

Triennial conference S.I.De.S.

**The family between demographic and social changes**

Bologna 24-26 October 2018

*Call for papers*

S.I.De.S. (Italian Society of Historical Demography) invites scientific proposals to the triennial conference "The family between demographic and social changes". The conference aims to highlight new directions, topics and perspectives related to the role of the family within the processes and demographic mechanisms. Nowadays a new dynamic and longitudinal approach characterizes the analysis of the family groups in historical demography, complementing the analysis of structural family classifications prevailing in the past. Due to the diversity of the subject, proposals that address the issue in a multidisciplinary way are welcome.

S.I.De.S. also solicits comparative proposals, both in the Italian and European context. Regarding the covered period of time, historical contributions will be favoured, but studies and analyses that address the issue from a diachronic perspective, linking the past and the present, are not excluded a priori. The conference is organized, even if not exclusively, in following thematic sessions.

***Marriage and family life cycle***

Marcantonio Caltabiano, Stanislao Mazzoni

This session aims to shed light on the relationship between marriage and family in the perspective of the family life course: from its birth and formation to the final disintegration.

If in the past marriage was perceived, on the one hand, as the true point of family formation and the community recognition for the birth of a new family, on the other it could also mark alliances between families and forms of social mobility. These dynamics could be realized also in space, through the territorial extension of the marriage market.

The session intends to discuss the transformations due to both the natural evolution of the family and to events, such as widowhood, which could give origin – in this case through a new wedding – to a renewed family regime. Particular attention will also be paid to the celibacy, both as a form of government of the demographic system, and as a strategy of “making a family” by the unmarried.

Regarding the methodologies adopted, proposals based on both aggregate and micro-analytical data will be welcome. More generally, we intend to stimulate the adoption of new sources and documents useful to increase the amount of existing information, such as genealogies and family archives.

***Family, well-being and health in the process of demographic modernization***

Josep Bernabeu-Mestre, Lucia Pozzi

The family and domestic environment is undoubtedly one of the key scenarios for analysing and explaining the demographic and health transition processes.

Amongst the many aspects that explain this centrality, there are two, of opposite sign around which the session will be focussed.

a) Family and Housing as a context of health risk

When the epidemiological mortality structure was still dominated by infectious diseases, especially in childhood, the house was the first place of risk of infection and of family transmission of infections.

b) Family / House as a context of protection, care and prevention

The family - and in particular - mothers have played a fundamental role, not without limits and contradictions, in the prevention and care of the most vulnerable children and members of the family.

Therefore, will be favoured contributions aimed at developing issues related to the aspects mentioned above, but will also be considered proposals focused on topics related to the broader subject of the section not mentioned here; amongst others, by way of example, the health policies to promote maternal and child health and family health.

The session aims to address, from an interdisciplinary perspective, the elements inherent to the family that have determined the dynamics that have favoured the control and reduction of mortality, especially amongst children and young people, allowing to improve the levels of health and of well-being of the families.

### ***Fragile families***

Matteo Manfredini, Francesco Scalone

The session will focus on the fragile families. By using this expression, we refer to the families that are affected by structural and economic deficiencies, reducing their capacity to adapt and respond to any kind of external stressors. These families could be composed by one person, more probably elderly, single-parent, or individual with scarce resources, etc.

Such difficulties increase the probability that these families merge or split into other units, as well as make their members experience a higher risk of some demographic events (e.g. mortality) than the residents in other and more "robust" households.

### ***Family, labour and economy in the Early Modern period (XVIth-XVIIIth centuries)***

Luca Mocarelli, Giulio Ongaro

In the Early Modern period, the composition of families was strongly conditioned by the economic structure (especially in terms of labour organization) of the areas where they resided. Many scholars, for example, underlined the direct relationship between the proto-industrialization and the increase in birth rates in the countryside. In fact, from a Malthusian perspective, the introduction in the family economy of additional incomes assured by domestic labour – beside the 'exploitation' from this point of view of the female labour force and of children – allowed the enlargement of family incomes quite more than the simple improvement of agriculture.

The aim of the panel is mainly to analyze how the following elements were related and interacted: the composition of families (in terms of number both of members and sons, but also looking at the demographical variations linked to more or less seasonal migrations), economic structure of the analyzed area, the organization of production, especially concerning the division of labour within the families.

The aim is to observe this interaction from a comparative point of view. First of all, between geographical areas: areas with a proto-capitalistic agriculture, with a prevalent subsistence agriculture, or with a strong manufacturing vocation. Second, it is interesting to observe how this interaction between demographical and productive dynamics changed across time, in period of economic crisis – or, vice versa, of demographical crisis caused by not-strictly economic factors, such as wars or plagues.

### ***Social "networks" and migratory "chains": family and mobility***

Michele Nani

The weight of kinship relationships in migration research is widely recognized. Built by the social sciences, concepts of "migratory chain" and "social network" have deeply inspired historical studies. This session would aim to check the fruitfulness of these concepts, comparing their

different uses in the empirical historical research (different in discipline, in qualitative / quantitative approaches, in studies focussed on space or on kinship, and so on) and on the whole continuum of mobility (urban, between city and the countryside, rural-to-rural, internal at medium-range, international) even not merely "residential" (temporary, seasonal, commuting, and so on).

### ***Family and naming practices***

Michaël Gasperoni, Vincent Gourdon, Cyril Grange

This session aims to analyze family practices of naming both children and adults (monasticism, conversion and change of religion, name change for personal reasons, etc.), in an extended geographical area (Europe) and in a long-term perspective (Middle Ages – Modern Times).

The session will privilege contributions that are not limited to listing and classifying names, but rather help to understand family or individual logics related to the name choice, the systems of representations and the strategies adopted among kin or within a social group to attribute and use certain names. The name choice was certainly made according to the circumstances, but also in connection with the moment and the way it became formally transmitted. For the latter, contexts of proclamation and registration in the sources will be the object of special attention. Medium or long-term studies are especially (though not exclusively) welcome.

Issues to be raised, in particular:

- The mechanisms of name transmission within the family, their evolution, social and spatial divergences.
- The impact of social configurations on name choice and assignment: position among siblings and kin (within the age ranking and total number of siblings, etc.), legitimate or illegitimate birth, homogenitoriality, role and impact of family events (dead kin, migration, etc.).
- Political, religious and social context: wars, authoritarian political regimes, secularization of civil records, access to nationality, integration or segregation of religious minorities, etc.
- The use of names within the family (usual and unusual names, use of the name in intra-family exchanges, etc.).

### ***Family relations and social change***

Elisabetta Cioni

During the last three centuries, at the same time as the individual life courses have been vastly modified, major changes have taken place inside families. In particular by the second half of the twentieth century new behaviors have emerged in marriage and in other intimate ties as well as in intergenerational relationships, affecting partners of couples, parents and children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren. Nevertheless, research findings have also pointed out that the strength of family bonds has not lessened and solidarity between kin members retains a crucial role in everyday life in Italy, as well as in other Mediterranean countries.

Participants in this session are invited to submit proposals that contribute to further explore these themes, providing analysis of historical trends in different territorial contexts and among different social groups. Papers should be based on quantitative data but also on qualitative evidence from other sources like documents, in-depth interviews, focus groups.

**Proposals, eventually including the session, have to be sent to Stanislao Mazzoni ([stanislao.mazzoni@gmail.com](mailto:stanislao.mazzoni@gmail.com) or [smazzoni@uniss.it](mailto:smazzoni@uniss.it)).**

**The deadline is on the 21st May 2018. A proposal should include: data/methods, sources and first results.**