships. For example, relationships among biological siblings in single-parent families may differ in intensity and quality compared to those in stepfamilies. Similarly, social and half-sibling dynamics often present unique patterns shaped by shared history. The role of demographic factors, such as age spacing and gender combinations, further highlights the complex interplay of variables affecting these relationships.



Oral Communications

Thematic Session 21

Group intervention to help adolescents who have lost a parent through the grieving process

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Maretha Visser, *University of Pretoria, South Africa*

The loss of a parent can have serious consequences for a child, especially in an African context where children are not included in the family's mourning rituals. Family members are often preoccupied with their own mourning process. They may not effectively attend to the needs of a grieving child, which can contribute to various negative emotional states for the child. The researcher developed a six-session group intervention to assist adolescents through the grieving process after the death of a parent to assist them in developing skills to cope with emotions and relationships. The sessions included building group cohesion, participants sharing their psycho-social challenges, sharing experiences of loss, using cognitive behavioural therapy to understand and regulate their emotions, developing support structures, setting goals, and building strengths. The intervention was presented over three weeks, two sessions per week in a group of nine adolescents who lost one or both of their parents. A mixed methods evaluation, using a pre-and post-assessment using the Strengths and Difficulties questionnaire and Resilience scale, showed that internalizing and externalizing behaviour of the participants did not change significantly, although their resilience increased. Adolescents expressed that they could share their emotions and support one another during the sessions, learned to better understand their grief, and developed skills to cope with their emotions. We concluded that such an intervention can provide valuable support for adolescents who have lost a parent. However, the sessions should be implemented over a longer time frame to allow growth between sessions and caregivers need to be involved to learn skills to help adolescents through their grief.

Keywords: Adolescents who have lost parents; grief process; psycho-social group intervention; support structure; single-parent families.

RESIL(SC)IENCE Project: Families and Intergenerational Trauma? Knowing the Cycle to Break It

Helena Carvalho, *Universidade do Porto, Portugal*

Sara Martins, *Universidade do Porto, Portugal*

Beatriz Rodrigues, *Universidade do Porto, Portugal*

Filipa Nunes, *Universidade do Porto, Portugal*

Paula Mena Matos, *Universidade do Porto, Portugal*

Research has consistently shown the distal and proximal impacts of individual experiences, relational dynamics, and structural socioeconomic factors—such as income inequality, poverty, and toxic social stress—on family well-being (e.g., Brooke-Sumner et al., 2018; Granqvist et al., 2017). Despite significant progress in understanding these interrelations over the last two decades, there remains a critical gap in developing context-sensitive and psychosocial indicators to guide and monitor effective public policies in this field. This study, part of the RESIL(SC)IENCE project, focuses on individuals/families who have experienced vulnerability and the intergenerational transmission of trauma. It aims to explore their struggles, recovery paths, and critical responses that could help break cycles of exclusion, mental health challenges, and social adversity. Through 15 semi-structured interviews, the study gathers personal narratives that highlight the impact of poverty, social stress, and trauma, shedding light on the factors that facilitate or hinder recovery and resilience. By amplifying the voices of those with lived experience, the research contributes to valuable insights to the ongoing discourse on policy development. The findings will inform the creation of psychosocial indicators and contextual frameworks that can guide the design of responsive policies for families facing these challenges. This work emphasizes the importance of integrating personal stories into policy discussions, with the goal of improving social protection measures and promoting long-term family well-being across generations.

Keywords: Intergenerational Trauma; Family Resilience; Youth Mental Health; Social Policy.



Oral Communications

Solidariedade familiar intergeracional e o desenvolvimento da resiliência familiar nos contextos de doença pediátrica crónica complexa (*Intergenerational family solidarity and the development of family resilience in contexts of complex chronic pediatric illness*)

Sandra Alves, *Universidade do Porto, Portugal*

Anne Marie Fontaine, *Universidade do Porto, Portugal*

O diagnóstico de uma doença pediátrica crónica complexa é suscetível de causar um impacto significativo nas dinâmicas familiares. A rede de suporte constitui-se como um fator protetor para o desenvolvimento da resiliência familiar e, bem assim, as relações familiares apoiantes que se constituem em cada sistema familiar. Com base na Teoria da Solidariedade Familiar Intergeracional (Bengtson & Roberts, 1991), e numa amostra clínica constituída por 40 irmãos/ãs saudáveis de crianças com doença pediátrica crónica complexa, utilizamos as escalas Solidariedade Afetiva e Solidariedade Funcional do Índice da Solidariedade Familiar Intergeracional (Bengtson & Roberts, 1991), traduzido e adaptado para uma amostra da população portuguesa por Monteiro (2010), para descrever as dimensões da solidariedade familiar intergeracional presentes nas interações quotidianas apontadas pela fratria. Utilizamos ainda o Ecomapa (Hartman, 1978) para identificar os padrões e a natureza das relações estabelecidas com a família e os membros da comunidade. Apresentamos e discutimos os resultados obtidos para a amostra deste estudo com relevância para sustentar a importância das relações de suporte familiares e da comunidade enquanto fator protetor para o desenvolvimento da resiliência familiar nestes contextos de doença pediátrica crónica complexa.

Palavras-chave: Doença Pediátrica Crónica Complexa; Resiliência Familiar; Solidariedade Familiar Intergeracional; Ecomapa.

Caregiver, Parent, Person: Multidimensional Facets of Being a Caregiver for Adolescents Living with Long-term Conditions

Savanna Daquila, *Trinity College, Dublin*

Informal caregivers are individuals who support the well-being of a loved one with a chronic health condition that requires long-term assistance with activities of daily living. Informal caregivers simultaneously balance maintaining personal activities, such as employment, managing household duties, and caring for other loved ones. Informal caregivers caring for their child with a chronic condition exist at the intersection of various roles and responsibilities, such as parent, caregiver, employee, and spouse (to name a few). Despite parental informal caregivers comprising a significant amount of informal caregivers, little research has been conducted on understanding the intersections between these various roles, how they impact the caregiver, and whether social support and systems meet these needs. Through a systematic review utilizing mixed methods synthesis, we will illustrate the multiple roles an individual maintains, how these roles intersect, and, importantly, aim to understand the various needs of each role to help better support caregivers as people and not just their role as informal caregivers. It is hypothesized that most research synthesized will seek to address portions of the roles mentioned above but not synthesize these findings with the multiple roles the informal caregiver must maintain and how each role impacts overall livelihood. The impact of this research aims to inform future interventions and recommendations aimed at parental informal caregivers that incorporate relevant aspects of their personhood in their support.



Oral Communications

FRIDAY, JUNE 27th 2025
11:30 - 13:00

Thematic Session 22

Exploring Risk Reflectively: Insights from Clinical Supervision in Child Protection with the Integrative Model of Clinical Supervision in Child Welfare and Protection Services (MISC-PPCJ)

Carolina Coelho, *University of Coimbra, University of Lisbon, Portugal*

Dora Pereira, *University of Madeira, Portugal*

Madalena Alarcão, *University of Coimbra, Portugal*

Clinical supervision is recognized as a critical tool for professional support and development, functioning as an indirect service where interactions between the supervisor and supervisee enhance skills and improve the quality of client support. However, what happens during supervision sessions remains an underexplored topic. This study observed a group supervision session using the Integrative Model of Clinical Supervision in Child Welfare and Protection Services (MISC-PPCJ) with a multidisciplinary Portuguese court support team. A thematic analysis was carried out. The analysis identified content from systemic theory, complexity theory, critical theory, and the functional model of parental behavior in the assessment of risk and danger to children. In this context, the supervision session was characterized by a child-centered, collaborative approach that explored risk in depth through reflective discussion, using multiple techniques. Risk was analyzed in relation to the characteristics of the child, the family, and the broader context, with a focus on both why and how specific actions might be taken. A systemic and complex conceptualization of the case was carried out. Practical implications for supervision and child protection work are discussed.

Levels of inference in child protection: A case study

Ana Cristina Pernetá, *University of Madeira, Portugal*

Dora Pereira, *University of Madeira, Portugal*

The System for the Promotion and Protection of Children and Adolescents aims to protect children and young people who are at risk or in danger. The Multidisciplinary Technical Advisory Team (EMAT) is the entity responsible for implementing the measures applied by the Court, within the scope of the Promotion and Protection Processes. This study is part of a larger qualitative study which main objective was to understand the consistency between the evaluation procedures, the intervention between the evaluation process and the proposed intervention, relating the levels of inference (observation, clinical judgement and change) for each phase of the process. The methodology was based on an extensive analysis of a high complexity case, closed less than 5 years ago. The results show that the assessments essentially refer to the 1st level of inference, which concerns a descriptive report of the information obtained, without there being a proper clinical conceptualization corresponding to the 2nd level. Clinical judgment only appears at a final stage of the process, which can result in difficulties in decision-making by decision-makers, sometimes making it dependent on subjective interpretations based on common sense. The study highlights the importance of information that reflects a clinically comprehensive formulation, which addresses the different levels of inference and where scientifically based clinical judgments are constructed about parental capacity, capable of supporting decision-making processes in matters of child promotion and protection.

Keywords: Levels of inference; child protection; assessment; families; risk.



Oral Communications

A Family Impact Checklist for Family Mediators: A Tool to Help Practitioners Think Family

Matteo Moscatelli, *Università Cattolica di Milano, Italy*

Elisabetta Carrà, *Università Cattolica di Milano, Italy*

Anna Bertoni, *Università Cattolica di Milano, Italy*

A significant body of research has consistently demonstrated that family-centered approaches in family services lead to more positive outcomes for both individuals and their family relationships. In family mediation, particularly when it involves parents with young children, it is essential to assess the impact of interventions on both family relationships and the family unit as a whole. In Italy, the concept of family impact has been debated, with the American Family Impact Lens model inspiring the development of an adapted framework called FamILens. Despite the recognition of the importance of family-focused policies, tools for designing interventions with a "think family" approach are lacking. This study aimed to develop and validate a Family Impact Checklist for family mediators. Eight experts, supported by two facilitators, collaboratively designed the checklist, identifying 33 items across six 'think family' principles: family responsibility, stability, relationships, diversity, engagement, and networking. These selected items focus on typical practical actions of family mediation, evaluated on a Likert scale based on their contribution to family well-being. Validation was conducted through a two-step Delphi process involving 18 Italian experts over six months, refining the items according to the experts' feedback. On average, each item underwent modifications, with 27 total suggestions. The final tool was administered with 200 mediators across Italy via a survey. This led to its validation through factor analysis and helped identify areas for improvement. This checklist offers a structured tool designed to enhance the effectiveness of family mediation practices, supporting practitioners in promoting family well-being and fostering improved outcomes for families.

Keywords: Family Impact; Family Mediation; Professionals' Views; Co-Parenting.

Eyes Wide Shared: Revision of a Systemic Intervention Experience

Catarina Rivero, *Universidade de Lisboa, Ispa - Instituto Universitário, Portugal*

Henda Vieira-Lopes, *Associação Portuguesa de Terapia Familiar e Comunitária, Portugal*

Ana Rita Governo, *Associação Portuguesa de Terapia Familiar e Comunitária, Portugal*

Clara Gonçalves, *Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa, Portugal*

Paula Ramos Conceição Ribeiro, *Fundação O Século & Academia dos Miúdos, Portugal*

Luísa Tavares, *Psicoterapeuta, Portugal*

Wolfgang Lind, *Clínica das Horas, Portugal*

Paulo Vitória, *Universidade da Beira Interior, Portugal*

Intervision is a method consisting of peer group reflection on professional practice with the general objective of promoting the continuous development of its members. It is particularly applied in social work, health care and psychotherapy contexts. This presentation is based on the experience of an intervention group that has been operating since 2007. It was considered by the Portuguese Psychologists Association the oldest psychologists' intervention group in Portugal. Their members are therapists sharing a systemic view with diverse clinical practices in different contexts. The data comes from the narrative of these group members' experiences based on answers to three questions: What motivated the adherence to an intervention group? What motivates the permanence in the group? What motivates the continuity of this group over time? What challenges you the most, as a family therapist, during changing times in family and community dynamics? The results confirm that participation in the intervention group has positive effects on emotional balance, professional development and practice dimensions. Themes and processes such as emotional support, self-awareness, assumptions challenge, views and interventions validation, innovative therapeutic practices were highlighted in the data analysis, as well as the vision of this relational space as a microsystem that mirrors the ways in which families themselves navigate change across space and time. The intervention format is an unique and effective process to foster resilience, innovation, and collaborative growth within the context of a supportive and democratic community composed by peers in a collaborative mindset. This revision invites further exploration and adaptation of intervention practices to meet the evolving needs of contemporary professional challenges.

Keywords: Intervention; Systemic View; Professional Development; Family Therapy, Collaborative Growth; Reflective Practice.



Oral Communications

Thematic Session 23

The Impact of Menopause on Marital Relationships: A Positive Psychology Approach to Enhancing Intimacy and Resilience

Margarida Pocinho, *University of Madeira, Portugal*

Menopause, a natural biological process marking the end of a woman's reproductive years, significantly influences various aspects of life, particularly marital relationships. According to the North American Menopause Society, up to 75% of women experience symptoms such as hot flashes, mood swings, and decreased libido, which can challenge emotional intimacy within marriages. In fact, 40% to 60% of women report reduced sexual desire and dissatisfaction with intimacy, which can strain marital dynamics. Drawing on principles from Positive Psychology, menopause can also present an opportunity for growth, fostering resilience, emotional well-being, and relationship enhancement. Couples who practiced gratitude and mindfulness experienced a 15% increase in relationship satisfaction during menopause. Research highlights that couples with strong social support report 25% higher relationship satisfaction compared to those with limited support. Couples practicing positive coping strategies are 30% more likely to experience relationship strengthening during life transitions. By focusing on strengths, well-being, and resilience, couples can not only overcome the challenges of menopause but also use this stage as an opportunity to deepen their connection. This approach addresses the long-term partnership goals that couples may pursue as they navigate this life stage together. By fostering open communication, mutual support, and shared growth, couples can leverage Positive Psychology to navigate menopause in a way that enhances intimacy, strengthens their bond, and supports long-term partnership goals.

