

Summer school 2023

Transnational Family Dynamics in Europe

26 June – 5 July, Brussels

*All the activities take place at Odisee Campus Schaarbeek,
Huart Hamoiriaan 136, unless mentioned differently.*

MON 26/6	09:30 – 10:00	Reception of the participants with tea and coffee.
	10:00 – 10:30	General introduction
	10:00 – 12:00	LECTURE: Transnational families: reasons and effects of physical separation of migrant parents and their children in the countries of origin, by Karlijn Haagsman (University of Maastricht, the Netherlands)
	12:00 – 12:30	Questions from the audience
	12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
	13:30 – 15:00	Documentary 'Mother'
	15:00 – 16:00	Review of the documentary by Birsen Taspinar (Odisee, Centre of Family Studies - Belgium) and Kristof Bilsen , director of the movie (Limerick Films, Belgium)
	16:00 – 17:00	Getting to know the project and sharing information about expectations
	17:00 – 19:00	Informal opening evening; with Belgian fries and waffles <i>(no obligation)</i>

<p style="text-align: center;">TUE 27/6</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>FOCUS:</i> <i>Transnational family and research</i></p>	09:30 – 10:00	Reception of the participants with tea and coffee.
	10:00 – 11:00	Introduction on IOM (International Organization for Migration) and explanation morning session , by Andreas De Boer
	11:00 – 12:30	<p>WORKSHOPS</p> <p>(1) Social exclusion, attachment style, and trauma-informed treatment when working with members of transnational families, by Laura Dryjanska (Istituto Diplomatico Internazionale Rome, Italy)</p> <p>(2) Using Family Photography as a Visual Research Method, by Lieve Willekens</p> <p>(3) Methodological issues in transnational family research and data collection, by Egemen Ipek (University of Tarsus, Turkey)</p>
	12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
	13:30 – 15:15	LECTURE: Using a transnational lens in researching migrant and transnational families, by Karlijn Haagsman (University of Maastricht, the Netherlands)
	15:15 – 15:30	Break
	15:30 – 17:00	STUDENT PROJECT AND DEBRIEFING for professionals (in small groups)
<p style="text-align: center;">WED 28/6</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>FOCUS:</i> <i>Foster care and unaccompanied minor refugees</i></p>	09:30 – 10:00	Reception of the participants with tea and coffee.
	10:00 – 11:30	LECTURE on foster care and unaccompanied minor refugees, by Katja Fournier (Odisee, Centre of Family Studies - Belgium)
	11:30 – 12:30	LECTURE on the Host Family Project, a foster care programme for unaccompanied minor children, by Zoé Thulliez (Mentor-Jeunes)
	12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
	13:30 – 16:00	<p>VISIT TO KEY ORGANIZATION (in Brussels)</p> <p>(1) Walk through Schaerbeek, with a focus on migration and transnational dynamics</p> <p>(2) Klein Kasteeltje (Fedasil)</p> <p>(3) MigratieMuseumMigration</p>
16:00 – 17:00	DEBRIEFING in small groups (only for the group who is visiting Klein Kasteeltje)	

<p style="text-align: center;">THU 29/6</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>FOCUS: Transnational families and migration</i></p>	09:30 – 10:00	Reception of the participants with tea and coffee.
	10:00 – 11:30	LECTURE: Shelter/Reception, Voluntary return and Reintegration, Resettlement, Reach out and Cooperation with Cities, by Koen van Rompaey (Fedasil, Federal Agency in Charge of Reception of Asylum seekers)
	11:30 – 12:30	LECTURE: Human Trafficking by Myria (Federal Migration Centre)
	12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
	13:30 – 15:00	LECTURE: Restoring family links, by Marijke Peys (Red Cross Flanders)
	15:00 – 16:00	LECTURE: Better Data on Migration for Evidence-Based Policymaking, by Damien Jussielme (IOM)
	16:00 – 17:00	DEBRIEFING in small groups
<p style="text-align: center;">FRI 30/6</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>FOCUS: European migration policy and policy frameworks</i></p>	09:30 – 10:00	Reception of the participants with tea and coffee.
	10:00 – 10:45	Belgian Migration landscape, by Nicole de Moor - State Secretary of Asylum and Migration
	10:45 – 11:00	Break
	11:00 – 12:00	LECTURE: Migration policies in Europe: building the Fortress (of rights)?, by Pascal Debruyne (Odisee, Centre of Family Studies - Belgium)
	12:00 – 12:30	Questions from the audience
	12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
	13:30 – 15:00	LECTURE: The EU developments in social policies related to transnational families, by Elizabeth Gosme (COFACE)
	15:00 – 16:00	LECTURE: IOM perspectives on the EU migration policies, by IOM
	16:00 – 17:00	Closing session of the first week
17:00 – 21:00	Closing diner// network moment (<i>no obligation</i>)	

