

# RN13 Newsletter

## *Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives*

Research Network 13 of the European Sociological Association (ESA)

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### Invitation for Membership



European  
Sociological  
Association

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

Becoming an RN13 member is easy. If you are not an ESA member yet, you can sign up [here](#) for RN13 membership together with signing up of ESA membership. If you are an ESA member already you need to first log in into your ESA online account [here](#); then go to the “Become a Member” page [here](#); then go through the registration process by checking “RN13” on the 2nd page just clicking “next” otherwise.

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

— Jacques-Antoine Gauthier & Katarzyna Suwada

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### Sounds of the network ...

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

### Upcoming Conferences / Call for Papers

**Research network on ‘southern european societies’.** “New and old challenges at South Europe: Migration Crisis, Social Inequality and Reformulation of the European Social Contract”. 3rd-6th July 2019 University of Valencia. Spain

Coordinator:

[Dra. Matilde Massó \(Universidade da Coruña\)](#)

Secretaries:

[Dra. Marta Ortega-Gaspar \(Universidad de Málaga\)](#)

[Dra. Obdulia Taboadela \(Universidade da Coruña\)](#)

Vocals:

Nazaret Abalde (Universidade da Coruña)

Ana María López Narbona (Universidad de Málaga)

During last years, European Societies have been experiencing relevant transformations; economic recession linked to bank issues and its impacts on employment rates, austerity policies based on the reduction of public expenditure for guarantying the convergence towards Maastricht goals, the erosion of the national sovereignty and the growth of supra national institutions as IMF, ECB and the European Commission, migrations and humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean Europe... All these

issues have influenced on the societies located at the periphery of the European Union, as Greece, Spain, Italy, Portugal, and Ireland which have suffered a high level of unemployment rates and precarious employment conditions. Relevant changes on the income and the labour market structures have pushed a great part of South Europe populations toward a very difficult financial situation. As a result, the State confronts the urgent need of a new social contract to guaranty economic and social rights of its citizens.

From the sociology, it is imperative to analyze these processes of change and their social, economic and political consequences. The Workshop team **G11 Southern European Societies** and the related committees (Family, Migration and Social Policies) with whom we will have joint sessions, welcome proposals on topics related to the common and diverse problems which affect Southern European societies.

The team G11-Southern European Societies invite you to send your research results, especially in the following fields:

1. Transformations of Welfare State models in South Europe.
2. Migration and humanitarian crisis in the Mediter-

ranean Europe.

3. Social consequences of the austerity policies in South Europe: socio-economic inequality, precarious employment, and reconsideration of social citizenship.
4. Integration and convergence processes in the European periphery.
5. Citizenship, market society, and economic subjectivities in the precarious labor era.
6. Population aging and new family models in Europe.

Additionally, we consider the Conference as an exceptional platform to offer the participants the opportunity to publish research and to join a network for research collaborations. For this reason, G11-Southern European Societies encourages researchers to join the promotion of the Southern European Societies Elgar ([Book proposal](#)) inviting the best papers to elaborate a proposal to be published in this collection.

[Link to congres homepage](#)

[Link to FES Homepage](#)

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## New Publications on Family Issues

- Castrén A.-M. (2018). Becoming “Us”: Marital Name, Gender, and Agent Work in Transition to Marriage. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, first published August 2, 2018. [Access here](#)
- Eckhard, J. & Stauder, J. (online first 2018). Partner Market Opportunities and Union Formation over the Life Course – a Comparison of Different Measures. *Population, Space, and Place: online first*. [Access here](#).
- Fernández- Alonso, M. y Ortega-Gaspar, M. (2018). Gender and informal social support in Spanish culture. *Research on Ageing and Social Policy*, 2, 118-146.
- Kislev, E. (2017). Happiness, Post-materialist Values, and the Unmarried. *Journal of Happiness Studies*, 1-23.
- Moreno Mínguez, A., & Crespi, I. (2017). Future perspectives on work and family dynamics in

Southern Europe: the importance of culture and regional contexts. *International Review of Sociology*, 27(3), 389-393, [Access here](#)

- Moreno Mínguez, A. (2017). “Understanding the impact of economic crisis on inequality, household structure and family support in Spain from a comparative perspective”, *Journal of Poverty*, 21(5), 454- 481, Taylor & Francis.
- Moreno Mínguez, A., Crespi, I. (2017). Gender equality and family changes in the work–family culture in Southern Europe. *Revue Internationale de Sociologie*, 27, Basingstoke: Taylor & Francis, 394-420.
- Moreno Mínguez A. (2017). The Role of Family Policy in Explaining the International Variation in Child Subjective Well-Being. *Social Indicators Research*.