Keywords: Menopause, marital relations, Positive Psychology, intimacy, resilience

The role of parents' associations in building participatory communities in multicultural contexts

Carla Gonçalves, *Universidade da Madeira, Portugal*

Inês Ferraz, *Universidade da Madeira, Portugal*

Parents' associations have been consolidating their role as agents of transformation in education, moving beyond a purely consultative role to mediate the school-family relationship in different multicultural and socio-economic contexts. This research is a case study whose objectives were to identify institutional perceptions of the role of parents' associations; to analyse the contribution of parents' associations in contexts marked by cultural diversity and socio-economic inequalities; to characterise the potential and existing barriers in the school-family relationship and to propose strategies for consolidating the role of parents' associations as mediating agents in the process of educational co-responsibility. To collect data, interviews were conducted with the school headmaster and the representative of the parents' association. Questionnaires were also administered to 160 parents and 25 teachers. The results reveal the importance of associations in promoting the skills of their members, acting as real spaces for collaborative learning and personal development. In addition, associations contribute to the organisation of community integration activities and the creation of communication and political bridges. However, barriers emerge, including gaps in school-family communication and a lack of knowledge on the part of some educational agents about the potential that parents' associations can have for educational and social transformation. The results of this study show that parents' associations play a fundamental role in the process of educational co-responsibility, promoting democratic principles for active participation in social transformation.

Keywords: parents' association; mediation; school; family; co-responsibility; transformation.



Oral Communications

Benefits of Tourist Experiences for Families: A Systematic Literature Review Using Nvivo

Diana Cunha, *University of Aveiro, Portugal*

Catarina Coelho, *University of Coimbra, Portugal*

Ana Paula Relvas, *University of Coimbra, Portugal, Portugal*

Elisabeth Kastenholz, *University of Aveiro, Portugal*

Studies on the specific benefits of tourist experiences for families are scattered across different disciplines. This study aims to systematically review the literature to synthesize the evidence on the benefits of tourist experiences for families. A systematic literature review was conducted using Nvivo, analyzing 33 scientific studies obtained from various databases. The studies included quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, and literature reviews. All works prior to the year 2000 were excluded and the search was restricted to full text. A language filter was also used, considering articles in Portuguese, English and Spanish. For NVivo analysis, information was coded based on both deductive and inductive perspectives. Two of the authors discussed the process and agreed on criteria that would make the coding more objective. Once the coding process in NVivo was completed, the data relating to the identification/characterization of the works were exported to the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), to characterize the sample. The results highlight that tourist experiences have several benefits for family systems, including the strengthening of family and marital bonds, the creation of family memories, and overall well-being and life satisfaction. These benefits contribute to both immediate relationship quality improvement and long-term family identity construction and transgenerational transmission. Tourist experiences provide opportunities for families to enhance their interpersonal relationships and create lasting memories. The findings suggest that formal interventions based on evidence could further enhance the potential benefits of these experiences and be a valuable preventive tool in therapeutic interventions.

Keywords: Family systems; individual and family well-being; marital satisfaction; tourist experiences.

Family work as a social service for supporting family relations? results from the Finnish national survey

Kaisa Malinen, *JAMK University of Applied Sciences, Finland*

Katri Ylönen, *JAMK University of Applied Sciences, Finland*

Sirpa Kannasoja, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

Family work in the Finnish context is a flexible social service in which professionals offer support to families in their own homes. In other cultural contexts, terms such as family or parenting support, home visiting programs, family-based interventions, and child maltreatment prevention are used to describe similar services aimed at, e.g., strengthening parenting, family interaction, and family-community relationships, and preventing child maltreatment. As a flexible service, family work is used to address a variety of needs. The purpose of this study is to describe the strain factors experienced by client families in family work and the objectives defined for working with them. This presentation is based on national survey data collected from Finnish family work professionals (N = 445) as part of the SUFA research project. Results of a thematic analysis suggest that client families in family work often experience strain related to interaction problems, challenges in managing everyday life, and difficulties in setting necessary boundaries for children. The primary aims of family work are enhancing parental well-being, improving the fluency of daily life, and strengthening interaction between family members. It is essential in family work to examine family relationships and the interaction processes within them. The results of the study can be utilized in developing family work services to better meet the needs of client families.

Keywords: family relations; family work; national survey; professionals; social work; thematic analysis.



Oral Communications

FRIDAY, JUNE 27th 2025
11:30 - 13:00

Thematic Session 24

The Trajectory of Coparenting Over Adolescent's Transition Out of High School: Considering Socioeconomic Stressors of Coparenting

Cindy Eira Nunes, *Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium*

Nele Flamant, *Ghent University, Belgium*

Stijn Van Petegem, *Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium*

An important task and challenge of coparents is to adapt to their child's changing behaviors and demands as a team. However, the way in which parents adjust their coparenting relationship to their children's progressive independence has been largely overlooked. Therefore, this longitudinal study aimed to describe the potential changes in coparenting quality over adolescents' transition out of high school. In addition, we aimed to consider contextual stressors parents may typically encounter over this transition. Therefore, we explored the interconnections between coparenting quality (i.e., conflict and support) and social (i.e., pressure to be a perfect parent) and financial pressures (i.e., financial scarcity and perceived job insecurity) over time. To achieve these goals, 478 parents (40.2% of fathers) were followed over a period of 1.5 years starting in their adolescents' last year of high school. Latent change models revealed that for both mothers and fathers, coparenting support significantly decreased six months after their adolescent's transition. For mothers, this decrease was also accompanied by an increase in coparenting conflict. Models also revealed that contextual stressors predicted lower coparenting quality. For instance, perceived financial scarcity was related to increased conflict for both parents and decreased support for fathers. We also found significant correlated changes between mothers' social pressure and coparenting conflict. In conclusion, this study offers a valuable insight into how the coparenting relationship develops over time considering adolescents' transition and its specific challenges. It may also help us better understand how parents experience their adolescents' emancipation differently.

Keywords: Coparenting; Adolescents; Family transitions; Socio-economic stressors; Longitudinal study.

Parents' diverse paths to self-compassion

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Kaisa Aunola, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

Kimmo Jokinen, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

Self-compassion is a significant factor in psychological well-being. It has been shown to correlate with lower levels of depression, anxiety, and burnout. Additionally, self-compassion supports well-being during critical moments in parenthood. It helps to reduce feelings of shame and guilt. Although there has been a considerable amount of quantitative research on self-compassion, knowledge of its developmental paths throughout human life is in its infancy. According to Bowlby's attachment theory, early attachment relationships serve as a significant foundation for human development. Similarly, Erikson's psychosocial theory highlights how earlier developmental stages influence later growth. The present qualitative study aims to shed light on parents' (n = 25, 13 Finnish women and 12 Finnish men) own experiences of the development of self-compassion throughout their lives. The interview data will be analyzed using thematic analysis, with the additional goal of identifying different narrative types related to the development of self-compassion. Although the analysis is ongoing, preliminary results suggest both similarities and differences among the identified narrative types. This study could provide valuable insights into the developmental paths of self-compassion, which are not yet well understood.

Keywords: self-compassion; parenthood; thematic analysis.



Oral Communications

Coparenting ideologies and pressures: A cross-cultural study in Finland, Portugal, and Japan

Mirjam Raudasoja, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

Kaisa Malinen, *JAMK University of Applied Sciences, Finland*

Marisa Matias, *University of Porto, Portugal*

Chino Yabunaga, *Toyo University, Japan*

Anna Rönkä, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

The transition to parenthood is a critical window for the development of coparenting: parenting practices, roles, collaborations, and ideologies are formed early in the transition (Feinberg, 2003). Coparenting involves different ways of functioning as parents, coordinating parenting tasks, and resolving disagreements (Campbell, 2023), and it is influenced by structural and cultural factors that define good parenting and the roles of mothers and fathers in families (see Raudasoja, 2022). The importance of culture in coparenting is recognized, but studies comparing coparenting across countries are scarce (see Kekkonen et al., 2023; Melim et al., under review). This presentation describes the rationale for a pilot study focusing on parenting ideologies and pressures in three countries: Finland, Portugal, and Japan. Data are from the Learning to Coparent: A Longitudinal, Cross-National Study on Construction of Coparenting in Transition to Parenthood and consist of individual interviews with Finnish (46 couples), Portuguese (51 couples), and Japanese (44 couples) parents at the end of pregnancy. A sample of two prenatal interviews of parental couples from each country (N = 12), already translated into English, will be selected for this study and analyzed using discursive methods (Baxter, 2011). The study aims to understand parental ideologies, the discursive tensions around parenthood within and across cultures, and the pressures parents anticipate in the transition to parenthood. The results will be useful for understanding parenting ideologies and cultural variation, promoting positive coparenting, and developing family services to help alleviate the universal experience of parental stress.

Keywords: coparenting; transition to parenthood; cross-cultural comparison; parenting ideologies; parenting pressures.

New Forms, Old Foundations? Tracing the Complexities of PACT Families Across Space and Time

Lei Decappelle, *Ghent University, Belgium*

Veerle Provoost, *Ghent University, Belgium*

While the link between romantic attachment and couple relationship satisfaction during the perinatal period is well-established, less is known about its role in the coparental relationship and the mechanisms that may account for it. Considering the centrality of the couple relationship for the development of coparenting, this study aimed to analyze whether romantic attachment during pregnancy predicts coparenting cooperation and conflict during the postpartum period, and if couple relationship satisfaction mediates this association. The sample was composed of 109 mothers that completed questionnaires assessing romantic attachment (Experience in Close Relationships Scale) and couple relationship satisfaction (Couple Satisfaction Index) at the 3rd trimester of pregnancy, and assessing coparenting cooperation and conflict (Coparental Relationship Scale) at 2 months postpartum. The results showed that (1) higher levels of attachment-related anxiety and avoidance predicted lower coparenting cooperation and relationship satisfaction, and higher coparenting conflict; (2) higher levels of relationship satisfaction predicted higher coparenting cooperation and lower coparenting conflict; and (3) relationship satisfaction mediated the relationship between romantic attachment and coparenting. Early screening of romantic attachment representations and relationship satisfaction during pregnancy is crucial to identify women at higher risk of coparenting conflict after childbirth.



Oral Communications

Thematic Session 25

Examination of the Factor Structure and Reliability of a Parent-Grandparent Coparenting Measure

Weiman Xu, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln, United States America*

Gilbert R. Parra, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln, United States America*

Family settings are pivotal for children's social-emotional development (Bornstein, 2005). The impact of grandparental involvement, particularly the coparenting relationship between parents and grandparents, remains less well understood (Xu et al., 2024). Intergenerational coparenting refers to the ways parents and grandparents interact with each other in their caregiver roles (Bai et al., 2022; Feinberg, 2003). A recent literature review (Xu et al., 2024) highlighted the need to enhance the measurement of intergenerational coparenting, by using a recent conceptualization of the parent-grandparent coparenting and including the power and authority dynamics. This study examined the factor structure and reliability of a parent-grandparent coparenting measure in Chinese families. Items for this measure were derived from two existing tools. Data were collected from 440 primary parental caregivers (75.4% mothers, $M_{age} = 35.03$, $SD_{age} = 5.43$) of children aged between three to six years (49.5% girls, $M_{age} = 4.69$, $SD_{age} = .92$) in China. Intergenerational coparenting was measured using items from the Grandparent-Parent Coparenting Relationship Scale (Li & Wei, 2018) and an adapted version of the Power Imbalance Scale (Miller et al., 2022). Exploratory factor analysis and confirmatory factor analysis were performed using Mplus 8.8. Findings indicated that 31-items from the two measures provided a good fit to the data. Nine subscales consistent with a recent conceptual framework of intergenerational coparenting emerged: agreement, reciprocity, support, conflict in front of the child, undermining, disagreement, division of labor, power process, and power outcome. Results provided preliminary support for the 31 items as a reliable measure of intergenerational coparenting.

Keywords: intergenerational coparenting relationship; scale development; exploratory factor analysis; confirmatory factor analysis.

When Grandmothers Step In: How Grandmothers Become Primary Caregivers for Their Grandchildren

Eliška Beránková, *Masarykova Univerzita, Czech Republic*

Grandfamilies represent a specific family structure in which grandparents (grandmother, grandfather, or both) assume the role of primary caregivers for their grandchild or grandchildren in the absence of the biological parent. The reasons for the formation of grandfamilies vary, but they share a common cause: the lack of interest or inability of the biological parent (most often the mother) to provide care. The context in which grandfamilies come into being is a transformative event with both short- and long-term consequences for the lives of all the actors involved, mainly caregiving grandparents and the grandchildren in their care. This presentation focuses on the context in which grandfamilies are formed and the immediate impact on caregiving grandmothers. Drawing on an analysis of 20 in-depth interviews with foster grandmothers and 24 interviews with social workers working with foster families – conducted between the fall of 2023 and the spring of 2025 as part of the project *Pouta prarodič-vnouče: Přesgenerační vztahy a každodenní vyjednávání závazků péče* (Grandparent-Grandchild Bonds: Intergenerational Relationships and the Everyday Negotiation of Care Commitments) – I examine two key factors characterizing the formation of grandfamilies: unpredictability and unpreparedness. These two aspects emerged in all grandmothers' narratives, reflecting both the unexpected nature of their new caregiving role and the various forms of unpreparedness they experienced when stepping in as primary caregivers.

Keywords: grandfamilies; foster grandparents; social workers; grandmothers; intergenerational transfer of care.



Oral Communications

Giving Grandparents a Voice: Qualitative study on perceptions of grandparenthood

Maria João Beja, *Universidade da Madeira, Portugal*

Marta Xavier, *Universidade da Madeira, Portugal*

Alda Portugal, *Universidade da Madeira, Portugal*

Contrary to what happens with other events in a family system, the transition to grandparenthood continues to be a poorly trained event, from a qualitative point of view, with a gap in the clarification of the specific dimensions of grandparenthood, from the perspective of those who experience it - grandparents. Therefore, the main objective of the present study is to conceptualize and clarify the tasks and functions of this subsystem in a clearer way. Nine male ($n = 5$) and female ($n = 4$) grandparents participated, living in the Autonomous Region of Madeira, with ages ranging from 51 to 77 years old ($M = 64.8$, $SD = 9.4$). The thematic analysis of the semi-structured interviews with grandparents identified three main themes: (1) Transition to grandmother-parenthood; (2) Experiences of grandparenthood and (3) Implications and challenges of grandparenthood. The results, in general, showed that the grandfathers/grandmothers imagined and idealized grand parenthood, as being a desired and expected role, which would arise spontaneously and which was associated with positive emotions and feelings, where gains/ Advantages, from the perspective of grandparents, were much greater compared to the difficulties associated with this role.

Keywords: Grandparenting; Tasks and Functions; Benefits; Qualitative Study.