<p>MON 03/07</p> <p><i>FOCUS: transnational families and social network</i></p>	09:30 – 10:00	Reception of the participants with tea and coffee.
	10:00 – 10:30	Explanation morning sessions
	10:30 – 12:30	<p>WORKSHOPS</p> <p>(1) Supporting Transnational Families: Strategies for Cultivating Strong Social Support Networks, by Judit Végh (Eötvös Loránd University Faculty of Education and Psychology, Hungary)</p> <p>(2) Wortelen in nieuwe aarde, by Claire Wiewauters (Odisee, Centre of Family Studies - Belgium)</p>
	12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
	13:30 – 17:00	<p>FOCUS GROUPS, each with a specific focus: impact of living in a transnational family on</p> <p>(1) children, led by Katja Fournier (Odisee, Centre of Family Studies - Belgium)</p> <p>(2) parents, led by Kim Lecoyer (Odisee, Centre of Family Studies - Belgium)</p> <p>(3) grandparents, led by Carlos Barros (Universidade Catolica Portuguesa, Lisbon – Portugal)</p> <p>AND STUDENT PROJECT</p>
<p>TUE 04/07</p> <p><i>Visit to Antwerp</i></p>	10:00	Everyone may track directly to Antwerp Central (train station) – we will meet at the ticket office hall at 10:00
	11:00 – 12:30	VISIT: Red Start Line Museum
	12:30 – 14:00	Lunch (<i>on own account</i>)
	14:00 – 16:00	VISIT: De Loodsen vzw
<p>WED 05/07</p>	09:30 – 10:00	Reception of the participants with tea and coffee.
	10:30 – 12:00	LECTURE: Digital belonging and intimacy in transnational family life, by Amanda Paz Alencar (Erasmus University, the Netherlands)
	12:00 – 12:30	Questions from the audience
	12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
	13:30 – 15:00	LECTURE: Transnational Families and Social Protection: Empirical dynamics, analytical obstacles, and challenges for public services, by Thales Speroni Pereira Da Cruz (the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) and the University of Barcelona (UB))
	15:00 – 17:00	Closing

Content of the lectures

Transnational families: reasons and effects of physical separation of migrant parents and their children in the countries of origin, by Karlijn Haagsman (University of Maastricht, the Netherlands)

This lecture will give you an introduction to transnational families and discuss the main findings within this field. First, we need to discuss what transnationalism is before we can understand what transnational families are. Second, it will discuss the different forms of transnational families you can look at and reasons for these different forms of transnational family life. Finally, it provides an overview of the main findings within this field, e.g. what are the effects of separation between migrant parents and their children in the country of origin on the well-being of parents and children; and how are elderly impacted whose children have migrated. In discussing these effects and causes we are paying specific attention to demographic and structural factors that shape these, such as gender and socioeconomic status.

Using a transnational lens in researching migrant and transnational families, by Karlijn Haagsman (University of Maastricht, the Netherlands)

This lecture will discuss the importance of using a transnational lens in migration research and family studies and what such a lens in practice means. It will go over some methods that could be used or how you could use existing methods in such a way that it allows to take into account transnational ties. Moreover, it will argue that a lack of these approaches and resulting misunderstanding of transnational ties and families also affect policy.

Migration policies in Europe: building the Fortress (of rights)?, by Pascal Debruyne (Odisee, Centre of Family Studies - Belgium)

Recently the Council of the EU, with Ministers of asylum and migration of the different member states, have established the boundaries for "the European Migration Pact". NGO's and researchers are critical. Not only about what's on paper, but also about the wide gap between what's on paper and what is the everyday practice in European nation states. Certainly on the borders of Europe and beyond, camps and pushbacks have become central paradigms in everyday practice of asylum and migration. Together with externalisation policies to transfer "responsibilities" to "third countries". How did we get there? And how can we think beyond the gap between what's on paper and the everyday practice of asylum and migration policies in Europe? This lecture zooms into these questions to seek answers. W

Digital belonging and intimacy in transnational family life, by Amanda Paz Alencar (Erasmus University, the Netherlands)

Migrants straddle two different worlds and actively use digital media to communicate and follow news from home as well as navigate their new surroundings. It is now well established from a variety of studies that digital technologies play an increasingly important role in migrants' interpersonal connections, in particular with family and friends who have stayed in their home country or moved to a different place. Communication with transnational intimates through smartphones can help migrants navigate the challenges of adaptation through access to different forms of capital (social, economic, cultural, affective, and legal) emerging from these support networks. However, mediated practices of doing family require time and emotional labor from migrants.

