



The Leverhulme Trust

International Network on
New Families; New Governance



Leverhulme International Network on New Families, New Governance

Workshop 3 will explore the issue of New Families and New Governance through the following three presentation domains. Presenters will need to explore the session theme within the broader context of ‘meanings and understandings of family solidarity and family regulation’.

What are the implications of shifting notions of family for ‘solidarity’ (the moral, cultural and legal obligations between family members) and for the state’s ability to regulate through transmission of cultural, social and legal messages about family life? Can states have a role in promoting messages of good/bad parenting, and/or ‘desirable’ family forms e.g. through the media?

Changing forms and styles of ‘family solidarity’ are to be explored in the three sessions on Days 1 & 2

Care and Carers

Promoting Parental Involvement and Reducing Conflict in Post-Dissolution Families
(Scott, USA)

Child Custody Issues: When two worlds collide? (Trinder & Reibstein, UK)

Kinship Care (Connolly, Australia)

Governance of Elder Care in the Low Countries (Swennen, Euro)

Finance and the Family: Reworking Economic Relationships

Economic Resources and Child Maltreatment: Recent Evidence on Potential Causal Links (Slack, USA)

Poverty, Maintenance and Children’s voices (Ridge, UK)

Valuing care? Relationship generated economic disadvantage, autonomy and the role of family law
(Barlow, UK)

“Property relationship in marriage and cohabitation in Scandinavian countries – Law, policy and social norms”(Sverdrup, Euro)

Transmission of messages about Families: Legal and Moral

Fostering Marriage and Family Responsibility Through Norm Creation: The U.S. Experience
(Garrison, USA)

Mediation, information sources and message transmission in Australia
(Field, Australia)

Chasing Shadows: online information and advice on family law disputes (Smith, UK)

Parenting in Stepparent Families: Parental Responsibilities for More Than Two Parents as a Possible Solution for the Dutch Situation (Antokolskaia, Euro)

Same-sex parenting and the welfare of the children
(Patterson, USA)

Session 1: Care and Carers

This session will explore solidarity in the context of care obligations and entitlements. More specifically, commentators will discuss changing legal norms governing child custody, child-protection “kinship” care, and elder care. They will address both the private obligations of family members to each other and the role of the state to both facilitate family care and to reduce care burdens while allowing families appropriate independence.

Session 2: Finance and the Family: Reworking Economic Relationships

This session will explore solidarity in the context of family finances within a variety of family forms. Specific topics include support obligations within separated families, the impact of poverty on family functioning, public obligations to alleviate poverty, the relationship between public and private obligations, and the role of the state in facilitating both dispute resolution and the payment of obligations. Commentators will discuss both evolving legal norms and relevant social science evidence.

Session 3: Transmission of messages about Families: Legal and Moral

This session will explore the state’s role in facilitating family solidarity through educational programs, public-awareness campaigns, norm creation, and other methods of communicating images of moral and legal family obligations. Commentators will describe a range of examples, examine their effectiveness, and analyze their propriety.

Keynote Address by Sara McLanahan: William S. Tod Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs at Princeton University, Director of the Bendheim-Thoman Center for Research on Child Wellbeing.

She is the principal investigator on the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study and Editor-in-Chief of The Future of Children.