Intergenerational transmission of parenting: Womens' perspectives in the context of non-residential fatherhood

Mariëlle Osinga, *University of Groningen, Netherlands*

Pauline R. Schreuder, *University of Groningen, Netherlands*

T. Kretschmer, *University of Groningen, Netherlands*

Studying intergenerational transmission of parenting enriches our knowledge of similarities and differences (i.e., continuities and discontinuities) in parenting across generations and potential explanations for these, but existing research is largely limited to quantitative studies. This qualitative study explored parent-child relationship quality and parenting behaviours across generations among Dutch women who have raised their children without the biological father present in the home ($n = 17$, M age = 51.53 years, Range = 37-65 years). Thematic analyses of in-depth interviews revealed that women 1) reported closer relationships with their children than with their parents, 2) often only partially continued how they were raised by their own parents, and 3) related continuities and discontinuities of parent-child relationship quality and parenting behaviours to the context of non-residential fatherhood - specifically to the support and stress they experienced raising their children without the biological father present in the home. This qualitative study provides a comprehensive understanding of potential explanations for intergenerational transmission of parenting, which may help to identify intervention targets useful in decreasing transmission of undesirable parenting practices.

Keywords: intergenerational transmission; non-residential fatherhood; parenting; qualitative research.



Oral Communications

FRIDAY, JUNE 27th 2025
14:00 - 15:30

Thematic Session 26

Psychological security in the transition to parenthood

Mirjam Raudasoja, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

The transition to parenthood is characterized by increased vulnerability in individuals, couples, and families. Psychological security, i.e. the experience of being trustful and free, is conceived in a good interaction between the individual and their environment. In the transition to parenthood, psychological security is challenged by unpredictability, physical vulnerability, and increased need for help. At the individual level, sensitivity to positive or negative experiences is heightened. There is a need for dynamic reorganization of couples and families, which can exacerbate insecurities and conflicts. Paradoxically, risk discourses in society and health care increase insecurity and make parents more vulnerable. Societies and health services need to find ways to support families through this challenging transition. This presentation discusses psychological security from the perspectives of parents, couples, and societies, and suggests ways to support it in health care and social contexts. Based on my multi-method doctoral dissertation in psychology on the transition to parenthood and additional review of the relevant literature, I argue that building security is everyone's responsibility. Summarizing the results of four empirical studies included in my dissertation, I suggest that a mother's self-esteem is an important factor in determining her experience of the transition to motherhood. This finding is theoretically explained by the ability to maintain security, which is made possible by high self-esteem and effective communication. During pregnancy, childbirth, and early parenting, a sense of security supports parental confidence and promotes positive outcomes for parents, children, and society.

Keywords: transition to parenthood; psychological security; parents; couples; societies; adult development.

Parents' Gender Beliefs and Their Parental Involvement Across 11 Countries: Unraveling the Role of Gender Essentialism

Elli-Anastasia Lamprianidou, *Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium*

Cindy Eira Nunes, *Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium*

Katharina Block, *University of Amsterdam, Netherlands*

Maria Bacikova-Sleskova, *Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, Slovak Republic*

Eliana De Salvo, *University of Messina, Italy*

Frederik De Spiegeleer, *Ghent University, Belgium*

Terese Glatz, *Örebro University, Sweden*

Stijn Van Petegem, *Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium*

This cross-national study examines how parents' gender essentialist beliefs shape their parenting across 11 countries with different levels of gender inequality. Gender essentialism proposes that women are inherently more qualified for child-rearing than men. We explored how fathers' and mothers' gender essentialist beliefs relate to their positive (i.e., responsiveness) and negative (i.e., overprotection) parental involvement in a sample of 5753 parents (34% fathers) of adolescents ($M_{age} = 17.35$, $SD = 1.10$; 54% girls), across 11 countries. We relied on multi-level modeling. For RQ1, stronger endorsement of gender essentialism related to higher overprotection for both fathers, $B = 0.18$, $SE = 0.04$, $t(1843) = 4.63$, $p < .001$, and mothers, $B = 0.24$, $SE = 0.01$, $t(3476) = 19.53$, $p < .001$. No effect was found for parents' responsiveness. For RQ2, we examined whether the link between country-level gender inequality (Level 2) and parents' overprotection (Level 1) is explained by parents' gender essentialist beliefs (Level 1,2). For fathers, gender essentialism explained the relationship between gender inequality and overprotection at both the individual, $B = 0.17$, $SE = 0.04$, $t(1843) = 4.49$, $p < .001$, and the country-levels, $B = 0.54$, $SE = 0.14$, $t(7) = 3.78$, $p = .007$. For mothers, gender essentialist beliefs explained this link only at the individual level, $B = 0.23$, $SE = 0.02$, $t(3476) = 10.54$, $p = .000$, but not on the country-level, $B = 0.11$, $SE = 0.11$, $t(8) = 1.04$, $p = .329$. This study is preregistered, and all details are available at https://osf.io/9sy2r?mode=&revisionId=&view_only=.

Keywords: gender essentialist beliefs; overprotection; responsiveness; gender inequality; multilevel modeling.



Oral Communications

Parenting Under Pressure: How Social and Family Expectations Contribute to Parental Burnout

M. Matias, *University of Porto, Portugal*

T. Sarmiento, *University of Porto, Portugal*

Recent research has highlighted the detrimental effects of intensive parenting attitudes and perfectionism on parental burnout (PB). Feeling pressure to be a perfect parent (Meeussen & van Laar, 2018), socially prescribed perfectionism (Sorkkila & Aunola, 2019), social media use, and social comparisons (Black et al., 2022) have been linked to PB, with evidence suggesting stronger effects for mothers than fathers. This study explores parental pressures, their sources, and their association with PB in both mothers and fathers. Using an ongoing cross-sectional study, we assessed parental pressure and PB in 192 mothers and 89 fathers with at least one child under 18 years living in the household. Our preliminary findings reveal that feelings of parental pressure are correlated with higher PB, both for fathers and mothers. However, mothers report greater pressure than fathers, and parents of younger children (under 6 years) experience more pressure than parents of older children. Parental pressure also appears to originate primarily from oneself and from family members, but mothers report more pressure from family members and society compared to fathers. First-time parents and parents of toddlers (under 2) report higher pressure from family members. In addition, parents of toddlers report more pressure from the media than parents of older children. These findings suggest that first-time mothers and parents of younger children are particularly vulnerable to parental pressure, with extended family being a critical source of pressure. This research may inform interventions aimed at reducing social pressures and mitigating PB, particularly by redefining extended family expectations.

Growing Up in Times of Crisis: Family Bonds and Adolescent Well-Being Trajectories

Sophia Chabursky, *German Youth Institute, Germany*

In an era marked by global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, economic instability, and political upheaval, families play a vital role in shaping adolescents' mental health and resilience. This study examines how parent-child relationships - particularly how well adolescents feel they get along with their mother and/or father - buffer the potential negative effects of crises on adolescents' well-being. We draw on data from the "Growing up in Germany" panel study (2019, 2021, and 2023) to track 847 adolescents (aged 12 to 14 at baseline) over a transformative period marked by rapid societal change. We measure well-being using the WHO-5 Well-Being Index and capture parent-child relationship through validated survey items. Socio-economic status and perceived future threat regarding economic and political changes serve as key contextual factors. We hypothesize that strong parent-child bonds will help mitigate declines in well-being, especially for adolescents in lower socio-economic contexts who may face disproportionate hardship. We also examine whether these protective effects differ by the child's gender, hypothesizing that boys and girls may experience parent-child bonds in distinct ways. Using latent growth curve modeling, we aim to examine well-being trajectories before, during, and after the pandemic to understand how these factors intersect. By analyzing these data, we seek to shed light on the protective function of close parent-child relationships, particularly within families facing socio-economic stress. The findings of this study can inform interventions and policies designed to strengthen familial support systems, ultimately promoting adolescent mental health and resilience in the face of ongoing uncertainties.



Thematic Session 27

Rethinking Great-Grandparenthood: Gender and Expectations in Four-Generation Families

Zuzana Talašová, *Masaryk University, Czech Republic*

Rethinking Great-Grandparenthood: Gender and Expectations in Four-Generation Families

Recent demographic shifts have led to a growing number of four-generation families, making the role of great-grandparents increasingly relevant. This paper explores how gender norms and expectations surrounding great-grandparenthood are evolving within these family structures. Traditional perceptions of great-grandparents as passive “family elders” are challenged by new realities, where they may play a more active role in family dynamics. Special attention is given to differences between great-grandmothers and great-grandfathers and how their roles shift over time and across cultural contexts.

This study is based on ten in-depth qualitative interviews with great-grandparents, complemented by additional interviews with grandparents and grandchildren. While the primary focus is on great-grandparents' perceptions of their role, insights from other generations provide a broader intergenerational perspective. The research is ongoing, with data being analysed iteratively using thematic analysis.

Preliminary findings suggest a convergence of gender roles in great-grandparenthood. This shift may be driven by physical aging, changing cultural expectations, and practical family needs. As caregiving responsibilities transition to younger generations, great-grandparents often experience a “neutralization” of gender norms, where distinctions between traditionally male and female roles fade. The loss of a partner and shifting life priorities further contribute to this unification. Additionally, societal perceptions of older individuals as a homogeneous group may reinforce this role convergence. By examining these dynamics, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of the evolving significance of great-grandparenthood and its implications for intergenerational relationships.

Keywords: great-grandparenthood, gender norms, four-generation families, intergenerational relationship

Revitalizing the concept of "Vital Involvement"

Daniel Zajac, *Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland*

Aleksandra Pilarska, *Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland*

Nearly four decades have passed since Erikson, Erikson, and Kivnick (1986) introduced vital involvement (VI) as the structural principle of psychosocial development. Since then, Helen Q. Kivnick has further developed VI into a resource-oriented model of psychosocial functioning, which illustrates how meaningful engagement with the world beyond the self contributes to the well-being of older adults by balancing the age-related physical, cognitive, and social losses. VI is based on enacting one's resources, interests, and strengths, recognizing and fostering reciprocal relationships with the environment (e.g., family, institutions), utilizing available social support to compensate for age-related changes, enriching one's environment, particularly through transgenerational exchange, and adopting a perspective based on life-long experiences (Kivnick et al., 2020). Despite its practical utility and integrative nature, VI has not gained widespread recognition among researchers interested in aging, possibly due to the qualitative foundations of the concept and the absence of a formal operationalization. This presentation aims to refocus attention on VI through its conceptual reconstruction. We first review the literature that uses the notion of VI and identify its essential characteristics. We then specify how VI and its constitutive dimensions relate to other established constructs, such as selective optimization with compensation (Baltes & Baltes, 1990), personal wisdom (Staudinger, 1999), and generativity (McAdams & de St. Aubin, 1992), thereby situating VI within the current gerontology literature. Finally, we propose indicators to allow for the quantitative assessment of VI. Our goal is to enhance VI's applicability to empirical analysis and open avenues for further research.

Keywords: vital involvement, adjustment to aging, psychosocial health, old age



Oral Communications

Managing multiple temporalities: Polish families' migration experiences in Ireland

Michelle Share, *University of Dublin, Ireland*

This paper examines how Polish migrant families in Ireland manage multiple, interacting temporalities in their transnational lives (historical-institutional; family-generational; and biographical). It moves beyond both linear life-stage approaches and static views of migration to draw on the temporal turn in migration studies. The paper aims to show how migration experiences evolve continuously over time. The EU freedom of movement framework created opportunities for flexible mobility between Poland and Ireland. This mobility shaped and continues to shape how families arrange care across borders and make decisions about their migration pathways. Using qualitative data from a study of Polish families in Ireland, the paper reveals how historical, generational and biographical time dimensions interact to influence family decisions and experiences. The analysis shows how families actively use the opportunities created by EU mobility to maintain family connections through care arrangements and communication technologies. Past migration decisions and experiences shape families' future plans, from keeping property in Poland to preparing for aging parents' care needs, and retirement. By examining how these different time dimensions interact, the paper contributes new insights into migration experiences beyond simple life-stages. The paper highlights how Polish families actively shape their transnational lives, balancing competing temporal demands and planning their futures across time and space.

Keywords: Migration temporalities, transnational families, EU mobility, temporal intersections, Polish migration, Life course

Time and Space in student transnational migration and family social reproduction

Marta Moskal, *University of Glasgow, United Kingdom*

Temporality is a perspective that scrutinize time and temporal aspects of people's lives as migrants, including internationally mobile students. For 'non-traditional' students, who face multiple layers of disadvantage, the hidden inequity in the social dynamics of time can perpetuate existing inequalities and generate new ones. This article highlights the connections between time and temporal aspects within the student migration system, and the social reproduction of families in the mobility context between the Global South and the Global North. It exemplarily analyses narrations from interviews with Indonesian and Tanzanian student-migrants in the UK to consider how time of family social reproduction intersects with the time of educational migration under rigid student visa, scholarship and university degree regimes. The article shows 'non-traditional' student's restricted freedoms and agentic uses of space and time that become patterned in rhythms of time inflation and time compression. It argues that the financial pressures, gendered expectations and parental duties in the context of a temporariness and hardship enforced by their scholarship as well as the immigration regime disrupt the right to 'studenthood' for mature students. The extend individuals can take ownership of their time impacts their study experiences and outcomes.



Oral Communications

FRIDAY, JUNE 27th 2025

14:00 - 15:30

Thematic Session 28

Parenting as a Dyadic Process: Stress, Support, and Emotional Interdependence in Daily Life

Fien Plochaet, *UAntwerp, Belgium*

Ward Deferm, *KU Leuven, Belgium*

Binu Singh, *KU Leuven, Belgium*

Monica Dhar, *UAntwerp, Belgium*

Sara De Bruyn, *UAntwerp, Belgium*

Inez Myin-Germeys, *KU Leuven, Belgium*

Edwin Wouters, *UAntwerp, Belgium*

Bart Boets, *KU Leuven, Belgium*

Parenting is not an individual task but a shared process in which parents influence each other's emotions, stress levels, and coping strategies. Societal shifts - including work-life balance struggles, evolving parenting roles, and rising mental health concerns - underscore the need to understand these dyadic dynamics. This study uses Experience Sampling Methodology (ESM) to examine how parents of infants with regulation problems regulate stress, affect, and partner support in daily life, providing novel insights into co-regulation within parenting dyads. Over two weeks, both parents in each family complete four daily assessments, measuring stress, tiredness, and affect at each timepoint, while perceived partner support, burden of care and child regulation problems are assessed in the morning and evening. This design allows us to explore associations between partner support, parental emotional states (stress, affect), perceived burden of care, and co-regulation quality. Using intensive longitudinal data, we aim to understand how these factors relate to each other and how day-to-day variations in one parent's emotional state might influence the other's well-being and overall emotional dynamics within the family. Additionally, we investigate how these parent factors relate to child regulation problems, offering a more comprehensive understanding of parent-infant dynamics. Currently, data have been collected from 12 participants, and data collection is ongoing. Preliminary findings will offer early insights into how relational factors within couples relate to parental well-being and child functioning. These findings could inform interventions that extend beyond individual stress management by also supporting couple dynamics, providing a broader perspective on resilience and adaptation in families navigating infant regulation challenges.

