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Title of Session: Gender, Generations and Identity: The Challenges of Intersectionality I

Name of Session Convener(s): Sofia Aboim and Lia Pappámikail

University/Organization incl. City: University of Lisbon

Chair: Sofia Aboim

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I) Title of Selected Paper: Parents' identities and attitudes toward a new gender culture

Name/s of Author/s: Ramón González-Piñal, Maria Ángeles Rebollo, Rafael García, Rosario Rodríguez and Esther Rodríguez

University/Organization incl. City: University of Seville

Abstract: This paper presents conclusions from a study which explores the gender construction in the household, and assesses parents' attitudes toward a specific gender treatment in the school. Our work is part of the "TEON XXI" Research Project which first aim is to develop online educational resources for coeducation. We have taken as basis of our work the "Doing Gender" theory of West and Zimmerman (1987). They considered the distinction between sex and gender, and tried to explain the relation between these categories. They included a meta-category called "sex category" and found that gender is constructed by social interactions. From this point, gender is "what a person does". In order to explain to what extent parents' attitudes are relevant in the gender construction, we have considered how Acock (1984) develops the concept of "Generation Gap". According to this, we have used Castells' (1997) contributions about identity and the three-level-analysis suggested by Crawford (1997; 2006). We have made an attitude scale in order to extract the information we needed. The main results show: 1) 11.2% are blockers parents when dealing with the change at school (12.4% fathers, 10.1% mothers); 2) 55.6% are adaptive parents (58.1% fathers, 51.4% mothers); 3) 33.2% are participatory parents (29.5% fathers, 38.5% mothers). It's a positive information; nevertheless, it would be necessary to train most of the parents to carry out an attitudinal improvement in our scale.

II) Title of Selected Paper: Family cultures and generations: transmission, rupture and change?

Name/s of Author/s: Lia Pappámikail

University/Organization incl. City: University of Lisbon

Abstract: Although complex processes of (re)composition, between continuities and changes, are constantly taking place in family cultures, subjects grow within those cultures that not only are an important share of their personal patrimonies as they constitute small scale singular configurations of the larger scale ethical landscapes and world views. These landscapes are plural and tense in their sometimes paradoxical normative prescriptions, although last decades have witnessed the increased importance of the expressive aspects of modern individualism. This phenomenon associated to intense social mobility and social transformation, as it happened in Portugal, resulted in relevant transformations. When child raising strategies and objectives are analyzed we witness the transition from more authoritarian models of family relations to more democratic ones. Departing from 38 qualitative interviews to young people and their parents we wish to address some of these issues in this paper. We discuss the ways through which historically situated types of personal experiences lived as children affect the parents' definition of socialization strategies and objectives, thus redefining the role of children within family relations while actively transforming the cultural and normative legacy they wish to transmit. In this way we wish to reflect about how the chain linking generations in the family is (re)built throughout time in association to gender, social and cultural contexts.

III) Title of Selected Paper: Young Men and Women in Italy: Forming a couple and a new home

Name/s of Author/s: Rosantonietta Scramaglia

University/Organization incl. City: IULM University, Milan

Abstract: The topic of my paper is an analysis of gender differences evident within young Italian heterosexual couples. We will be looking at the stage in life when men and women leave their childhood home and family to set up a new home with their partner. We will then examine the moments which lead up to and follow that decision; the accompanying feelings, needs, expectations, attitudes and behaviour. While we do not see great differences between the genders in the way they fall in love and in the feelings they have for each other, their ways of experiencing and imagining the situation do not correspond. There still exists a cultural difference in how they dream, how they make plans for the future, and how they see themselves and their relationship with family members. Empirical research carried out by my team looked into the various aspects of life as a couple and tried to identify the components that make up love, the relationship between the couple, roles and expectations within the household, the home of their dreams or the current home for couples already living together, with its spaces, times and household objects. We will report and comment on the main results obtained.

IV) Title of Selected Paper: Enacting and transgressing the ‘ideal’ Armenian: young masculinities and femininities in Southern Russia

Name/s of Author/s: Ulrike Ziemer

University/Organization incl. City: East European Studies University College, London

Abstract: The paper draws upon ethnographic fieldwork and focuses on the negotiation of gendered identities amongst young Armenians in Krasnodar. It examines tensions between agency and constraint by drawing upon theoretical conceptualisations relating to discourse and the idea of performed identities. In this presentation, I show that young Armenians rely on performative resources to negotiate their plural, gendered and ethnic identities in everyday life. Young Armenians are exposed to multiple identity discourses and thus draw strategically on different identity resources in different contexts. Their performative engagements with discourses of ethnicised gender are influenced and can be constrained by the Armenian community discourse in Krasnodar. In this way, their identity formations do not represent ‘free’ agency or the absence of agency. The performances of young Armenians can reaffirm ethnicised gender roles, but also oppose established norms. ‘Ethnicised’ gender identities are understood as ‘displays’ for different audiences and are discursively constructed. To discuss the idea of performed identities, I focus on three main issues: the question of endogamy within the Armenian community in Krasnodar, Armenian women’s sexuality as a symbol of diasporic identity, and the ways of how young men assert symbolic Armenianness in Krasnodar.

V) Title of Selected Paper:

Name/s of Author/s:

University/Organization incl. City: