

Families, Life Course, and Sexuality

Department of Sociology
University of California, Irvine
2007-09
Overview

Sociologists regard families as a major institution having critical importance for the well-being of children and adults, young and old. At UCI, sociologists study families in the context of broad changes in gender relations, employment, immigration patterns, and legal and social policies. Classes and research reflect a life course perspective emphasizing how individuals orchestrate their relationships and activities from childhood all the way to later life. For several faculty members, the study of sexuality is a strategic site to examine these issues.

Ongoing research by UCI faculty includes:

- The household division of labor in cross-national context
- Who cares for children with disabilities?
- Family-work trade-offs? Gender and family time preferences
- Decision-making among dual career couples
- Family-friendly workplace policies
- Older adults in America's immigrant families
- The strength of Latino families
- Global trends in laws regulating sexual activity
- Why has disapproval of same-sex relations declined?

The Faculty:

- Frank Bean: international migration, demography, racial & ethnic relations, economic sociology, family
- Catherine Bolzendahl: political sociology, sex and gender, comparative sociology/historical sociology
- David John Frank: Globalization, Sexuality, The Natural Environment, Higher Education
- Joy Pixley (Cluster Coordinator): life course, work & family, sex stratification, gender roles, research design
- Judy Treas: Family, Social Demography, Aging, Social Stratification

Graduate Courses and Field Exam:

To qualify for a graduate field exam and/or expertise in Family, Life Course, and Sexuality, students must take at least three courses in the field. The following graduate courses are among those satisfying the prerequisites:

- Age, Generations, and the Life Course
- Family and Households
- Gender and Work
- Gender, Family, and the Welfare State
- Marriage and Cohabitation
- Sexuality and Social Institutions
- Transition to Adulthood

Two Year Teaching Plan

(subject to change, check with the department or a cluster coordinator)

2006-2007

Fall:(none)

Winter: Sexuality and Social Institutions (David Frank)

Spring: Gender, Family and the Welfare State (Katie Bolzendahl)

2007-2008

Fall: (none)

Winter: Family and Households (Judy Treas)

Spring: (none)

2008-2009

Fall: Transition to Adulthood (Joy Pixley)

Winter: (none)

Spring: Marriage and Cohabitation (Joy Pixley)

Spring: Social Gerontology/Aging Populations (Judy Treas)

Qualifying Exam Reading List (.pdf)

Please come talk to the cluster coordinator if you plan to take the FLCS qualifying exam within the next year.