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# A Glance into Current European Family Research

by TOM KOSSOW AND JOHANNES STAUDER, MAX-WEBER-INSTITUT FÜR SOZIOLOGIE, UNIVERSITÄT HEIDELBERG



## The Macrostructural Context of the Marriage Market: Longitudinal Dynamics

The composition of the social environment has important impacts on an individual's way of life. An important example of this is the partner market which influences many aspects of intimate relationships, like union formation, mate selection, relationship stability and the inner arrangement of relationships. The aim of our project "The macro-structural context of the partner market: longitudinal dynamics" (funded by the German Research Council DFG) is:

- a) the development of indicators on a suitable spatial level which depict the German partner market as accurate as possible and allow for the reconstruction of its development over the past decades,
- b) the connection of these indicators with established social-scientific data sets to measure the impact of structural constraints on the incidence, prevalence, configuration, and stability of heterosexual relationships in a longitudinal approach.

Following Blau's macrostructural theory (Blau 1977), the partner market can be conceptualized as a market of potentially suitable partners for intimate relationships. Individuals' opportunities for finding a partner are restricted by the macro-structural distribution of relevant social positions within spatial limits, because the number of individuals with relevant traits defines their opportunities for contact and restrict their opportunities to develop (intimate) relationships (Stauder, 2008).

Usually, studies about the partner market in European countries and regions use quite crude age-specific sex ratios with spatial units based on large regions or whole countries. However, age-specific sex ratios neither adequately account for theoretical considerations about which age-groups are suitable potential partners for each other, nor do they sufficiently account for competition from same-sex individuals from different age-groups or describe the partner market's spatial limits in an accurate way.

In contrast to these approaches, our project has developed more elaborated partner market measures to detect variations, influencing factors and consequences of partner market conditions in Germany between 1984 and

2014. Unlike the usual simple sex ratios, our indicators refer to relatively small spatial units (NUTS3-regions) and are sensitive about age preferences as suggested by Goldman et al. (1984). Furthermore, they account adequately for the relevance of men and women with different educational attainments and for the likeliness of individuals who already have a partner to be available for a new relationship. Indicator values with these specifications can be assigned uniquely according to sex, age, local district (and optionally education). To foreground different facets of the partner market and to add to the current state of research we computed various partner market indicators which either focus on the aspect of competition, or on transparency or on efficiency. In so doing we can evaluate if actions within the context of intimate relationships like partner search, assortative mating or separation are more sensitive either to competition (the ratio of supply of available and relevant opposite-sex individuals and same-sex competitors), or to the probability to meet a suitable potential partner by chance (efficiency), or to the visibility of potential partners in the overall population of the county (transparency).

In a first step, we calculated our set of partner market indicators using official regional population statistics and the German Microcensus, both provided by the German Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the German States. In addition, we used data from the DJI Familiensurvey, the Beziehungs- und Familienpanel (pairfam), the German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP), the UN Generations and Gender Survey, the DEAS Alterssurvey, the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) and the Partnermarktsurvey 2009. All calculations are documented [in a methodological report](#) (in German language, on our website. We currently work on an English short version).

In a second step, we used the indicators to describe the partner market for various cohorts and to figure out the impact of varying birth rates and of internal migration on the partner market (Eckhard and Stauder, 2018;

Eckhard et al., 2015).

In a third step, our indicators have been linked to various established German data sets like pairfam, GSOEP and ALLBUS to test the impact of the partner market on different aspects of intimate relationships. One example is the matching of our indicators with the German socio-economic panel (GSOEP) to analyze how union formation, mate selection and assortative mating are influenced by the situation on the (local) partner market (Eckhard and Stauder, 2018, online first). By linking our indicators to different surveys we display the broad applicability of our structural data and hope to encourage other researchers to take advantage of our work. The release of our partner market indicators for the use of the scientific community is planned in 2019.

Even though our approach of the partner market focuses on Germany, our analysis can lead to a better understanding of partner market processes all over Europe. The impacts of a strong decline of the birth rate or of strong outmigration might be evenly relevant for other European countries. For example, Spain and Italy have faced similar declines of their birth rates as West Germany during the 1970ies and East Germany during the

early 1990ies. And like East Germany after 1989, these countries suffered from massive outmigration.

## References

Blau, Peter M. (1977). *A macrosociological theory of social structure*. American journal of sociology, Vol. 83, No. 1, pp. 26-54.

