



The 39th World
Congress of the
International Institute
of Sociology
Yerevan, Armenia

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www.iisoc.org/iis2009

REGULAR SESSION INFORMATION

Title of Session: International Migration: Dividing and Uniting Families

Name of Session Convener(s): Victor Agadjanian

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Comments: -

Session Abstract (up to 250 words): The session will deal with the effects of international migration on family structures and relationships. Migration has profound and complex consequences for families. Typically, migration is undertaken by certain family members, but the decision to migrate are often made at the level of the family (nuclear or extended) and families often pool their financial and social resources to facilitate migration of their members. The physical separation of family members affects their relationships and interactions and may lead to family reconfiguration and dissolution. However, migration may also bring family members together. Much of migration flows is made up of individuals seeking reunification with family members who migrated earlier. Yet re-unification of a family through migration is not a mere assembly of its different parts. Re-united families develop new dynamics and display new configurations as a result of the experience of migration and cultural and socioeconomic pressures in host societies. But even when families remain physically divided across two or more countries, they often maintain and expand virtual ties through phone and online communication, remittances, periodic visits, etc. Finally, the processes of separation and unification reshape family structures and relations among family members not only horizontally but also generationally. Migration and migrants' incorporations in host societies may accentuate the generational divide within families creating new types of relationships between the old and the young and between old-time migrants and recent arrivals.

General information

During each afternoon of the congress, there will be room for a large number of parallel regular sessions. Each session is 90 minutes long and consists of an oral presentation of 4 to 6 papers. Session conveners are expected to administer and chair their session at the 2009 IIS World Congress.

Starting in mid-December, calls for papers to participate in approved sessions will be posted on the website. Interested participants will contact the session convener (you) directly with an abstract no later than February 28, 2009. The session convener should take in all submissions and select the best 4 to 6 papers to be presented and forward this information, including e-mail addresses of accepted authors, to the IIS Secretariat no later than March 15, 2009.