



Call for Papers

10th International Conference

Thursday, 10th June - Saturday, 12th June 2010
University of Basel (Switzerland)

„Migration und Familie“ “Migration and Family”

Organisers

- Institute for Regional and Migration Research, IRM (Trier, Germany)
- Centre de Documentation sur les Migrations Humaines, CDMH (Dudelange, Luxembourg)
- Institute of Integration and Participation at the College of Social Work, FHNW (Olten, Switzerland)
- Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt, Department for Cultural Sciences, Section for Intercultural Education (Klagenfurt, Austria)

In recent years, the subject of “Family in the context of Migration” has attracted a significant level of interest in science, politics and society. For instance, in 2000, the sixth family report on “Families of Foreign Origin in Germany” was published, while in 2002 in Switzerland, the Federal Committee for Family Affairs published the report “Family and Migration”. Such work acknowledges the fact that the family plays a decisive role in migration, ranging from influencing the decision to migrate to contributing to the process of living in a new country.

In public discourse, however, families with migration backgrounds have attracted attention mostly in connection with their presumed problems. In recent debates about social partaking and education (amongst other things in the context of the PISA-studies) such families have been identified as a social space in which paternal responsibility for the education and upbringing of children is assumed to be merely inadequately or missing altogether. This directness and vehemence of problem attribution stands in direct contrast to the declaration of there being insufficient scientific evaluation of these topics in international debates.

Therefore, beyond hegemonic discourses of attribution and responsibility, a sharper differentiation is necessary: the family as a cultural, social, and economic unit of production and reproduction has been differentiated further and pluralised, that not only in respect to its heterogeneous composition (as a consequence of interethnic relations) but mainly concerning the way of life of families themselves. Hence, the process of pluralisation in patterns and forms of families, as it is established in society in general, is also to be found in the context of families with migrational background. Thereby, changes in migration processes affect the inner structure and development of families with migration backgrounds. These phenomena are discussed to a certain extent in more recent debates using terms such as “transnationalisation” and “transculturality”. Against this background, the question of meaning, and the handling of social and cultural differences, has to be asked not only concerning society in general but also regarding the family as a specific form of community.



In this conference recent theoretical and empirical studies on the theme of migration and family are to be presented and discussed. The aim is not only to evaluate more recent developments in this field but also, and foremost, to reconstruct the developments of recent years in the domain “Family/Families in the Migration context” from a critical perspective. For this reason, interpretations and patterns of explanation that have intensified discursively are to be identified according to their stigmatising outcomes and impact and, regarding their content, revised.

We invite you to prepare proposals dealing, within the context of “Migration and Family”, on one of the topics listed below. Please indicate within which topic your proposal is best located:

- Circumstances of families in the context of migration (including resident permit status, employment and health)
- Relationships amongst generations in familial context (for example, regarding childhood, youth and old age)
- Family and migration politics (such as legal and economic aspects)
- Gender ratio in families with migration background
- Theoretical approaches to migration and family
- Cultures of remembrance in the context of migration and family

If you are interested in presenting a paper, we kindly ask you to submit a short abstract (500 words max.) with the title of your presentation, a short biographical notice and contact address (e-mail, telephone, and postal address). **(Please follow the attached guidelines. Proposals that do not correspond with these guidelines cannot be accepted.)**

Deadline for proposals: 15th of December 2009
Selection by the program committee: 20th of January 2010

Conference languages: German and English
Information and contact: www.irm-trier.de; Tagung2010@irm-trier.de



Members of the programme committee:

- *Yasemin Ahi*, IRM, Istanbul (Turkey)
- *Dr. Thomas Geisen*, IRM and Institute of Integration and Participation at the College of Social Work, FHNW (Switzerland)
- *Dr. Luzia Jurt*, IRM and Institute of Integration and Participation at the College of Social Work, FHNW (Switzerland)
- *Prof. Maritza Le Breton*, Institute of Integration and Participation at the College of Social Work FHNW (Switzerland)
- *Ass. Prof. Dr. Ulla Peters*, IRM und Universität Luxemburg (Luxemburg)
- *Dr. Christine Riegel*, University of Tübingen (Germany)
- *Antoinette Reuter*, Centre de Documentation sur les Migrations Humaines, CDMH (Luxembourg)
- *Prof. Dr. Karin Elinor Sauer*, The Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University (Germany)
- *Tobias Studer*, IRM, University of Zurich (Switzerland) and University of the Federal Armed Forces, Munich (Germany)
- *Lisa Weiller*, IRM, Winterthur (Switzerland)
- *Prof. Dr. Erol Yildiz*, Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt, Fakultät für Kulturwissenschaften, Abteilung Interkulturelle Bildung (Österreich)

Academic advisory committee:

- *Prof. Dr. Zvi Bekerman*, Hebrew University, Jerusalem (Israel)
- *Prof. Dr. Anthony Andrew Hickey*, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee (USA)
- *Prof. Dr. Marianne Krüger-Potratz*, University of Münster (Germany)
- *Prof. Dr. Jan Lucassen*, The International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)
- *Prof. Dr. Sinan Özbek*, Kocaeli University, Istanbul (Turkey)
- *Prof. Dr. Dirk Hoerder*, Arizona University, Tucson (USA)

Please note:

The summary/abstract should be in accordance with the following format, as this will form the basis for the Conference Announcement on the IRM homepage.



Proposal for:

**Migration und Familie
Migration and Family**

Author:
[name]

[title of your proposed paper]

[short description, max. 500 words]

[what questions will be covered, 3 leading questions of your planned presentation]

[short CV, max. 15 lines, full sentences]

[full contact details]