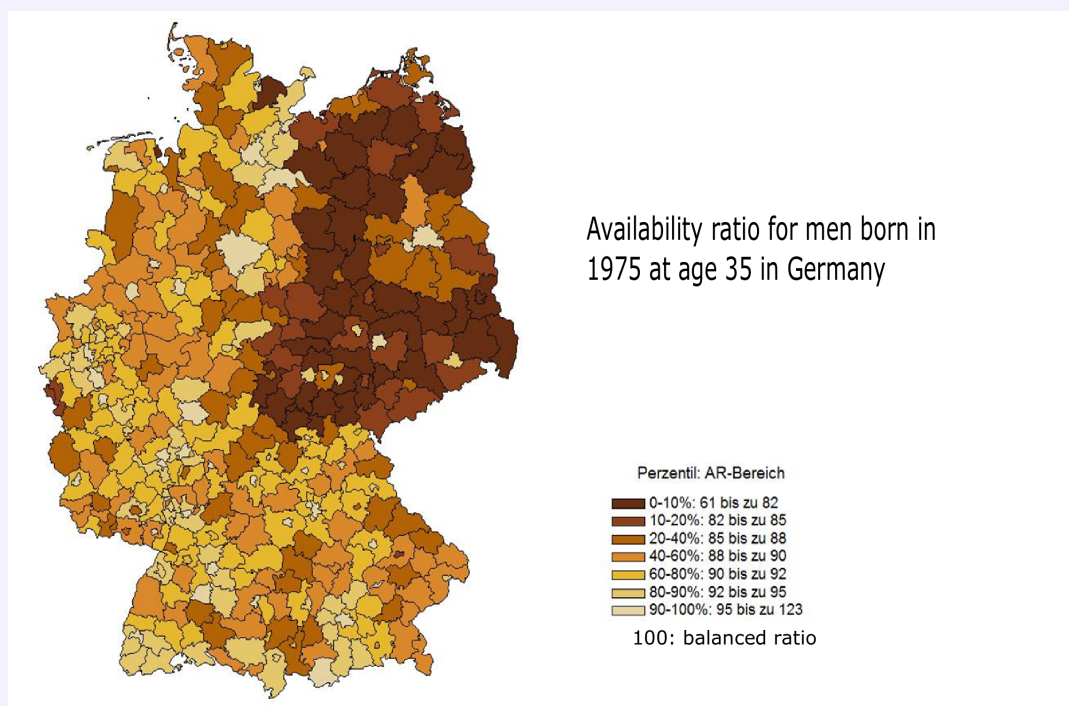
Eckhard, J. and Stauder, J. (2018). *Migration and the Partner Market: How Gender-Selective Relocations Affect Regional Mating Chances in Germany*, European Journal of Population, 34, 59-86.

Eckhard, J. and Stauder, J. (2018, online first). *Partner market opportunities and union formation over the life course—A comparison of different measures*, Population, Space, and Place, e2178.

Eckhard, J., Stauder, J. and Wiese, D. (2015). *Die Entwicklung des Partnermarkts im Längsschnitt—Alters- und Kohortenunterschiede*, KZfSS Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie, 67, 81-109.

Goldman, N.; Westoff, C. F. Hammerslough, C. (1984). *Demography of the Marriage Market in the United States*. Population Index, Vol. 50, No. 1, pp. 5-25.

Stauder, J. (2008). *Opportunitäten und Restriktionen des Kennenlernens*, KZfSS Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie, 60, 266-286.



## Research team:

Other researchers who were involved in the project: Jan Eckhard, Laura Unsöld, and Daniel Wiese, Max-Weber-Institut für Soziologie, Universität Heidelberg.

Contact: mail: [Johannes.stauder@mwi.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:Johannes.stauder@mwi.uni-heidelberg.de)

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## Job offer

### Faculty Position (all ranks) in Federmann School of Public Policy and Government

The Federmann School of Public Policy Government at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, invites applications for a full-time tenure track/tenured position in all sub-fields relevant to Public Policy, starting July 1, 2019 or soon thereafter. The position can be filled at any research faculty rank, from Lecturer (equivalent to assistant professor) to Full Professor. PhD in any field in the social sciences or law is required. Candidates with PhD in other

fields (e.g. computer science, medicine) will also be considered, depending on the relevance of their expertise to public policy. Priority will be given to candidates whose research and teaching expertise can contribute to the aim and purpose of the school in the fields of policy and public administration. [Detailed information available here](#)

**Applications should be submitted online no later than October 31th, 2018**

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## Cartoon



by Detlev Lück

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## The floor is yours ...

- Do you have contents for the next RN13 Newsletter (December 23th 2018)?
- Do you have new English publications on family issues?
- Do you know about new English publications which you recommend reading?
- Do you know about upcoming conferences or other events?
- Do you have an open position or a job to offer - or are you looking for a position?
- Do you have a research projects which you would like to present in a short article?

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

**The next deadline will be December 10th 2018.**