Keywords: parental well-being, partner support, intensive longitudinal data, dyadic relationships

Time and Temporality in Family Migration

Hilda Gustafsson, *Malmö University, Sweden*

Time and temporality play crucial roles in shaping family migration experiences, yet their significance has only recently gained scholarly interest. This presentation examines how families who applied for reunification navigate the uncertainties of waiting during the process and how temporal structures influence transnational family life. Based on semi-structured interviews with 28 individuals from 21 families who underwent reunification to Sweden, the study demonstrates how waiting affects family dynamics, emotional well-being, and long-term aspirations. By bringing a temporal lens to family migration, this research contributes to family studies by deepening our understanding of how migration policies shape not only where families live but also when and how they can be together. It highlights the centrality of time in family life, offering new insights into how families experience and negotiate prolonged uncertainty and state-imposed temporalities.



Oral Communications

The Future of the Everyday: what mundane use of smart technology reveals about family relations in a sociodigital world

Nicola Horsley, *University of Bristol, United Kingdom*

Natasha Carver, *University of Bristol, United Kingdom*

Esther Dermott, *University of Bristol, United Kingdom*

Big tech companies are commonly seen as disrupting the ways in which we interact with the world and live our lives. Smart technology's algorithms maximise convenience at the expense of critical thought and mindless responses to addictive stimuli at the expense of time sovereignty. Greater fluidity in family relations, encouraged by technological advances such as voice assistants and smartphone apps, often garners sensationalist media reporting as moral panics build around perceived threats to sacrosanct family practices, and, consequently, to society. The framing of families' futures has been dominated by big tech visions and polarised debates about whether smart technology's intrusion into family life should be accepted or rejected. Families, however, encompass a diversity of under-represented experiences of engagement with technology and have their own stories to tell about the benefits and disadvantages of everyday life in a sociodigital world. This paper reports on a mixed-methods study of 60 participants, comprising family interviews, child-led photostory tours of the home and smart data donation, which examined the nuanced ways in which technologies reconfigure, and are reconfigured by, family life. Findings on the complex ways in which smart technologies affect dynamics in different family structures, and how issues such as screen time and addiction are understood and navigated as a household, expand understandings of families' mundane, everyday interactions with technology and how these can reveal micro level drivers for possible sociodigital futures of societies. We reveal how family norms are challenged by the affordances and creeps of smart technologies and how family practices might deflate big tech claims about smart living.

Children's involvement in technology-facilitated violence: Experiences of Clinical Professionals Working with Victims of Violence in Finland

Anniina Kaittila, *University of Turku, Finland*

Sonja Tihveräinen, *Tampere University, Finland*

Johanna Hietamäki, *Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland*

Suvi Nipuli, *Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland*

Sisko Piippo, *University of Eastern Finland, Finland*

Marita Husso, *Tampere University, Finland*

Leo Nyqvist, *University of Turku, Finland*

Outi Kekkonen, *Tampere University, Finland*

Digital technologies have transformed and diversified acts of domestic violence, enabling abusers to harass, monitor, isolate, and control their partners across time and space. Children, though not the primary targets, are also deeply affected and often exploited in technology-facilitated violence (TFV). This study examines children's involvement in TFV through data from two research projects.

The first dataset was part of DIGISOS - Encountering and addressing digital violence in social services and health care, surveyed 492 social service professionals about digital violence experienced by clients. The data included a question on if the abuser has used the child's digital devices to harm the other parent. Descriptive statistical analysis revealed that one-third of respondents encountered cases where abusers manipulated children's devices to harm their parents.

The second dataset was derived from a project Digital violence and its intervention in domestic violence shelters, which surveyed employees' perceptions of the digital violence experienced by their clients. The survey included 106 respondents. Open-ended responses describing incidents of abusers using children's devices were analyzed qualitatively. Results highlighted several patterns of abuse involving children.

The findings emphasize that children's involvement in TFV is a widespread and multifaceted issue. Abusers exploit children's digital tools to extend control over their partners and manipulate family dynamics. Addressing this issue requires integrating awareness of TFV into social services and domestic violence interventions. Professionals working with parents and families must be trained to recognize and mitigate these abuses, ensuring both parent and child safety.



Oral Communications

FRIDAY, JUNE 27th 2025
14:00 - 15:30

Thematic Session 29



Oral Communications

Social and Material Participation of Children in Low-Income Households in Germany? a Mixed-Methods Research Project

Claudia Globisch, *Institute for Employment Research, Germany*

Claudia Wenzig, *Institute for Employment Research, Germany*

In Germany, around 20 percent of children under 18 are at risk of income poverty, and 14 percent receive welfare benefits. Growing up in low-income families negatively impacts living conditions and child development. The national action plan aims to enable material and social child participation by 2030. Our mixed-methods project examines the participation and living standards of these children and their families. We analyze household resource allocation, decision-making processes, and age-specific needs. By combining quantitative and qualitative data at two time points, we track changes over time. This methodological approach provides both representative findings and in-depth insights into families' experiences and coping strategies. We focus on children's perspectives in their family context and use participatory research elements. The study is based on a web survey within the panel study "Labour Market and Social Security" (PASS), involving around 5,000 respondents. From this sample, about 20 families will be selected for narrative interviews. Additionally, 10 expert interviews will be conducted with representatives from politics, administration, welfare, and youth. Our focus is on children's material and social participation in low-income households, household resource distribution and living standard assessments, particularly for children. In our presentation, we will introduce the study design and research questions of our mixed-method-project. As an introduction we will present empirical findings on child poverty risks and their consequences based on the representative PASS study. We will particularly highlight the material living conditions of income-poor children and their families as a starting point of our research project.

Navigating Old Age Care: Intergenerational Solidarity and Financial Responsibilities in Belgium's Public Social Welfare System

Anna Willems, *University of Antwerp, Belgium*

Dimitri Mortelmans, *University of Antwerp, Belgium*

Anina Vercruyssen, *University of Antwerp, Belgium*

Intergenerational solidarity plays a crucial role in shaping the dynamics of old age care, particularly within the context of nursing homes and public social services. As family structures transform and become more diverse, tensions with legal frameworks and financial support become increasingly significant. Financial support is essential for sustaining old-age care, especially in nursing homes where the cost of care can be substantial. This paper reports on a case study on administrative data from the local Public Centre for Social Welfare in Belgium, focusing on older adults (65 years or more) who lack sufficient financial means to pay for a nursing home and ask to receive financial assistance from this public service. Our sample comprises five thousand reports, analysed using SAS Visual Text Analytics. This tool employs machine learning and natural language processing to extract insights from the textual data. The study focuses on the way in which social workers reclaim the amounts needed based on the maintenance duty of legal children and spouses. The changing family dynamics and old age care require research to detect significant struggles and to help us understand the needs of older adults and the support required from family members and social services. By leveraging insights from administrative data research, policymakers can better understand and respond to the evolving needs of different family dynamics.

Keywords: intergenerational solidarity, old age care, family dynamics, public social welfare service, maintenance duty



Oral Communications

Exploring communication types: How older European parents stay connected with their adult children in the digital age

Henrik Laumert, *TU Dortmund University, Germany*

Staying connected is vital for parent-child relations, especially in later life when intergenerational ties provide essential support. The widespread diffusion of digital communication tools - further accelerated by COVID-19 restrictions - has given rise to a diverse 'polymedia landscape' that expands opportunities for maintaining connections, bridging distances and meeting social needs. Although adult parent-child contact often involves multiple communication methods to varying extents, little is known about how these forms interact and combine.

To develop a more nuanced understanding of the multidimensional nature of intergenerational contact in today's technology-rich contexts, this study explores how older European parents engage with different communication modes when interacting with their adult children. Using data from the European Social Survey Round 10 (2020-2022), a latent class analysis approach identifies distinct communication types among 7,135 parents aged 50 and above based on the frequency and modes of contact.

Four latent types of communication emerge: 'medium traditional communication', characterised by moderate face-to-face and telephone contact with limited use of modern media; 'high overall communication', reflecting intensive use of all available channels; 'low overall communication', marked by infrequent interaction across all modes; and 'high modern communication', centred around frequent video calls. Their prevalence in European countries is described, and multinomial logistic regression models examine the individual and family characteristics that shape each type. The findings suggest that conceptualising later-life parent-child contact as a multidimensional phenomenon can advance our understanding of its heterogeneity in Europe's ageing societies.

Keywords: parent-child communication, ageing, intergenerational relationships, parent-child relationships, digital technology

Socio-Demographic and Economic Characteristics of Single-Parent Families: A Gendered Approach using Data from Slovakia

Sofia Trommlerova, *Comenius University Bratislava, Slovak Republic*

Staying connected is vital for parent-child relations, especially in later life when intergenerational ties provide essential support. The widespread diffusion of digital communication tools - further accelerated by COVID-19 restrictions - has given rise to a diverse 'polymedia landscape' that expands opportunities for maintaining connections, bridging distances and meeting social needs. Although adult parent-child contact often involves multiple communication methods to varying extents, little is known about how these forms interact and combine. To develop a more nuanced understanding of the multidimensional nature of intergenerational contact in today's technology-rich contexts, this study explores how older European parents engage with different communication modes when interacting with their adult children. Using data from the European Social Survey Round 10 (2020-2022), a latent class analysis approach identifies distinct communication types among 7,135 parents aged 50 and above based on the frequency and modes of contact.

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Keywords: parent-child communication, ageing, intergenerational relationships, parent-child relationships, digital technology



Oral Communications

Parental Stress, Social Support and Quality of Life

Glória Franco, *University of Madeira, Portugal*

Maria João Beja, *University of Madeira, Portugal*

Andreia Nunes, *University of Madeira, Portugal*

Parents may experience parental stress for various reasons, such as challenges in child-rearing, financial burdens, managing children's behavior, and organizing daily activities. These factors can impact the entire family dynamic and influence children's development. The main objective of this study was to identify factors associated with parental stress.

A total of 153 parents (both mothers and fathers) of children and adolescents aged 0 to 18 years, residing in the Autonomous Region of Madeira (RAM), participated in the study. These parents completed the Parental Stress Scale and the Short Form of the Parental Quality of Life Scale. Additionally, they were asked to complete a questionnaire to collect sociodemographic data and information about the support they receive in fulfilling their parenting responsibilities.

The results indicated that parents did not exhibit high levels of parental stress. However, statistically significant differences were found between parental stress levels and certain sociodemographic variables. Furthermore, the data revealed significant correlations between parental stress levels, social support, and various dimensions of quality of life.

Keywords: Parental Stress, Social Support, Quality of Life



Posters

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25th 2025

16:30 – 17:00

Session 1

Parental burnout in mothers: The role of coparenting and attachment tendencies

Valentine Rattaz, University of Geneva; Switzerland

Michel Bader, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Nicolas Favez, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Parental burnout is defined as an exhaustion related to the parental role, an emotional distance towards children and a loss of the sense of parental fulfillment. Previous studies have shown that the quality of the coparenting relationship is an important predictor of parental burnout. However, this association might depend on the individual's attachment tendencies, as they relate to the way one can rely on close others. The present study investigates the role of coparenting and romantic attachment on parental burnout in mothers. 182 mothers from Switzerland participated in an online study. Sociodemographic information (mother's age, financial situation, formation, working hours, number and age of children, children's special needs) were collected. Parental burnout, coparenting relationship, and romantic attachment were assessed with questionnaires. 14.3% of mothers had severe symptoms of parental burnout, and 20.3% were at risk for parental burnout. Results showed that poorer financial situation, lower coparenting relationship and lower avoidant attachment were predictors of higher parental burnout. Moderation analyses showed a marginal moderation effect ($p = .06$) of avoidant attachment on the association between coparenting and parental burnout, when controlling for the financial situation, showed that higher avoidance tendency could act as a protective factor in the association between poorer coparenting relationship and higher parental burnout. The results are counter-intuitive, since it would have been expected that a more secure attachment would be associated with less parental burnout. This highlights the complexity of the factors involved in parental burnout.

Stay-at-home fathers: An Intersectional Exploration of Changing Family Relationships in Contemporary China

Xu Wang, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom

The transformation of fatherhood in contemporary society reflects profound shifts in family dynamics, gender norms, and societal expectations. Within this evolving landscape, the emergence of Stay-at-Home Fathers (SAHFs) in China represents a particularly significant phenomenon. This study examines the motivations and experiences of SAHFs in China, focusing on the factors that lead men to assume primary caregiving roles and how they navigate these roles within family structures, social expectations, and institutional constraints. While extensive research on SAHFs exists in Western contexts, little attention has been given to Chinese fathers, who must reconcile traditional gender expectations, economic realities, and intergenerational influences when making this transition. Given the limited scholarship on paternal caregiving in China, this study aims to fill this gap by conducting a comprehensive literature review, critically examining existing research on SAHFs, masculinity, and caregiving. Through 20 in-depth interviews with SAHFs and their spouses in urban China, supplemented by participant observations of family interactions, this study aims to understand why Chinese fathers become SAHFs, how they negotiate caregiving roles within their families and society, and the broader implications of paternal caregiving on spousal relationships, intergenerational dynamics, and child development. By employing intersectionality, masculinity studies, and family systems theory, this research will highlight the complex interplay between gender norms, class, and family relationships in shaping the SAHF experience. By synthesizing cross-cultural research and situating SAHFs within China's unique socio-cultural and policy landscape, this study will contribute to global discussions on fatherhood, caregiving, and gender roles. The insights gained will provide a foundation for future empirical research on the evolving role of fathers in contemporary Chinese families.



Posters

Breaking the Cycle: Exploring the Bidirectional Associations of Loneliness and Rejection Sensitivity

Neve Oprins, Utrecht University, Netherlands

Loneliness is a common issue among young adults, particularly in first-year university students, and is linked to cognitive biases like rejection sensitivity. Previous studies have mainly explored the association between loneliness and rejection sensitivity in one direction. This study investigates the longitudinal, bidirectional association between loneliness and rejection sensitivity. The sample included 229 Belgian first-year university students ($M = 18.3$ years, $SD = 1.13$, 90.8% female). Participants completed the short-form UCLA Loneliness Scale (RULS-8) and the Rejection Sensitivity Questionnaire across three measurement waves with a two-month interval. The data were analyzed using a Random Intercept Cross-Lagged Panel Model to distinguish between stable, between-person associations and dynamic, within-person effects. Findings revealed a significant stable association, meaning that individuals reporting higher levels of loneliness than other participants across all three measurement waves also reported higher rejection sensitivity levels across all waves. However, no significant within-person cross-lagged effects were observed, indicating no evidence of dynamic, time-sensitive interactions between loneliness and rejection sensitivity. These results suggest that, within the study's timeframe, the association between loneliness and rejection sensitivity in university students is primarily a stable, trait-like characteristic rather than a dynamic, fluctuating state. This implies that interventions should address loneliness and rejection sensitivity as stable traits while remaining responsive to students' immediate social experiences that could affect loneliness and rejection sensitivity in a shorter timeframe.

