Family, population, gender

Prof. Martin Kohli, Dr Raya Muttarak

First Term Seminar – Autumn 2010
Thursdays 08:45-10:45 – Seminar room 2

(Please register with Monika.Rzemieniecka@eui.eu)

The seminar provides an introduction to the sociology of the family, with a special consideration of population and gender issues, and a focus on the contemporary changes in the developed world. It takes a broad view of the family, examining not only the co-residing (nuclear or sometimes extended) unit but kinship structures and their salience for a number of current concerns such as demographic reproduction (fertility), work/family reconciliation, social inequality, and social security (role of the family in the welfare mix).

While not neglecting the micro-level of family relationships and intimacy, the seminar goes beyond them by incorporating them into the macro-social framework of societal production and reproduction (of which demographic reproduction is an essential component). The first part of the seminar is devoted to rival theoretical approaches; the second part follows the main transitions of the family life course; and the third part concentrates on contemporary dynamics, taking up some of the current issues mentioned above.

Most sessions will be based on readings. Participants are required to prepare brief comments on the general readings. Moreover, each participant will be required to critically present the additional readings of one of the sessions and lead the discussion on how they contribute to the key questions of the seminar.

A. THEORETICAL APPROACHES

Session 1 (October 7) The sociology and anthropology of kinship

General readings

Additional readings
Session 2 (October 13) – Seminar Room 3 (17:00-19:00)
Evolutionary approaches

General readings

Additional readings

Session 3 (October 21) – Seminar Room 4
Historical approaches

General readings

Additional readings
B. THE FAMILY LIFE COURSE

Session 4 (October 28)
Marriage and cohabitation

General readings

Additional readings

Session 5 (November 4)
Fertility

General readings
Additional readings


Session 6 (November 11)

Parenthood – Presentation by Prof. Frank Furstenberg (Population Studies Center, University of Pennsylvania)

General readings


Additional readings


Session 7 (November 17) – Seminar Room 2 (17:00-19:00)

Divorce

General readings

Additional readings

**Session 8 (November 25)**
**Adult intergenerational relations and grandparenthood**

*General readings*

*Additional readings*

**C. CONTEMPORARY DYNAMICS**

**Session 9 (December 2)**
**New family forms**

*General readings*

Additional readings


Session 10 (December 9)
The changing gender contract

General readings


Additional readings