



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: Intergenerational Cohesion and Cultural Context

Name of Session Convener(s): Marc Szydlik

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Comments: -

Session Abstract (up to 250 words):

Intergenerational relations are an ever more important field of sociological research. On the one hand, recent studies indicate a lifelong solidarity between family generations, from young age to old age. On the other hand, developments like demographic change, globalisation and flexibilisation provide new challenges for individuals, families and societies. Thus it is important to examine the complex interactions between family generations and societal conditions and consequences.

Questions include: How do (adult) children and parents deal with each other? Is there a general “crisis of the family”, or can one identify strong links between family generations? Are there differences between women and men (daughters, sons, mothers, fathers), regions and countries? In what respect does intergenerational cohesion depend on cultural contexts?

Furthermore, consequences of family solidarity are of special interest, for example, in regard to individuals, but also in respect to societies at large including social stratification and societal solidarity. Additionally, connections between welfare state regulations and intergenerational cohesion are of great importance: Does the state displace family services (“crowding out”), stimulate family support (“crowding in”), or is there a “complementarity” of the two sources of support?

The session is open for all aspects of intergenerational relations, including, for example, intergenerational co-residence, mobility and geographical distance, financial transfers including gifts and inheritance, emotional bonds, contact, help, care and conflict. The session may include presentations focusing on specific regions or countries as well as interregional and international comparisons.

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.