RoMig – Romanian Network for Migration Studies

International Conference
„Transnational Families: Generations, differences, solidarity”

7th-8th of July, 2017
Centre for Population Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Conveners:
Viorela Ducu (Centre for Population Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)
Mihaela Nedelcu (Institute of Sociology, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland)
Mihaela Hărăguş (Centre for Population Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

Rationale
Transnational families have attracted major attention in the field of transnational migration studies in recent decades. Family solidarities and intergenerational resources over borders take various forms, and transnational families possess the capacity to exchange the same types of care and support as non-dispersed families, i.e. emotional/moral, financial, practical, personal support, and provisions of accommodation. In addition, there are complex factors influencing the transnational family caregiving arrangements, at the intersection of institutional contexts and family configurations, norms and obligations, in conjunction with gender, class and ethnicity. Beside the ‘imagined’ dimension which is at the core of the sense of ‘familyhood’ over borders, migrants and their relatives develop ways of ‘doing family’ based on a sense of shared presence constructed in different ways. Furthermore, in a ‘polymedia’ environment, ICTs and digital communication contribute to the renewal of ‘family practices’ and generate ‘ordinary co-presence’ routines.

This conference addresses the diversity of ‘doing family’ processes in transnational settings. It gathers papers from the field of transnational families’ studies with a special interest in intergenerational solidarity within transnational families; transnational grandparenting and the elderly within transnational families; gender and transnational mothering; children in transnational families; bi-national families. Based on diverse empirical data, the contributions propose original methodological approaches and new theoretical avenues to investigate the ways ‘family practices’ renew in transnational contexts, and the strategies of displaying that transnational families use.

The conference is related to three ongoing research projects on transnational families:
- „Confronting difference through the practices of transnational families”, funded by UEFISCSU Grant PN-II-TU-TE-2014-4-2087; project manager: Viorela Ducu, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania;
- „Intergenerational solidarities in transnational families. An approach through the care arrangements of the Zero Generation, these foreigner grandparents involved in raising their grandchildren in Switzerland”, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, Grant 100017_162645, 2015-2018; project manager: Mihaela Nedelcu, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland.
- „Intergenerational solidarity in the context of work migration abroad. The situation of elderly left at home”, funded by UEFISCSU Grant PN-II-TU-TE-2014-4-1377; project manager: Mihaela Hărăguş, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania.
RoMig – Romanian Network for Migration Studies

Conference Program

Friday, July 7th

9.00 - 9.45 KEYNOTE: TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES IN POLYMEDIA
Mirca MADIANOU, Reader at the Department of Media and Communications at Goldsmiths, University of London

10.00 - 11.15 Section 1: The virtual and the imaginary in transnational families

The shifting topology of care in the net era: beyond domestic seclusion, the new virtual presences of live-in domestic workers within their families
Carlotta Monini, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France, and University of Evora, Portugal

The life of the imagination in Eastern-European transnational families
Áron Telegdi-Csetri, Centre for Population Studies, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Older People, Transnational Families and Online Communication
Loredana Ivan, Communication Department, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania

11.15 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 - 13.35 Section 2 Part 1: Transnational parenting and resources’ circulation within transnational families

A life course perspective on parenting within transnational families of labor migrants from Poland and Romania in Sweden: the interplay between the institutional contexts and migrant parents’ strategies
Charlotte Melander, Department of Social Work, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
Oksana Shmulyar Gréen, Sociology and Work Science Department, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

“Our Westerner”: The Role of Youth in Reconfiguring Transnational Families
Iulia Hossu, Centre for Population Studies, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Women family related migration challenges
Ana Maria Preoteasa, „Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, Sibiu, Romania

(Re)turning home: an exploratory study of returning migrants
RoMig – Romanian Network for Migration Studies

Rina Cohen, York University, Toronto, Canada

A Migration Project for All? Dynamics and Decision-Making Processes in Transnational Families
Camelia Badea, Independent young researcher

13h45 – 15.45 Lunch

16.00 - 16.45 KEYNOTE: MOBILE CHILDHOODS: RETHINKING CHILDREN'S PLACE IN TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES
Asuncion Fresnoza-FLOT, Radboud Excellence Initiative fellow, Radboud University, Nijmegen

17.00 - 18.40 Section 3: Children in Transnational Families

A longitudinal analysis of well-being of Ghanaian children in transnational families
Victor Cebotari, Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, Maastricht University, the Netherlands
Valentina Mazzucato, Department of Technology and Society Studies, Maastricht University, the Netherlands
Ernest Appiah, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research, University of Ghana

Are Romanian Children left behind a vulnerable group to human trafficking?
Rafaela Hilario Pascoal, University of Palermo, Italy
Adina Nicoleta Erica Schwartz, West University of Timișoara, Romania

Romanian Children in Multiple Worlds
Viorela Ducu, Centre for Population Studies, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Impacts of intra-EU mobility on sending communities: health care and education systems in Romania and Slovakia in comparative approach
Mădălina Rogoz, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Vienna, Austria

19.30 Conference Dinner

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
Saturday, July 8th

Laura MERLA, Professor of Sociology at the Catholic University of Louvain and Director of the Interdisciplinary Research Center on Families and Sexualities (CIRFASE), Belgium

10.00 – 11.15 Section 4 Part 1: Intergenerational networks of solidarity and the role of the elderly

Transnational Grandchildhood: Negotiating Intergenerational Grandchild – Grandparent Ties across Borders
Adéla Souralová, Department of Sociology, Masaryk University, Czech Republic

Transnational grandparenting and the role of the Zero generation within the transnational family configurations
Mihaela Nedelcu and Malika Wyss, Institute of Sociology, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Familial Networks of Ethnic Germans from Kazakhstan in Germany: (Trans-)National Social Protection and Aging
Joanna Jadwiga Sienkiewicz, Bielefeld University, Germany

11.15 - 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 12.20 Section 4 Part 2: Intergenerational networks of solidarity and the role of the elderly

To Care or to Work: Intergenerational Kin Solidarities Split between Productive and Reproductive Labour in the Framework of EU Freedom of Movement
Neda Deneva-Faje, Department of Sociology, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Elderly parents as a resource for their adult migrant children
Mihaela Hărăuş, Ionuţ Földes, and Veronica Someşan, Centre for Population Studies, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

12.30 – 14.30 Lunch

14.30 - 15.45 Section 5: Binational families: the challenges of researching multicultural families

Transnational migrants’ childcare strategies in Hungary: Chinese children in Hungarian homes
Kovács Nóra, Minority Studies Institute, Centre of Social Sciences, Hungary Academy of Sciences
RoMig – Romanian Network for Migration Studies

Transnational visits – having guests from Poland, hospitality challenges for Polish migrants in Norway
Magdalena Żadkowska and Dorota Rancew-Sikora, University of Gdansk, Poland

On interviewing partners of mixed couples together: performance, meta-communication, and positionality
Rachele Bezzini, Department of Geography, School of Global Studies, University of Sussex, UK

15.45 – 16.00 Coffee Break

16.00 -17.40 Section 6: PhD students' workshop

Exploring Transnational Entrepreneurship Among Transnational Albanian Migrant Families
Joniada Barjaba, University of Sussex, UK

Transnational care chains - division of labor in European food production
Tina Bopp, Centre for Gender Studies, University of Basel, Switzerland

Rethinking loneliness. A quantitative study about determinants of loneliness among older adults with at least one child working abroad
Veronica Someşan, Centre for Population Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Intergenerational solidarity across borders: elderly parents left behind and children living abroad
Ionuţ Földes, Centre for Population Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

17.40 Closing word