

**Workshop “New relationships from a comparative perspective”
Sept. 10-11, 2010; Madrid, Spain**

The workshop took place on Friday Sept. 10th and Saturday Sept. 11th 2010 in Madrid, Spain. Sixteen international scholars from family sociology and social demography participated (see appendix for participants and schedule of the meeting). Of the original participants listed on the PAA proposal four were not able to attend (Prof. Melinda Mills, Dr. Torkild Lyngstad, Dr. Catherine Kenney and Dr. Marie Evertsson). Also, three new participants were invited (Jenjira Yahirun, Nicole Hiekel and Prof. Aat Liefbroer). In addition, a few PhD students, supervised by Prof. Teresa Castro Martin (the organiser), attended the workshop.

The first day of the meeting was dedicated to presentations of existing datasets and of some first results about an interesting topic to explore with these data (see appendix). Each participant had chosen a dataset (either cross-national or country-specific) before the meeting and prepared a presentation. These presentations served as input for the second day. During this second day, the group talked about (1) a special issue, (2) collaborating with the Gender and Generations Program (GGP) in preparing the partnership module for the upcoming wave, (3) collecting new data for new topics, and (4) a time schedule and related issues.

Ad 1. Special issue

The group agreed to prepare a special issue about new relationships in a comparative perspective, with a focus on the meaning of different kind of relationships and the arrangements within different relationship types. Topics and authors of the papers to be included have been discussed among the participants. The following papers are currently agreed upon:

(0) Introduction by Anne-Rigt Poortman: guest editor

(1) The meaning of cohabitation for cohabiting and married couples (GGS -data)
Nicole Hiekel, Anne-Rigt Poortman, Aat Liefboer

(2) Marriage as a new relationship: changes in the attitudes toward and normative expectations of marriage (EVS, ISSP, GGP)
Judith Treas

(3) Living apart together: prevalence, meaning and organization (GGS, Pairfam, NKPS)
Judith Seltzer, Aat Liefboer, Anne-Rigt Poortman

(4) Relationships as a reproductive context in Spain and US
Megan Sweeney, Teresa Castro Martin
Note: there is room for other countries

(5) Differences in time use between married and cohabiting couples (Time use surveys)
Suzanne Bianchi, Laurent Lesnard

(6) Marriage versus cohabitation: Outcomes for children (Crossnational equivalent file)
Marieke Voorpostel, Tanja van der Lippe

(7) Married and cohabiting children and support exchanges with parents (SHARE + US (??))
Dana Hamplova, Megan Sweeney, Jenjira Yahirun

Because not all network members were at the Madrid meeting, there may be more papers to come (or authors may be added to existing papers).

As a possible outlet, the following journals are or will be approached:

(1) Advances in Life Course Research

Aat Liefbroer already approached the editor (F. Billari) and he is positive.

A single issue would contain 4 papers, double issue 7-8 papers

(2) European Sociological Review

Melinda Mills has approached the editor (H.P. Blossfeld) some time ago. Although he was positive, nothing more concrete was arranged.

(3) Social Science Research

Judy Treas approached the editor and he is positive. A special section is 6-7 papers; a special issue contains 12-20 papers.

(4) Journal of Family Issues

Suzanne Bianchi will contact the editor

(5) Demographic research, online Journal

Torkild Lyngstad will contact the editor.

Ad 2. Collaborating with GGP

Prof. Aat Liefbroer (coordinator of the Generations and Gender Program) gave a presentation about the GGS (Generations and Gender Survey) on the second day with a focus on the partnership module. Input was asked from the group for the revision of this module. Some members of the group will be approached by Aat in the future for help with specific questions (relating to one's expertise). However, everybody will see the draft questionnaire and is able to react.

Ad 3. Collecting new data for new topics

There are several options for adding new questions or even modules to existing cross-national data sets.

(1) Start with two / three questions to the ISSP, deadline soon, probably October 2010. Dana Hamplova contacted the drafting group and they are positive about any suggestions from our group for two sections: the meaning of marriage & alternative family forms

(2) Start thinking about the ESS and write a proposal for a complete module in February 2012. On the agenda for our meeting in the fall of 2011. Dana Hamplova will inform us about deadlines

(3) Vignet study and participating in online panels (see presentation by Judith Seltzer on Friday, Sept. 10th). Also on the agenda for fall meeting 2011.

Possible new topics are (but they will probably require modules rather than questions):

1) LAT's

- > Prevalence and correlates (including life course issues: timing)
- > Difference with cohabitation (is it a continuum running from always part of the household to never? : see presentation Anne-Rigt Poortman on Friday Sept. 10th).
- > Meaning of LAT: why living apart together; intentions for the future
- > How important in terms of consequences (e.g., well-being; place in the kinship system).