Keywords: Loneliness, Rejection Sensitivity, Young Adults, Random Intercept Cross-Lagged Panel Model, Within-Person vs. Between-Person Effects

Prenatal and postnatal depressive symptoms in mothers and fathers: Actor-partner effects on early parent-infant interactions

Nilo Puglisi, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Hervé Tissot, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Valentine Rattaz, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Chantal Razurel, University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland, Switzerland

Manuella Epiney, University of Geneva Hospitals, Switzerland

Nicolas Favez, University of Geneva, Switzerland

The quality of parent-infant interactions, conceptualized in terms of interactive synchrony, is important for infant development and long-term outcomes. Past studies, mainly focused on mothers, have shown that prenatal depressive symptoms adversely affect interactive synchrony with the infant. According to family systems theory, one parent's depressive symptoms can influence both their own and their partner's interactions with the infant. However, the mutual effects of maternal and paternal prenatal depressive symptoms on interactive synchrony with the infant remain underexplored. This study addressed this gap by investigating these associations during pregnancy and early infancy while controlling for postnatal depressive symptoms. We hypothesized that higher levels of depressive symptoms in mothers and fathers during pregnancy would adversely impact both their own (actor effects) and their partner's interactive synchrony (partner effects) with the infant, with postnatal symptoms mediating these associations. We analyzed longitudinal data from 86 families using the Actor-Partner Interdependence Mediation Model (APIMm). Parents reported depressive symptoms at T1 (prenatal) and T2 (3 months post-partum). Interactive synchrony was assessed through direct observation of interactive behaviors at T2. Both maternal and paternal prenatal depressive symptoms were associated with reduced interactive synchrony (actor effects). Specifically, greater maternal depressive symptoms were associated with lower mother-infant synchrony and greater paternal depressive symptoms with lower father-infant synchrony. No partner effects were observed, and postnatal depressive symptoms did not mediate these associations. This study highlights the importance of considering both parents' prenatal mental health to support positive early parent-infant interactions and infant development.

Keywords: prenatal, postnatal, depressive symptoms, parent-infant synchrony, parent-infant interaction



Posters

Discourses of fatherhood after parents' separation - Finnish fathers' perspectives

Johanna Terävä, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Marja Leena Böök, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Paternity after divorce has been studied very little in Finland, even though divorces have become more common over the decades. In this presentation, we examine what kind of fatherhood men say they implement after parents' separation, and especially, which factors support their fatherhood in their opinion. On the other hand, we investigate, which sore points men bring up in their speech on implementing fatherhood after a separation. The data consists of 21 interviews of fathers who have separated from the mothers of their children. The data has been collected in cooperation with the Finnish Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters. For analysis, we apply qualitative discourse analysis method. Men's fatherhood speech includes several factors of which they feel that some empower, and some weaken their fatherhood. Three discourses of fatherhood, relating also to the agency of fathers, can be identified from the data: "Emotional caregiver", "Living in hope" and "Worrier and misunderstood". In their speech, the separated fathers construct an image of virtuous and morally responsible fatherhood, which is rooted in caring, warm and reciprocal interaction with the child. When fathers discuss about such a culturally bound image of their involved fatherhood, also the vulnerability and complexity of fatherhood is revealed. Such sore points - men's concerns, sadness and fear related to their fatherhood - have rarely been highlighted in previous studies.

Keywords: Fatherhood, separation, qualitative research, discourse analysis

'Unlocking Child Participation': Development and Validation of the Child Participation Post-separation Scale

Rianne van Dijk, Utrecht University, Netherlands

Charlotte Mol, Utrecht University, Netherlands

Zoë Rejaän, Utrecht University, Netherlands

Inge E. van der Valk, Utrecht University, Netherlands

Children have a right to participate in all decisions affecting them according to international human rights law. In the context of parental separation, many decisions need to be made regarding children's lives in which their right to be heard should be safeguarded. From a theoretical perspective, meaningful child participation is considered beneficial to them, but when parents have separated it can also be dysfunctional, bringing risks to the children involved. To better grasp child participation and its anticipated benefits and risks, we developed and validated the Child Participation Post-separation Scale (*ChiPPS*). Throughout the developmental phase, a panel of youth experts by experience ($n = 15$) was consulted to ensure its content and face validity. Based on a sample of $N = 218$ adolescents ($M = 15.9$; $SD = 2.25$), five lower-order subscales (*expressing views*, *feeling heard*, *dysfunctional*, *influence*, *feedback*) and 2 higher-order subscales (*decision process*, *due weight*) were identified in the factor analyses. All subscales showed good internal consistency and were meaningfully associated with single-item measures of children's involvement and satisfaction with the decisions made, and adolescent reports of parenting, psychological need satisfaction, and adjustment (convergence validity). Overall, the *ChiPPS* captured multiple distinct, yet intertwined dimensions of children's experiences, feelings and understanding in the decision-making process regarding their living arrangements following parental separation. This provides researchers with a reliable instrument to measure child participation post-separation that is meaningful both in terms of children's rights and in relation to their adjustment.

Keywords: Child participation; Divorce; Parental separation; Questionnaire; Psychometric properties



Posters

Digital Technologies and Economic Abuse in Intimate Relationships: Experiences of Clinical Professionals Working with Victims of Violence in Finland

Anniina Kaittä, University of Turku, Finland
Sonja Tihveräinen, University of Tampere, Finland
Johanna Hietamäki, Finnish institute for health and welfare, Finland
Suvi Nipuli, Finnish institute for health and welfare, Finland
Jarno Tuominen, University of Turku, Finland
Marita Husso, University of Tampere, Finland
Leo Nyqvist, University of Turku, Finland

The digitization of economic activities, including online banking and electronic identification, has streamlined daily life but also enabled new forms of abuse. Digitally facilitated economic abuse (DFEA) is a growing issue within intimate partner violence (IPV), involving the misuse of digital tools to exploit or control a partner financially. This study examines DFEA through the experiences of domestic violence shelter workers and social service professionals in Finland, a country notable for high digital banking usage and IPV prevalence. Data were drawn from two projects. The first, *Digital Violence and Its Intervention in Domestic Violence Shelters*, surveyed 106 shelter workers, analyzing open-ended descriptions of DFEA cases. The second, *DIGNITEAS*, explored digital violence against women through four focus groups with support service representatives, examining its prevalence and progression through the justice system. Data were analyzed using content analysis. The study identified two primary forms of DFEA: economic exploitation and economic control. Digitally facilitated economic exploitation includes theft, fraudulent use of the victim's identity for financial gain, or threats of financial harm. Digitally facilitated economic control involves using digital tools, such as online banking IDs or loyalty cards, to monitor or dominate a partner's financial activities, motivated by a desire for control rather than financial gain. The findings emphasize the need to critically assess digital systems to mitigate their potential for abuse. Preventing DFEA requires collaboration among social and healthcare providers, policymakers, law enforcement, and financial institutions. Addressing systemic vulnerabilities at a national level is crucial to curtailing these abuses and fostering safer digital practices. This study underscores the urgency of coordinated action to protect individuals from DFEA and its harmful impacts.

Alternative coupling and relationship stability: comparing the relationship outcomes of monogamous and consensually non-monogamous individuals

Michelle Larva, University of Turku, Finland

While extensive research has explored relationship stability in monogamous contexts, few longitudinal studies have been conducted examining stability in consensually non-monogamous (CNM; e.g. polyamorous, open, and swinging) relationships. This study aims to address this gap by identifying predictors of relationship stability and dissolution in a longitudinal sample. Individuals in monogamous and CNM relationships from Finland and the United States initially completed the Multi-partner Relationship Maintenance Strategies (MRMS) survey between 2021 and 2022. 306 participants (49.51% response rate) completed a follow-up survey 2-3 years later, examining relationship continuation versus dissolution, satisfaction, commitment, and reasons for dissolution if applicable (for up to two of their previously reported partners). Planned analyses (pre-registration pending; results to be presented at the conference upon acceptance) will examine both baseline predictors and changes from T1 to T2, and compare stability outcomes across types of intimate relationships, using generalized linear mixed modelling, mixed-effects multinomial logistic regression modelling, and chi-squared testing. We hypothesize higher dissolution rates among CNM participants compared to monogamous participants. Furthermore, we anticipate that relationship satisfaction, commitment, and MRMS at T1 will predict relationship stability at T2. Changes in these variables over time are also expected to play a role in determining relationship outcomes. This study contributes to a crucial understanding of relationship dynamics across diverse forms of intimate relationships. By identifying key factors that predict stability in monogamous and CNM relationships, these findings will inform clinical practices for supporting couples exploring non-monogamy and are expected to broaden theoretical frameworks on intimate relationship functioning. **Keywords:** intimate relationships, relationship dissolution, polyamory, mating strategies, longitudinal research, multipartner mating, couples



Posters

Attitudes toward adoption by non-monogamous adults

Sophia Ruhland, University of London, United Kingdom

Thomas Kerridge, University of London, United Kingdom

Fiona Tasker, University of London, United Kingdom

Cross-Cultural Validation of the Questionnaire of Prejudice Towards Childfree People (QPCF): Evidence from Four Countries

Pawel Ciesielski, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

Krzysztof Janowicz, SWPS University, Poland

Q Chen, South China Normal University, China

P Coufalová, Masaryk University, Czech Republic

Silvia Di Battista, Marconi University, Italy

Fiona Tasker, Birkbeck University of London, United Kingdom

Jorge Gato, University of Porto, Portugal

Childfreeness is a topic that generates controversy across cultures. Despite the growing visibility of childfree couples and their relationships, often referred to as DINK (Double Income No Kids), they are frequently perceived as less valuable compared to those with children. This perception fosters prejudice against childfree individuals. To address this issue, tools capable of measuring these negative attitudes across cultures are essential. One such tool, the Questionnaire of Prejudice Towards Childfree People (QPCF), was developed and initially validated in Polish. To facilitate its use in diverse cultural contexts, the QPCF was adapted into Portuguese, English, and Italian. A sample of 1,400 participants from Portugal, the UK, Italy, and Poland was recruited through Prolific to assess the psychometric properties of these versions. First, the QPCF demonstrated high internal reliability, with omega coefficients exceeding .81 across all countries. Second, with a multi-group Confirmation Factor Analysis, we tested the cultural invariance of the QPCF. We found full metric invariance but failed to establish scalar invariance. Finally, the criterion validity was evidenced in each country through strong correlations between the QPCF and measures of sexism ($r > .45$) as well as the dehumanization of childfree individuals ($r > .52$). These findings suggest that while the QPCF is a valid tool for assessing prejudice towards childfree individuals in each of the four countries, caution is warranted when comparing results across cultural contexts, and latent mean scores should be used for that purpose.

Keywords: Childfreeness, Questionnaire adaptation, Cross-cultural study



Posters

THURSDAY, JUNE 26th 2025
11:00 – 11:30

Session 2

Para além da Separação e Divórcio: Análise das Vivências Femininas, Coparentalidade e Variáveis Familiares

Madalena Carvalho, University of Coimbra, Portugal

Sofia Mota, University of Coimbra, Portugal

Enquadramento: A dissolução conjugal é um fenómeno cada vez mais comum na sociedade e pode ter consequências para os indivíduos a vários níveis. **Objetivos:** Explorar o papel mediador da coparentalidade na relação entre variáveis familiares relativas ao processo de separação/divórcio e as vivências das mulheres associadas a essa realidade; análise das relações entre variáveis familiares com as vivências das mulheres e a coparentalidade. **Método:** estudo quantitativo com uma amostra de 68 mulheres portuguesas, separadas ou divorciadas, que tinham no mínimo 25 anos e pelo menos um filho da relação heteroafetiva que terminou em separação/divórcio. Os dados foram recolhidos através de um Questionário Sociodemográfico e de Dados Familiares e Complementares, pelo Inventário Feminino de Vivências do Processo de Separação e Divórcio (Pereira et al., 2013) e pelo Questionário da Coparentalidade, validado para a população portuguesa por Pedro e Ribeiro (2015). **Resultados:** Encontramos diferenças significativas na comparação entre grupos em variáveis familiares nas vivências das mulheres e na coparentalidade. Também um efeito mediador da dimensão cooperação (coparentalidade) na relação entre o exercício das responsabilidades parentais e a disfuncionalidade conjugal, na relação entre o exercício das responsabilidades parentais e o conflito, na relação entre a modalidade judicial do divórcio e a disfuncionalidade conjugal e na relação entre a modalidade judicial do divórcio e o conflito (vivências das mulheres). **Discussão e conclusões:** As variáveis familiares estudadas estão associadas às vivências das mulheres associadas ao seu processo de separação/divórcio, sendo que a coparentalidade também permite compreender estas relações, conclusões úteis para a investigação e prática clínica.

Palavras-chave: vivências das mulheres do divórcio, coparentalidade, modalidade judicial do divórcio, responsabilidades parentais

Maternal prioritizing the child and developmental problems in middle childhood: the role of psychological control and autonomy support

Paulina Adamczyk, University of Warsaw, Poland

Marta Zeglen, University of Warsaw, Poland

Katarzyna Lubiewska, University of Warsaw, Poland

Nowadays child-centered policies and media content related to engaged parenting are all around us. Parents, especially mothers, report the pressure to prioritize their child's needs before their own. In order to guarantee a good life for their children they may follow an intensive mothering ideology, which can be detrimental to a mothers' mental health. The current study aims to explore whether maternal prioritizing of her child is indeed useful/beneficial for the child by investigating links between prioritizing the child, autonomy support, psychological control and child internalizing and externalizing problems. A sample of Polish mothers with children aged 6 to 10 years old participated in the study ($n = 286$) by completing a set of scales including the novel Intensive Parenting Behaviors (IBP) scale (Lubiewska et al., in prep), Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (Goodman, 1997) and Psychological Control Scale (Barber, 1996). Psychological control and autonomy support are expected to moderate the link between prioritizing the child and child problems. Various variables (e.g. child's age, child's developmental or educational difficulties) that could have an effect on the moderation will be controlled for. This study begins to debunk socio-cultural myths connected with a child-centered approach to parenting. Results bring attention to the complexity of maternal forms of engagement in parenting and child well-being, which is a field for future research.