Research shed light on the pressure migrants feel to be always reachable on their phones and attentive to different concerns and demands from families back home (e.g., helping family members who were sick or sending money home), which can result in temporary disruption of long-distance communication with their loved ones. In this presentation, I will address the relevance of digital media in enabling migrants to sustain multiple levels of digital belonging and intimacy while also focusing on the paradoxical roles of these technologies in the context of transnational family life.

Transnational Families and Social Protection: Empirical dynamics, analytical obstacles, and challenges for public services, by Thales Speroni Pereira Da Cruz (the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) and the University of Barcelona (UB))

This lecture aims to provide a broad examination of the interplay between social protection mechanisms and family dynamics within transnational contexts. We begin with a foundational understanding of the Transnational Social Protection (TSP) agenda, critically exploring its primary interpretative frameworks and the intersections with existing research on transnational families and social policy. As we delve deeper, we extend our analysis to include empirical cases, primarily drawing upon the study of Bolivian transnational families in Spain. Subsequently, we engage with the current analytical challenges that TSP studies face, centering on the complexities tied to institutionality, spatiality, and historicity of this phenomenon. As we draw our discussion to a close, we delve into the broader implications of the transnationalization of families and social protection for professional practices in the sectors of mental healthcare, education, and social services. Our ultimate goal is to foster a dialogue around the challenges for practitioners in the public service provision, which could inspire innovative strategies.

Content of the workshops

Social exclusion, attachment style, and trauma-informed treatment when working with members of transnational families, by Laura Dryjanska (Istituto Diplomatico Internazionale Rome, Italy)

This session will focus on understanding the dynamics of social exclusion that may occur for members of transnational families. Following a brief introduction into the intrinsic need for social relationships, the instructor will discuss some challenges related to working with ostracized members of transnational families. The role of attachment style will also be discussed in relation to social exclusion. The presenter will provide some real-life examples of her own multi-method research with transnational families (Polish migrants in Italy, English-speaking migrants in Israel and Italian migrants in the United States), emphasizing the role of intergenerational family solidarity. The session will be interactive, with participants working in small groups to complete a research project design with transnational families. It will also include a special emphasis on ethics in research with transnational participants.

For social workers and other professionals, it will reiterate the importance of trauma-informed approach in their interaction with members of transnational families, considering their attachment style. For example, participants will be invited to identify and discuss a research question that they are already pursuing or could tackle in their work. Furthermore, the presentation will promote multidisciplinary approach, comparing the points of view and priorities of social workers, psychologists, and students in other fields represented in the audience.

Using Family Photography as a Visual Research Method, by Lieve Willekens - visual anthropologist (Belgium)

Lieve conducted extended research with families in Bosnia Herzegovina and Belgium. How do people look at their family pictures? In what way does the role of the pictures change when people experience a drastic event, like war or migration?

In this workshop, we will take a look at family photography as a source of information about people's lives. What do family pictures represent? And how do people use their snapshots to (re)construct their memories and their identity?

Do you want to take part in this workshop? Please bring some family photos of your own family with you.

Supporting Transnational Families: Strategies for Cultivating Strong Social Support Networks, by Judit Végő (Eötvös Loránd University Faculty of Education and Psychology, Hungary)

This workshop is designed for students and professionals who work with transnational families and seek to enhance their knowledge and skills in supporting transnational families as they navigate the challenges of living abroad.

During this session, we will explore the essential elements that contribute to building a successful social support network for transnational families. Drawing from extensive research and practical insights, we will delve into key factors such as cultivating deep connections, prioritizing self-care, nurturing transgenerational relationships, and providing professional support.

Through interactive discussions, case studies, and collaborative activities, participants will gain practical strategies and tools to effectively guide and empower transnational families in building resilient social networks. They will learn how to recognize and address the unique challenges faced by these families while fostering a sense of belonging and well-being in their new environment.

This workshop combines expert knowledge with a focus on practical application. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of the complexities of transnational family support and the skills necessary to assist families in developing robust social networks."