



Call for Papers

The Research Network *Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives* of the European Sociological Association (ESA RN13) is seeking submissions to its **Interim Meeting 2022 organized in Warsaw, Poland**, by the SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities (Youth Research Center & Institute of Social Sciences) in cooperation with Faculty of Sociology, University of Warsaw.

The Interim Meeting will take place June 27th- 29th 2022 with the following theme:

Family Lives, Intimacies and Social Change: New Perspectives on Families in Flux

Both ongoing and unpredictable social crises and shifts at global, national and local levels are continuously contributing to the changing shape of modern intimacies. This is evident - among others - in the emergence of new family forms and practices, changes in family policies, ambivalence towards previously desirable social roles within families (e.g., around marriage or reproduction), as well as new dynamics of intergenerational support and conflicts. We are particularly interested in seeing how 'families in flux' operate against the backdrop of social change affecting individual biographies, intergenerational transfers and broader societies.

Interested in what changes and what stays the same, this conference will investigate temporalities and shifts within the broadly understood personal lives, intimacies and families. The call for papers invites a wide outlook towards social change. A first interest lies in changes that occur suddenly and unpredictably in the intimate lives of individuals, such as reorganization of family lives during the Covid-19 pandemic. Secondly, we are seeking submissions that integrate a long-term perspective into examining the unfolding consequences of continued crises. In that context, we are looking for analyzes that disentangle the meanings of families and intimacies in the face of major social changes such as individualization, digitalization or climate change.

It has been argued that families and personal relationships have been 'in flux' for several decades in late modernity, yet change is neither evenly paced nor always going in a clear direction (e.g. towards nuclearization) This encompasses in particular different tempos of historically rooted processes and events linked to demography (e.g., aging, fertility) or politics (e.g., family migration policies, legal frameworks for LGBTQ+ relationships) across different countries. Therefore, we are further interested in papers addressing more locally-bounded changes in family relations, dynamics and practices that have to do with recessions or intensifications of migration crises.

Importantly, the Interim Meeting aims at addressing questions regarding what changes and what stays the same within the social practices, dynamics and understandings of intimate and family bonds forged, maintained or dissolved by individuals over time. We expand on the previous conference's call to 'think relationally' and add the issues about the need to think about intimacies and families 'temporally', as a response to the chronology, pace and tempo of social changes having an impact on personal lives at different levels (micro, community, nationally, globally). In addition, we welcome comparative and locally-informed works on the relational dynamics in families and intimate lives across different parts of Europe and world-regions.

The topics of interest include - but are not limited to - the following issues:

- changes in family practices, dynamics and relations over time;
- the impact of wider societal changes - particularly crises - on intimacies and families;
- emergent family practices;
- steadiness and stability within various realms of families and intimacies in spite of change;
- families/intimacies then and now (temporal/life-course/comparative approaches to intimacies);
- nation-state(s)' responses to changes in families and intimacies;
- intergenerational transmission and relationships as the sites of managing/navigating social change within families.

The thematic orientation of the conference described above does not exclude papers focusing on related topics that we have not explicitly mentioned. All of these will be enthusiastically received and reviewed. Both empirical and theoretical papers are welcome.

Requirements for the abstracts

Submissions for the conference should contain an abstract of max. 500 words, outlining (where applicable) the research question, the theoretical framework, the methodology and data used, as well as empirical findings and contributions.

Please submit the abstract to: interim.meeting.2022@gmail.com

Important dates/practical information

- The deadline for abstract submission is **December 20th, 2021**.
- The authors will be informed about the acceptance by **February 20th, 2022**.
- If the number of slots for oral presentations is exceeded, some accepted papers will have the opportunity to be presented as a poster.
- Selected papers of the ESA RN₁₃ Interim Meeting 2022 in Warsaw will have the opportunity to be published in a special issue of an academic journal (TBC)
- Conference attendance is free for members of the ESA RN₁₃ and costs €50 for non-members.
- RN₁₃ encourages participation of junior scholars and PhD students, who will be considered for best PhD paper awards, with two prizes of €250 each. When submitting abstract as a PhD student/junior scholar, please indicate that you want to participate in the competition. Please be advised that only those who have not yet defended their doctoral dissertations are eligible for these awards.

Local organizers

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