Keywords: prioritizing the child, child problems, autonomy support, psychological control, intensive mothering



Posters

"Sharenthood": Balancing Benefits, Risks, and the Threat of Child Sexualization Children's wellbeing and play across the family and ECEC

Dominika Bartoszak, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland

Natalia Andrzejczyk, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland

Mercedes Sakrajda, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland

Theoretical exploration of 'sharenthood'—parents sharing children's images and information on social media—focusing on its benefits, potential risks, and the ethical dilemmas posed by the unintended sexualization of children. The objective is to critically analyze existing literature, identify gaps in knowledge, and propose a conceptual framework for responsible sharing of child-related content on the Internet. Sharing content online offers parents numerous benefits, such as community-building, emotional support, and advocacy for marginalized groups. However, it also raises significant concerns, including threats to children's privacy, identity theft, and the potential for child sexualization. The theoretical framework integrates psychology, digital behavior studies, and ethics findings to address the following key questions: 1) What motivates parents to share child-related content on the Internet? 2) How does 'sharenthood' contribute to the risks of child sexualization? 3) What ethical considerations should guide parental behavior online? The analysis incorporates psychological factors (e.g., personality traits, self-esteem, parenting styles) and digital trends (e.g., social media addiction and online privacy concerns) to contextualize sharenting within contemporary parenting practices. This theoretical discussion highlights the dual nature of 'sharenthood': a valuable tool for modern parenting but one fraught with ethical challenges and risks to children's safety and dignity. The poster proposes practical recommendations for raising awareness among parents, fostering digital literacy, and implementing guidelines for safer online practices.

Keywords: 'sharenthood', digital parenting, child sexualization, online ethics, social media risks

Non-abused Siblings Perspective? On Relationship Changes After Disclosure of Their Brother or Sister Sexual Abuse

Joanna Jarocka, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

Agnieszka Izdebska, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

Monika Zielona-Jenek, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

Olga Węglerska, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

Aleksandra Chodecka, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

Maria Beisert, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

The presented study sought to investigate the experiences of nonabused siblings of survivors of CSA among a group of adult siblings in Poland. So far little is known as it comes to the needs of nonabused siblings. One of the research questions addressed in this study was: what did the sexual abuse of a brother or a sister change in sibling relationships from the perspective of nonabused sibling? The electronic survey design was adopted. Data were collected using the SurveyMonkey platform. The survey included both closed and open-ended questions. A thematic analysis (TA) of the responses to the two questions in the questionnaire regarding changes in the relationship that occurred after the disclosure of child sexual abuse was conducted by three researchers. A survey targeted adult siblings of CSA survivors (N = 36). 34 responses to open-ended questions about changes in the relationship with siblings who experienced abuse were subjected to thematic analysis. Two answers were excluded from analyzes - one due to failure to meet the condition of being a sibling without experience of abuse, while another one due to the lack of data. Four main themes emerged from the thematic analysis: 1) Lack of perceived changes in sibling relationships after CSA disclosure, 2) From strengthening sibling bonds to straining them, 3) Between feelings of hurt and guilt, and 4) Changes in sibling relationships as part of changes in the family system.



Posters

A financial social work intervention (FinSoc) for families with complex financial difficulties ? A randomized controlled trial

Tuula Kaitsaari, University of Turku, Finland

Financial problems, indebtedness and poverty place strain on the everyday life of families with children. This research evaluates the effectiveness of a financial social work intervention (FinSoc) designed for families experiencing complex financial difficulties. It is important to identify interventions that enhance families' financial capabilities and to promote evidence-based practices within the field of social work. The intervention comprises five sessions that focus on budgeting, financial relationships, and overall financial literacy to reduce financial anxiety and increase participants' economic self-efficacy. The study employs a randomized controlled trial (RCT) utilizing a mixed-methods approach that incorporates both quantitative measures and qualitative interviews. Additionally, formative feedback will be collected before and after each session. Randomized controlled trials and formative evaluations are relatively new in the field of social work. The research project timing is 2024-2026 and the research answers e.g. the following questions:

Will families with financial difficulties in social work services who are randomized to be offered the FinSoc intervention in addition to routine services have more financial literacy compared to a control group receiving routine services?

1. What are the experiences of financial anxiety, financial empowerment, and health-related quality of life between the intervention group and control group?
2. What mechanisms during the intervention influence improvements in financial literacy for families with complex financial difficulties?

This presentation focuses on the FinSoc intervention and research design.

Keywords: social work, families, financial, intervention, RCT, evaluation

Exploring Italian families' bereavement during the pandemic and the long-term effect of losing a loved one within this context

Irene Conti, University of Worcester, United Kingdom

Gabriela Misca, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

Berenice Mahoney, University of Worcester, United Kingdom

Sakrajda Mercedes, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland

To address the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, governments implemented regulatory measures which sometimes involved abrupt separations from hospitalised relatives, often following an already tense and isolating period. The loss of a loved one under such circumstances, combined with the absence of a final contact, may potentially lead to complicated grief. This study explored the bereavement experiences of Italian families during the pandemic and the long-term effects of losing a loved one within this context. The study employed a Qualitative Descriptive Methodology and a sequential multi-method qualitative design, using online qualitative surveys followed by in-depth semi-structured interviews. Thematic analysis of 38 online qualitative surveys and seven subsequent interviews data identified four themes: (1) unique challenges lived during a pandemic, (2) complex family dynamics in grief processing, (3) limitations in healthcare and bereavement support, and (4) persistent effects of grief. The study suggests that participants continue to experience challenges adapting to their loss, consistent with previous studies. It also highlights the difficulty of loss-related communication between parents and young adult children. Moreover, results suggest that prompt psychological support within the pandemic context was needed, as bereavement support was mainly managed within the family and friends' circle. Interestingly, not only COVID-19 (the illness) but also the circumstances within the hospital setting and restrictions made the bereavement process more complex. Therefore, future studies should explore the difficulties faced by the healthcare system, and more effective training interventions on compassion in times of crisis may be implemented for healthcare staff.

Keywords: COVID-19, bereavement, Italy, families, healthcare system, qualitative study



Posters

Domestic workspace negotiation and role boundary management in couples

Silvia Donato, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore Milano, Italy

Eleonora Siviero, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore Milano, Italy

Women in academia typically alternate working at the university and working from home. Demarcating home spaces between private and work life can be challenging and space is often used as a “boundary cue” between domains. In this context, negotiating workspace at home between partners is crucial. This study aims to explore the experiences of negotiating domestic workspace within the couple, as well as the meanings and process of role boundary management. Ten dyadic interviews were conducted (N=20 participants) with mixed-sex couples consisting of a female academic and a partner working at least 2 days a week from home. Thematic analysis showed that workspace embeddedness (i.e., work role embedded in the domestic environment) was found to challenge partners’ work experience at home; negotiation of space resources was rarely explicit and could generate tensions between partners; boundaries between work and family roles were perceived as differentially permeable and partners could support (or hinder) one’s boundary management. Research will expand knowledge regarding the use of domestic workspaces, negotiation and boundary management processes in couples.

Keywords: workspace, working from home, role boundary management, couple relationships

The perception of family boundaries and sense of belonging among children in foster care

Giulia Lopez, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy

Ondina Greco, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy

Ariela F. Pagani, University of Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy

Raffaella lafrate, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy

The practice of family foster care entails the child's encounter with the experience of dual familial belonging. Family foster care is founded on the premise of enabling the child to “stand” in such a sense of dual belonging without encountering conflicts of loyalty, in order to achieve the sustainable reinterpretation of the child's past history, thereby reconnecting it with the present from a hopeful perspective. This study investigated the perceptions of family belonging among minors placed with foster families under the Como Comet Association. Using the graphic-projective instrument *The Double Moon*, 60 foster children (mean age = 11 years) participated. Their drawings were video recorded and analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively. Findings revealed an average relational boundary integration score of 2.87 (on a scale from 0.43 to 5), indicating that most foster children demonstrated lower-middle levels of reworking hierarchical, familial, and intersystemic boundaries. Regarding representations of family boundaries, isolation emerged as the most frequent configuration (43.3%), followed by alignment with one of the two familial poles (26.7%) and the desired integration of dual familial belonging (21.7%). These results highlight a low level of relational boundary integration among foster children and a tendency toward isolation in their representations of family belonging. Such findings suggest that minors in foster care at Cometa may benefit from targeted support and guidance to foster conditions that promote the integration of dual familial belonging over time.



Posters

The quality of the parent-child relationship: The importance of residence time and children's age

Tonje Holt, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway
S. Baardstu, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway
L. Larsen, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway
M. Morbech, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway

The quality of the parent-child relationship plays an important role for child mental health and wellbeing. The aim of this study was to provide more knowledge about the association between residence time and parent-child relationships from the perspectives of both children and parents. Moreover, we aimed to investigate whether children's age moderated in this association. The data was drawn from the Dynamics of Family Conflict study (FamC-study). Separated parents (N = 1004) were recruited from 37 family counselling centers across Norway during the period from December 2017 to August 2019. Parents answered questionnaires electronically at three waves. To measure the quality of the parent-child relationship we used Child-Parent Relationship Scale (CPRS; Pianta, 1992). Both mothers and fathers responded on residence time for their children (i.e., number of days within a 14-days period that the child lived with the parents). Linear regression models showed that residence time was linked to the father-child relationship at W1, but no associations were found later. This suggests that the initial father-child relationship may influence the choice of residence arrangements, but that the association may weaken over time. No such association was found for the mother-child relationship. No moderation effect of the child's age was found, but younger children had a better relationship overall, regardless of residence time. The results will be discussed along with clinical and societal implications.

Keywords: Parent-child relationship, Post separation Residence Time, Parent Gender

The influence of parental warmth, protection, rejection and control on personal individuation and overdependence in Polish adolescents

Radosław Wczesniak, University of Warsaw

It has been firmly established that the authoritative parenting style (Maccoby, Baumrind, 1983) was the most suited for nurturing and development regardless of culture (Rohner, 2002). However, there is also an evidence that parenting models derived from Baumrind and Maccoby's theory vary in their effectiveness across cultures (Rohner, 1981, Lubiewska et al., 2017). The aim of the presented study was to verify the influence of parenting styles elements on the intensity of dysfunctional individuation, attachment anxiety and personal overdependence in a group of Polish adolescents. The study involved 200 participants divided into two groups - in middle (15 - 18 years; n = 100) and late adolescence (19 - 25 years; n = 100). Respondents completed the pseudoautonomy scale (Patton, Lapan, 1986), dysfunctional individuation scale (Stey, Hill, Lapsley, 2014), attachment styles questionnaire - short form (Alexander et al., 2001), memories of my parents upbringing (Perris et al., 1980). Among middle adolescents, parental warmth negatively predicted dysfunctional individuation, while parental protection positively predicted attachment anxiety. Among late adolescents, parental protection and parental warmth negatively predicted dysfunctional individuation, but positively predicted overdependency. Parental rejection showed a curvilinear relationship with both dysfunctional individuation and defensive peer group dependence - lower levels of rejection were negatively related to these variables, while higher levels were positively related. Presented results suggest a multi - faceted insight into the impact of parenting impact on the social development of Polish adolescents, suggesting that mixed authoritative - authoritarian model of parenting may be the optimal one in presented context.

Keywords: adolescence, individuation, attachment, parenting, autonomy, dependence.



Posters

THURSDAY, JUNE 26th 2025
16:30 – 17:00

Session 3

From a father's perspective: Coparenting quality and Nurturance, the mediating role of parental stress

Marta Vasconcelos, ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal

Ligia Monteiro, ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal

Claudia Camilo, ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal

Parenting is embedded in the family context, and some authors (e.g., Cabrera, 2018) consider that fatherhood, especially during the early years, is particularly influenced by what happens in this microsystem. This study aims to analyze, from the father's perspective, the relations between coparenting quality and childrearing practices, testing the mediating role of parental stress. Ninety-eight (married or cohabiting) fathers with pre-school children completed a sociodemographic questionnaire, the Coparenting Relationship Scale (Costa et al., 2020; Feinberg et al., 2012), the Parental Stress Scale (Algarvio et al., 2018; Berry & Jones, 1995) and the Modified Child Rearing Practices Report questionnaire (Ribeiro et al., 2021). A mediation model was tested to explore the mediating role of different dimensions of parental stress in the relationship between coparental support and sabotage and nurturance and restrictive parenting practices, controlling for father's working hours and family income. Results show a significant indirect effect of coparental support on responsiveness practices via parental satisfaction. This suggests that more coparental support is associated with more parental satisfaction, which in turn leads to more fathers' nurturance practices. Furthermore, significant direct effects were found between coparental sabotage and support and parental stressors and lack of control, as well as an effect of coparental sabotage on nurturance parental practices. These results contribute to the discussion of father's roles within the family system, highlighting the importance of coparenting in fatherhood, as well as the importance of family system variables (without neglecting other contexts), for parent's wellbeing and for children's outcomes.

Keywords: Fathers, Coparenting, Parenting Practices, Parental Stress

Positive Work Experiences and Marital Satisfaction: The Role of Self-Disclosure and Perceived Partner Responsiveness

Inês Bessa, University of Porto, Portugal

Maisa Matias, University of Porto, Portugal

When faced with a positive event, individuals tend to seek out significant others to share these experiences. Thus, couples' positive experiences of work events may capitalize on their partners, fostering a greater connection between them and facilitating work-family role management. According to Interpersonal Process Model of Intimacy, self-disclosure and perceived partner responsiveness are key factors for establishing and maintaining intimacy in close relationships. This study seeks to determine how positive work experiences capitalize on the family domain through the process of building interpersonal intimacy. Adopting a longitudinal data collection, 124 participants part of dual-earner couples completed daily questionnaires over the course of two weeks. The analyses revealed an indirect effect between positive work experiences and marital satisfaction, with this effect being explained by the dual mediation of the interpersonal mechanisms of self-disclosure and perceived partner responsiveness ($\beta = .07, p < .05$) ($R = .36, R^2 = .13, F_{(2,103)} = 7.46, p < .001$). This study expands the knowledge about the phenomenon of capitalization by examining the impact of positive work experiences in promoting more satisfying marital relationships. By addressing the potential of these experiences, further actions and programs can be developed with this focus, promoting strategies that empower couples to strengthen their relationships and achieve a more satisfying balance between professional and marital domains.

