

Call for Papers

Call 2

Fragmented Parenthood

Although the majority of families today still consist of children and two parents who are both the gestational/genetic, legal and social parents of the children, family forms which are affected by the fragmentation of parenthood – i.e. a splitting up of gestational/genetic, legal and social parenthood – are gaining increasing importance. In the research sector, this is referred to as an „erosion of the bio-social unit of the family“ (Peuckert 2012), an increasing spread of „fragmented parenthood“ (Hoffmann-Riem 1988), as well as a „segmentation of the parental role“ (Vaskovics 2009). Families which are particularly affected by the fragmentation of parenthood are not only stepfamilies, but also foster families, adoptive families, same-sex families and reproductive families which come into being through the donation of gametes.

As the various segments/fragments of parenthood are more rarely represented by only two people, the dominance of the „normal family“ on the one hand decreases. On the other, the expression „normal family“, which derived from the middle-class family ideal during the „Golden Age of Marriage“, is still used today in a social and scientific context when the discussion turns not only to family life, with its specific challenges and opportunities, but also to the risks of family forms affected by fragmentation.

Against this background, we invite papers for the session „Fragmented Parenthood“ which systematically analyse the characteristics of these family forms, along with their challenges and opportunities, and outline possible scenarios for a successful family life. In addition, methodical aspects, such as the challenge of representing these heterogenic family structures and possible solutions with regard to the practical survey implementation, are also of great interest. In short, empirical analyses are equally as welcome as methodical or theoretical perspectives.

References

- Peuckert, Rüdiger (2012): Familienformen im sozialen Wandel. 8. ed. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften.
- Hoffmann-Riem, Christa (1988): Fragmentierte Elternschaft: Technologischer Fortschritt und familiäre Verarbeitung. In: Lüscher, Kurt (ed.): Die „postmoderne“ Familie: Familiäre Strategien und Familienpolitik in einer Übergangszeit. Konstanz: Univ.-Verl. Konstanz.
- Vaskovics, Laszlo A. (2009): Segmentierung der Elternrolle. In: Günter Burkart (ed.): Zukunft der Familie. Prognosen und Szenarien. Opladen: Budrich (Zeitschrift für Familienforschung – Sonderheft 6), S. 269–296.