Note: We need to make comparisons with marriage and cohabitation, as well as singles (maybe they are more like singles anyway).

Note: Study in the special issue about LAT may serve as a pilot here and also shows how important these relationships are anyway.

2) Measurement issues

Given the ambiguity of new relationships like LAT and cohabitation or stepfamilies, it is interesting to explore how wording affects people's answers to questions about these relationship types. See Megan Sweeney's presentation on Friday Sept 10th. See also the presentation by Anne-Rigt Poortman on that day: how to distinguish LAT from cohabitation?

3) Why marry (given that cohabitation has become more or less indistinguishable in most countries)

- > How others look at married/cohabiting couples (e.g., parents, siblings)
- > Reasons to (not) marry
- > Marriage as a status symbol (big wedding e.g.; See Cherlin, 2004)
- > Attitudes toward divorce and separation of cohabiting/LAT unions (flip coin)
- > Rituals of marriage (cohabitation/LAT): see Kalmijn, JMF, 2004

Ad 4. Time schedule and related issues

October 11, 2010: Participants send an abstract (half a page) of their contribution to the special issue to Anne-Rigt Poortman

PAA meeting 2011 (April): Participants who go there, have an informal meeting about the progress made for the special issue and other issues that have come up. Others may skype in.

Fall 2011: Next network meeting of the group, called the RelationsCrossNations-network. Here we will present our papers for the special issue. The papers should be finished at least two weeks before and send around to all participants. We also plan to talk about: ESS-module and other ways of collecting new data (see point 3).

February 2011(estimated): Deadline proposal for ESS module.

Fall 2012: Deadline for special issue.

Other issues:

Funding next meeting: Marieke Voorpostel will apply at the Swiss Science Foundation (deadline Oct. 15th, 2010)

Website: To be organized by Utrecht University

APPENDIX

Schedule Madrid 10-11 September, 2010

Friday September 10:

Day 1: Presentations of datasets and first results by each participant

9.30: Introduction and welcome (Anne-Rigt and Teresa)

10.00 - 10.20: Judith Seltzer (Pairfam)

10.20 - 10.40: Judith Treas (ISSP)

10.40 - 11.00 Anne-Rigt Poortman (NKPS)

11.00 - 11.20: Nicole Hiekel/Aat Liefbroer (GGP)

11.20 - 11.40: Laurent Lesnard (Time use surveys)

11.40 - 12.00: break

12.00 - 12.20: Marieke Voorpostel (HH Swiss Panel)

12.20 - 12.40: Suzanne Bianchi (PSID)

12.40 - 13.00: Dana Hamplova (SHARE)

13.00 - 13.20: Daniela Grunow (GLHS)

13.20- 15.00: lunch

15.00 - 15.20: Megan Sweeney (National Survey of Family Growth)

15.20 - 15.40: Jenjira Yahirun (GSOEP)

15.40 - 16.00: Tanja van der Lippe (European Value Survey)

16.00 - 16.10: break

16.10 - 16.30: Tiziana Nazio (Italian Panel Survey, BHPS; Multiscopo)

16.30 - 16.50: Teresa Castro Martin (Spanish Survey)

16.50 - 17.10: Tanja van der Lippe (on behalf of Melinda: ESS)

17.10 - 17.30: break

17.30-18.00: Discussion – already figuring out what is most interesting for special issue and long run (see Saturday) on basis of presentations.

Saturday September 11:

Day 2: Group discussion of future outcomes

9.00 – 11.30: Outcomes in short term: Special issue

1) which journal?

> *Advances in Life Course Research* (editor F. Billari is positive)

> *Family Science: Global Perspectives on Research, Policy and Practice*

> ESR: Melinda ??

2) which topics? In other words: the content of the special issue. Based on input of day 1: what are the most interesting and challenging topics from a cross-national perspective.

3) deadlines.

11.30 – 11.50: break

11.50 – 13.20: Preparing proposal GGP-module "partner relationships" for next wave

Aat has suggested that the RCN group could participate in developing a proposal for a revised module for the next wave of the GGP. The participating members were enthusiastic. Aat and Nicole will give a short presentation about what the module is about and how we could contribute. Next we discuss how to proceed.

13.20 – 15.00: Lunch

15.00 - 17.00 Outcomes in longer run: how to proceed with RCN

* Participation with modules of e.g. ESS (see earlier email Dana Hamplova) and on which topics (based on input day 1).

* Apply for network funding

* Future meetings

* Other suggestions...?