Keywords: Positive Work Experiences, Capitalization, Self-Disclosure, Responsiveness, Marital Satisfaction



Posters

Exploring Microaggressions and the quality of life among Ageing migrants: a research prospective

Michele Falcone, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy

Daniela Barni, Università degli studi di Bergamo, Italy

Cristina Giuliani, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy

This research project aims to investigate the impact of microaggressions on the migrant population, with a specific focus on individuals aged 65 and older. Microaggressions are subtle, often unintentional, behaviors that communicate negative messages toward individuals based on their membership in a marginalized group. Notably, there is currently a lack of empirical studies examining the microaggressions that elderly immigrants may experience, despite research on other populations having demonstrated their strong impact on quality of life. The primary objective of the present study will be to identify the main types of microaggressions experienced by elderly immigrants and assess their frequency. Secondly, we will try to understand how these experiences can lead to a decline in quality of life and overall health among the victims, as well as identify the key protective factors involved. The research will adopt a mix-methods approach, beginning with the administration of a specifically designed questionnaire, followed by a semi-structured interview to gain deeper insights into participants' personal experiences with microaggressions. The study will be carried out in the Italian context, particularly in the Lombardy region, which is home to over 23% of Italy's migrant population. Its results will contribute to the development of personalized interventions and to the reflection on policies for promoting the well-being of elderly immigrants and their social integration. Since the research will still be ongoing at the time of the presentation, the discussion will also include findings from pre-planned studies, such as a scoping review on the discrimination experienced by elderly migrants. These additional insights will provide a more comprehensive perspective on the issue.

Keywords: Microaggressions, Ageing migrants, Quality of life, Migrant population, Mixed-method-approach, Social integration

The association between coparenting quality and maternal stress in a sample of working mothers: the moderating role of fathers' engagement

Marta Vasconcelos, ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal

Ligia Monteiro, ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal

Cláudia Camilo, ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal

This study aims to analyze, from the perspective of working mothers with small children, the associations between coparenting quality (support and undermining) and maternal stress. The moderating role of the father's involvement (engagement) is tested. This is particularly relevant in a country like Portugal where most women with small children are employed full time (82.7%) (Eurostar, 2020). One-hundred-thirty-six (married or cohabiting) families with pre-school age children completed a sociodemographic questionnaire, the Coparenting Relationship Scale (Costa et al., 2020), the Parental Stress Scale (Algarvio et al., 2018) and the The Parental Involvement Scale: Caregiving and Socialization Activities (Monteiro et al., 2008). Two models were tested for the moderating role of father's engagement: one evaluating the effect in the relationship between coparenting support and maternal stress ($R^2 = .167$, $F(6,129) = 4.298$, $p = .001$), and the other evaluating the effect on the association between coparenting undermining and maternal stress ($R^2 = .139$, $F(6,129) = 3.459$, $p = .003$), controlling for child's age (in months) and father's education level. Results show a significative moderation effect of father's engagement in the association between coparenting support and maternal stress ($B = 0.177$, $p = .037$). Specifically, when father's engagement is low, less coparental support is associated with higher maternal stress (declive = $-.35$, $p = .017$). These results contribute to the discussion of the challenges working mothers face, considering family system variables.



Posters

Dynamics and Challenges in Couples Facing Early-Onset Cancer: A Mixed-Methods Study

Melissa Gouveia, Universidade de Lisboa e Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal

Carla Crespo, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal

Alda Portugal, Universidade da Madeira, Portugal

Over the past 30 years, cancer incidence has increased worldwide. Cancers that are typically observed in individuals over 50 years old are now being diagnosed in younger adults. Early-onset cancers are defined as those diagnosed in adults aged between 18 and 49 years. The experience of cancer at an early age has a significant impact on family dynamics, including the marital relationships. A mixed-methods ongoing study was designed to explore the specific challenges faced by young couples (ages 49 and below) in which one partner is undergoing or has previously experienced cancer treatment. The project consists of three phases: (1) a preparatory study with cancer survivors and their partners, using focus groups to retrospectively examine their experiences and to identify the key variables in marital dynamics at different stages of the illness; (2) a quantitative study with cancer patients in treatment and their partners, measuring relevant dimensions identified in the preparatory phase; and (3) a case study with a couple in which one partner is still undergoing cancer treatment, using dyadic interviews to deepen the understanding of the data collected in previous phases. The findings from this research will contribute to a deeper understanding of marital dynamics during and after cancer, offering insights for clinical intervention in the adverse context of early-onset cancers.

Keywords: Early-onset cancers; couples; marital relationship; mixed-methods study; research project

Social and Emotional Contexts Associations with Adolescents' Online Behaviours

Marília Fernandes, ISPA-WJCR, Portugal

Maryse Guedes, ISPA-WJCR, Portugal

Olívia Ribeiro, ISPA, Portugal

The increasing integration of online into adolescents' social lives is a growing concern, presenting both opportunities and risks. It may facilitate social connection, self-expression, and access to information, but it could also present risks for social isolation and over-reliance on virtual interaction. These outcomes often depend on social and emotional contexts shaping adolescents' online experiences. Drawing from attachment theory, we analyse how attachment quality (to both parents), friendship (online, offline, and mixed), loneliness (integration and intimacy, with parents and with peers), and shame (internal and external) relates to online behaviour (quantity and quality) in 631 adolescents ($M_{age}=12.26$, $SD=1.46$; 48.2% girls, 51.2% boys). Results indicate that less secure attachment was linked to greater social media use, talking with friends and strangers, seeking for information and intimacy online. It was also related to higher levels of shame and loneliness. Lower friendship quality was associated with more time online gaming, less time talking with friends, higher shame and loneliness with peers. Shame was positively associated with searching for information online. Internal shame was linked to talking with strangers, while external to social media use. Family-related loneliness was associated with increased time online on social media, talking with friends, and with strangers. Loneliness in intimacy with the family was related with higher preference for sharing intimacy online. Peer-related loneliness was associated with less time talking online with friends. Findings highlight the importance of understanding these relations to inform interventions promoting healthy relational patterns and mitigating online risks.

Keywords: Attachment, Friendship, Shame, Loneliness, Online behaviour, Adolescent



Posters

Factors influencing the development of co-parenting in constructing expectant couples

Ana Bennett, Universidad del Desarrollo, Chile

Soledad Coe, Universidad del Desarrollo, Chile

Carola Perez, Universidad del Desarrollo, Chile

The present study aimed to identify factors influencing the development of prenatal coparenting representations and to explore the interdependence between couple satisfaction and prenatal coparenting representations. A cross-sectional quantitative design was employed with a sample of 199 heterosexual couples living in Chile during the third trimester of pregnancy. Descriptive analyses, t-tests, ANOVA, multiple regression, and the Actor-Partner Interdependence Model (APIM) were applied. The instruments used included the Coparenting Relationship Scale, Dyadic Adjustment Scale, Beck Depression Inventory, and a Sociodemographic Questionnaire. The results indicated significant differences in coparenting representations among women based on parity and pregnancy planning and whether the pregnancy was wanted. However, no significant influences of the studied sociodemographic variables on men's prenatal coparenting representations were found. For women, lower depressive symptomatology and higher couple satisfaction predicted more positive prenatal coparenting representations, controlling for parity. Among men, higher couple satisfaction predicted more positive prenatal coparenting representations, controlling for parity and depressive symptomatology. APIM analyses revealed that higher couple satisfaction in mothers predicted more positive coparenting representations in fathers, even when controlling for fathers' couple satisfaction, depressive symptomatology, and parity. Similarly, higher couple satisfaction in fathers predicted more positive coparenting representations in mothers, controlling for mothers' couple satisfaction, depressive symptomatology, and parity. These findings highlight the influence of couple relationship quality on the construction of coparenting representations, as well as the significant role of individual factors in mothers.

Attachment Representations and Prosocial Behavior in early Childhood

Sofia Arez, ISPA-WJCR, Portugal

Eva Pires, ISPA-WJCR, Portugal

Inês Morais, ISPA-WJCR, Portugal

Mariana Costa Martins, ISPA-WJCR, Portugal

Anwen Mango, ISPA-WJCR, Portugal

Beatriz Pachecho, ISPA-WJCR, Portugal

Marília Fernandes, ISPA-WJCR, Portugal

Carla Fernandes, ISPA-WJCR, Portugal

Caregiver-child relationships shape children's social interactions, fostering prosocial tendencies (voluntary actions benefiting others, including help, share, and comfort). Secure attachment is believed to support prosociality, through emotional security, empathy, and social understanding. However, its specific contribution to different prosocial behavior remains unclear. This study examined the association between attachment representations and prosocial behaviors in an 82 preschool children sample ($M=70.8$ months $SD=4.3$, 57.3% were boys.) Attachment representations were assessed using the Attachment Story Completion Task, and prosocial behavior was measured through nine structured tasks. Verbal competence (WPPSI) was controlled as a covariate. Results revealed significant correlations among prosocial behaviors ($r=.48$ to $.50$, $p<.05$), suggesting that helping, sharing, and comforting are interconnected although distinct social competencies. Additionally, verbal IQ was positively associated with sharing ($r=.36$, $p<.05$) and comforting ($r=.25$, $p<.05$), indicating that cognitive abilities may support more complex prosocial behavior. However, significant associations between attachment representations and prosocial behaviors were not found, suggesting that other socialization and individual factors may contribute more directly to its development. Further research should clarify how attachment representations influence different prosocial actions and investigate mechanisms that may mediate or moderate these associations (e.g., emotion regulation).

Keywords: Attachment, prosocial behavior, parent-child relationships, preschool, socio-emotional development



Posters

Attachment Representations and the Multidimensional Development of Empathy in Preschool Children

Eva Pires, ISPA-WJCR, Portugal

Susete Duarte, ISPA, Portugal

Sofia Arez, ISPA-WJCR, Portugal

Inês Morais, ISPA-WJCR, Portugal

Mariana Costa Martins, ISPA-WJCR, Portugal

Marília Fernandes, ISPA-WJCR, Portugal

Carla Fernandes, ISPA-WJCR, Portugal

Attachment theory posits that early caregiver relationships shape children's ability to recognize and respond to others' emotions, fostering empathy development. Research has often treated empathy as a unidimensional construct, yet growing evidence supports its multidimensional nature, encompassing affective, cognitive, and behavioral components. Despite this, the behavioral dimension remains largely overlooked, with greater focus on affective and cognitive aspects. Given the critical role of early attachment in socio-emotional development, understanding its influence on empathy's facets is essential. This study examines the association between attachment representations and the three dimensions of empathy in preschool children (82 children, 62-79 months; $M = 70.78$, $SD = 4.23$). Attachment representations were assessed using the Attachment Story Completion Task, and empathy was measured through the Kids Empathic Development Scale. Results revealed a significant positive correlation between secure attachment and behavioral empathy ($r = .28$, $p < 0.05$), suggesting that attachment security facilitates the outward expression of empathic understanding. However, no significant associations emerged for affective or cognitive empathy, reinforcing the role of multiple relational and regulatory factors in empathy development. Findings highlight the need to further investigate how early relationships shape empathy's dimensions and how these processes can inform interventions supporting early childhood socio-emotional development.

Keywords: Attachment, Empathy dimensions, Parent-child relationships, Preschool, Socioemotional development

Factors influencing the development of co-parenting in Chilean expectant couples

Ana Bennett, Universidad del Desarrollo, Chile

Soledad Coe, Universidad del Desarrollo, Chile

Carola Perez, Universidad del Desarrollo, Chile

The present study aimed to identify factors influencing the development of prenatal coparenting representations and to explore the interdependence between couple satisfaction and prenatal coparenting representations. A cross-sectional quantitative design was employed with a sample of 199 heterosexual couples living in Chile during the third trimester of pregnancy. Descriptive analyses, t-tests, ANOVA, multiple regression, and the Actor-Partner Interdependence Model (APIM) were applied. The instruments used included the Coparenting Relationship Scale, Dyadic Adjustment Scale, Beck Depression Inventory, and a Sociodemographic Questionnaire. The results indicated significant differences in coparenting representations among women based on parity and pregnancy planning and whether the pregnancy was wanted. However, no significant influences of the studied sociodemographic variables on men's prenatal coparenting representations were found. For women, lower depressive symptomatology and higher couple satisfaction predicted more positive prenatal coparenting representations, controlling for parity. Among men, higher couple satisfaction predicted more positive prenatal coparenting representations, controlling for parity and depressive symptomatology. APIM analyses revealed that higher couple satisfaction in mothers predicted more positive coparenting representations in fathers, even when controlling for fathers' couple satisfaction, depressive symptomatology, and parity. Similarly, higher couple satisfaction in fathers predicted more positive coparenting representations in mothers, controlling for mothers' couple satisfaction, depressive symptomatology, and parity. These findings highlight the influence of couple relationship quality on the construction of coparenting representations, as well as the significant role of individual factors in mothers.



Posters

Constructing the relationship with parents-in-law: a process of reciprocal inclusion

Miriam Parise, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano, Italy

Silvia Donato, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano, Italy

Semira Tagliabue, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano, Italy

Susana Costa Ramalho, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Portugal

Marriage marks the joining of two distinct families. Couple members relate not only with their own families of origin but also with their partner's families, and especially with their parents (parents-in-law). The relationship with parents-in-law can be sometimes a source of stress, but, when supportive, can be predictive of personal and couple well-being. At the heart of in-law relational development is the management of intergroup boundaries, which implies reciprocal inclusion: integrating the newcomer into the in-laws' family identity and accepting the in-laws into one's family identity. The present study investigated whether the inclusion of one's in-laws into one's self as well as one's perception of being included and accepted in one's in-law family were associated with 3 indicators of the quality of the relationship with in-laws (both positive and negative) and with one's couple relationship quality. We also tested the mediating role of the quality of relationship with in-laws in these links and the moderation effect of socio-demographic variables (relationship duration, presence of children, relationship status). Three hundred forty-six Italian individuals who had been in a couple relationship since at least 3 months and had a relationship with at least one of the partner's parents (80.6% women; M_{age} : 31.66; $M_{\text{relationship duration}}$ = 10.7 years) completed an online self-report questionnaire tapping several areas of their relationship with both the father-in-law and the mother-in-law. Data were collected between 2023 and 2024. Structural equation modelling was used to test these hypotheses. Main results revealed that both a sense of acceptance by in-laws and one's inclusion of in-laws into the self were positively associated with relationship satisfaction and perceptions of positive exchanges with in-laws. Conversely, negative feelings were linked to lack of acceptance (for both in-laws) and lack of inclusion (for the mother-in-law only). The mediational paths were all significant, while no moderation effects emerged. These findings highlight the importance of mutual acceptance and inclusion in constructing positive in-law relationships.



Posters

FRIDAY, JUNE 28th 2025

11:00 – 11:30

Session 4

Atitudes Face ao Divórcio: Estudo comparativo entre estudantes do ensino superior e população geral

Madalena Carvalho, Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal

Tatiana Lopes, Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal

As alterações a nível social, económico e cultural que a nossa sociedade tem vindo a sofrer levaram a uma alteração nas atitudes face ao divórcio. O divórcio é um fenómeno global que tem vindo a sofrer diversas transformações ao longo dos anos. O presente estudo tem como foco a comparação das atitudes face ao divórcio da população geral com as atitudes face ao divórcio de estudantes do ensino superior portugueses, analisando variáveis como as habilitações literárias, idade, estado civil, género, ter ou não ter filhos, etapa do ciclo vital da família e ter ou não ter religião. Foi realizado um estudo quantitativo com uma amostra total de 587 sujeitos. O protocolo de investigação foi divulgado em formato *online*, através da plataforma *google forms* e em formato papel. Aplicaram-se três instrumentos de avaliação: um questionário sociodemográfico e de dados familiares e as versões portuguesas das escalas *Attitudes toward divorce* (Whitton et al., 2013) e *Attitude toward divorce* (Sadeghi & Agadjanian, 2019). Não encontramos diferenças estatisticamente significativas nas atitudes face ao divórcio entre as duas amostras. Os resultados indicam que o género masculino, indivíduos que têm filhos e sujeitos que têm religião revelam atitudes mais positivas face ao divórcio. *Discussão e conclusões:* Os resultados trazem nova informação face a anteriores investigações, com alguns resultados inovadores que entendemos no registo das transformações sociais e características da nossa amostra. Estes resultados podem contribuir para futuras investigações com a população portuguesa, e poderão ser úteis para a intervenção e prática clínica.

Palavras-chave: Divórcio, atitudes, população geral, estudantes do ensino superior

Caught Between Expectation and Reality: Slovak Co-Parenting Fathers? Experiences, Well-Being, and Social Support Post-Separation

Magda Petrjanosova, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovak Republic

Fatherhood after separation is shaped not only by legal and institutional frameworks but also by media and lay discourses that construct fatherhood as secondary to motherhood. These narratives influence how co-parenting fathers perceive, internalize, or resist societal expectations of their roles. This study explores how fathers navigate post-separation parenting, focusing on their lived experiences, well-being, resilience and social support networks. This ongoing research is based on semi-structured interviews with co-parenting fathers (N=10) in Slovakia with at least one child under 14 spending at least 30% of their time in the father's household. The interviews explore multiple aspects of post-separation fatherhood, including co-parenting arrangements; parenting preferences and father-child relationship; well-being and social support networks - the availability, sources, and stability of fathers' emotional, practical, and financial support networks, as well as feelings of social isolation or connectedness. The data is analyzed using reflexive thematic analysis (RTA), allowing for an in-depth exploration of how fathers construct meaning around post-separation parenting and navigate social expectations. The analysis is still in progress, but early findings suggest co-parenting fathers face significant challenges in securing the parenting roles they prefer. While some struggle with limited legal recognition and persistent gendered expectations, others are comfortable with a smaller share of caregiving responsibilities.

Keywords: Co-parenting, fatherhood, Slovakia, resilience, social support, well-being



Posters

Empowering Voices: Exploring Participation of Refugee and Migrant Children in Residential Care

Leonor Bastos Pereira, University Fernando Pessoa, Portugal

Ana Isabel Sani, University Fernando Pessoa, Portugal

This study explores the participation of refugee and migrant children in residential care, examining challenges and best practices. More than half of any refugee population consists of children. First and foremost, they are children and require special attention. As refugees, they are particularly at risk due to the uncertainty and unprecedented disruptions that continue to shape their lives. They face significantly greater threats to their safety and well-being than most children. The abrupt and often violent nature of emergencies, the breakdown of family and community support systems, and the severe lack of resources faced by most refugees have a profound impact on their physical and psychological well-being. According to Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), “children are entitled to participate in all decisions that affect them, with their views ‘given due weight’ according to their age and maturity.” Allowing refugees to regain control over their lives is fundamental. Through participation, they can influence decisions that affect them, which, in turn, has a positive impact on their self-esteem. Using a qualitative approach, this ongoing study collected data through semi-structured interviews with academics and residential care professionals, complemented by a case study of a migrant child. While participation is recognized as a right, its implementation faces structural, cultural, and institutional barriers. The findings will contribute to improving participatory mechanisms and informing policies to enhance migrant youth inclusion in residential care.

Keywords: participation, refugee and migrant children, residential care, decision-making, qualitative study

Protective and Stress Factors for Psychological Distress: Family Support in a Comparative Analysis of LGB and Non-LGB Older Adults

José Alberto Ribeiro-Gonçalves, Universidade da Madeira, Portugal

Dora Pereira, Universidade da Madeira, Portugal

Pedro Costa, Centro de Psicologia da Universidade do Porto, Portugal

Isabel Leal, Ispa - Instituto Universitário, Portugal

Population aging presents significant psychosocial and public health challenges. Particularly, lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) older adults may face greater vulnerabilities and marginalization compared to non-LGB (heterosexual) individuals, which can increase their mental health risks. Family support plays a crucial role in the stress and protection dynamics experienced by older adults. This study aimed to comparatively assess the levels of protective factors - social and family support, spirituality, and resilience - and stress factors - loneliness and ageism - among LGB and non-LGB older adults and their impact on psychological distress (PD). A sample of 647 individuals aged 60 or older ($M = 66.01$; $SD = 4.93$) was recruited, including 368 non-LGB and 279 LGB participants. Data were collected through an online survey in Portugal. LGB older adults reported lower scores on all protective factors and family support, except for social support from friends, and higher levels of all stress factors, except for hostile ageism, compared to non-LGB older adults. Resilience and loneliness were the primary predictors of PD, regardless of sexual orientation. Stress factors explained PD levels beyond the effects of protective factors in both LGB and non-LGB older adults. Psychological distress in aging is influenced by different protective and stress factors depending on the sexual orientation of older individuals. More comparative studies are recommended at the intersection of aging, family support, and sexual orientation.

Keywords: Distress; Sexuality; Sexual Minorities; Loneliness; Resilience



Posters

The Experiences of Intimacy, Commitment and Passion Throughout Life: A Qualitative Study of Older Portuguese Gay and Bisexual Men

José Alberto Ribeiro-Gonçalves, Universidade da Madeira, Portugal

Margarida Pocinho, Universidade da Madeira, Portugal

Pedro Costa, Universidade do Porto, Portugal

Isabel Leal, Ispa - Instituto Universitário, Portugal

Romantic relationships during aging can have diverse implications for reducing mental health problems, mortality rates, and the prevention and management of chronic diseases in older adults. However, little is known about the relational dynamics of gay and bisexual (GB) older people. The experiences of romantic relationships throughout the life cycle of Portuguese GB older people and their relationship with identity development were evaluated using Sternberg's triangular theory of love. A total of 23 semi-structured interviews were carried out with older community-dwelling Portuguese GB (60+ years old) using the lifeline, which were later analyzed using thematic analysis. The results suggested that experiences of greater relational maturity in older GB people corresponded to phases of greater identity integrity. These older adults gradually experienced more complex levels of love, starting from more passionate love relationships (confusion/comparison phase) to romantic love relationships (tolerance/acceptance phase) and later companionate love relationships (synthesis phase). These relational changes accompanied broader psychosocial changes in gaining rights and freedoms. GB older adults are able to reach complex levels of love, just like heterosexual older people, however at later periods in the life cycle due to the great obstacles imposed by the psychosocial context to the constitution of identity.

Keywords: Romantic Relationship; Identity Development; Gay; Bisexual; Life cycle.

Enhancing parental insight and action against online sexual exploitation of minors: A study of parental perceptions and intervention

Mariana Monteiro, University Fernando Pessoa, Portugal

Ana Isabel Sani, University Fernando Pessoa, Portugal

The study to be presented sought to broaden parents' understanding of the online dangers that children face. A quantitative, descriptive, cross-sectional study was carried out involving 200 participants. An online survey examined parents' perceptions of the risks of sexual abuse associated with online gaming environments. The results indicated that a substantial number of children participate in online games on a daily basis, mainly via mobile devices in their bedrooms. Although many parents demonstrate a solid knowledge of digital security measures, concerns persist about the dangers associated with online gaming. The analysis revealed that 59.5% of children frequently play online games and 57.1% of parents have strong digital skills, with 68.9% aware of security programmes to protect their children. However, 32.8 per cent of parents occasionally worry about the risks of online gaming and only 34.5 per cent consider interactions with strangers to be a critical issue. Although the majority (67.2%) maintained an open dialogue about the risks of the Internet with their children, 48.7% had no prior knowledge of online grooming, while 43.7% had broached the subject with their children, with 79% recognising it as a serious concern. It is worth noting that 6.7 per cent of parents felt unsure about how to approach cases of online grooming. In conclusion, an overwhelming 84.9% of respondents believe that educational establishments should adopt a proactive attitude in educating families and preventing these offences, underlining the importance of raising awareness of the prevention of online grooming.

Keywords: Child sexual exploitation; Online gaming; Parental awareness; Prevention strategies



Posters

Preliminary Partner-Focused Findings from Partnered Community and Clinical Samples in the Project "Transdiagnostic Factors and Sexual Distress: A Preliminary Study with a Clinical Sample"

Patrícia Pascoal, Lusófona University, Portugal

Andreia Manão, Lusófona University, Portugal

Cátia Oliveira, Lusófona University, Portugal

Magda Roberto, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal

Graça Santos, Hospital da Luz, Portugal

Nuno Tomada, Instituto de Investigação e Inovação em Saúde, Porto, Portugal

Sexual distress related to sexual function (SDRSF) is commonly ignored in favour of sexual function, a mechanistic view of sexuality. The project "Transdiagnostic factors and sexual distress: a preliminary study with a clinical sample" (funded: European Society for Sexual Medicine), investigates SDRSF in clinical and non-clinical samples to enhance interventions. We will present preliminary results from two qualitative studies: study 1, answers the question: "How do individuals who experience SDRSF in partnered activities describe it?"; and study 2, answers the question: "How do those with and without SDRSF describe their sexual communication patterns?". Both studies included partnered people: Study 1 included 438 heterosexual people, and Study 2 involved 1110 sexually active people, with 217 reporting SDRSF. Data was analyzed using reflexive thematic analysis. In study 1, we created three themes: (1) Sexual (dys)function, focusing on function and pleasure; (2) Intimacy dynamics, addressing relationship challenges; (3) Intrapersonal struggles, highlighting individual factors shaped by social messages. In study 2, four themes were created: (1) Barometer of relationship, showing how sexual communication reflects relationship dynamics; (2) Instrumental oriented, emphasizing communication as a process to achieve mutual sexual pleasure; (3) Never-ending process, illustrating continuous development in sexual communication; (4) Legacy, considering that past factors, including family patterns, influence current communication. Our results highlight that intimacy and communication shape SDRSF, warranting theoretically grounded clinical research to embrace an interpersonal perspective. Our findings also point out the role that intergenerational family patterns and processes may have a role in SDRSF.

Keywords: Sexual distress; Sexual distress related to sexual function; Partnered adults; Sexual communication; Close relationships

What is sexual dissatisfaction? Preliminary thematic reflexive analysis of a qualitative study with people in a committed amorous relationship

Patrícia Pascoal, Universidade Lusófona e Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal

Magda Pereira, Universidade Lusófona, Portugal

Sexual health affects and is affected by physical and psychological health. Sexual satisfaction, a predominantly positive interpersonal outcome, is determinant in defining sexual health and it impacts people's overall quality of life, especially their intimate relationships. However, its counterpart, sexual dissatisfaction, a negative outcome, is not clearly defined in the few existing studies. The concept of sexual dissatisfaction is generally presented as the opposite of sexual satisfaction, on the same continuum. But even though the concepts may be complementary, they may in principle have distinct features and correlates, as is the case, for example, with the concepts of relational satisfaction and dissatisfaction, which are defined in different ways and dissatisfaction cannot be summarized as the mere absence or reduction of the factors that constitute or promote satisfaction. The view of dissatisfaction as resulting from a low rating of a component of sexual satisfaction (such as the frequency of orgasms) may not apply to all individuals, and these constructs should therefore be studied separately. In our pioneering online exploratory cross-sectional qualitative study, we set out to answer the question: "Based on your sexual experience, how do you define sexual dissatisfaction?". The aim is to make a preliminary contribution to the conceptual understanding of sexual dissatisfaction, through the perceptions of people in a committed romantic relationship who have already experienced sexual dissatisfaction. The data will be analysed using the reflexive thematic analysis developed by Braun and Clarke. The data is being collected and we propose to present the preliminary analysis.



Posters

Why do we need to consider relationship outputs in SAD intervention?

Edna Martins, Lusófona University, Portugal

Patrícia Pascoal, Lusófona University, Portugal

Marco Pereira, Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal

Gerhard Andersson, Linköping University, Sweden

Social Anxiety Disorder (SAD) usually leads to difficulties in the interpersonal context, particularly in amorous relationships. Despite all evidence supporting the association between SAD functioning and relationship and sexual dimensions, existing studies do not assess the impact of online therapy for social anxiety on the relational and sexual components of individuals (with social anxiety) and their partners, creating a gap regarding the effect of therapy on the interpersonal variables typically affected by SAD. This project aims to evaluate the impact of an online SAD treatment on amorous relationships. We will conduct a randomized controlled trial on iTerapy platform and divide participants in a two-arm study with parallel groups (i.e., intervention group and wait-list group). Participants will answer questionnaires to assess social anxiety symptoms and relationship and sexual outcomes at pre-treatment, post-treatment and 6-month follow up. Participants partner`s will also be asked to complete questionnaires at the same periods of time, but only regarding relationship and sexual outcomes. We hope our study helps to better understand how relationship and sexual components are affected and affect clinical symptoms and their progression within receiving treatment. Social Anxiety Disorder (SAD) usually leads to difficulties in the interpersonal context, particularly in amorous relationships. Despite all evidence supporting the association between SAD functioning and relationship and sexual dimensions, existing studies do not assess the impact of online therapy for social anxiety on the relational and sexual components of individuals (with social anxiety) and their partners, creating a gap regarding the effect of therapy on the interpersonal variables typically affected by SAD. This project aims to evaluate the impact of an online SAD treatment on amorous relationships. We will conduct a randomized controlled trial on iTerapy platform and divide participants in a two-arm study with parallel groups (i.e., intervention group and wait-list group). Participants will answer questionnaires to assess social anxiety symptoms and relationship and sexual outcomes at pre-treatment, post-treatment and 6-month follow up. Participants partner`s will also be asked to complete questionnaires at the same periods of time, but only regarding relationship and sexual outcomes. We hope our study helps to better understand how relationship and sexual components are affected and affect clinical symptoms and their progression within receiving treatment.

