

Gender and Family Research Cluster

Gender is a key form of stratification in societies globally and family represents a central social institution. As represented by the strengths of our faculty, some of the most innovative research is to be found at the intersection of family and gender. Faculty expertise in these areas is represented in a wide array of course offerings including the social construction of gender, gendered racial hierarchies, families and households, sexualities, the life course, and gender and family inequality in a variety of outcomes.

Students specializing in this area benefit from the depth of faculty knowledge, but also their lively research agenda. These resources include regular talks as part of the Gender, Family and Sexuality series within the Population, Society and Inequality colloquium, and the opportunity to be involved in projects currently pursued by faculty and advanced graduate students.

Some ongoing faculty research projects include:

- The household division of labor in cross-national context
- Family-work trade-offs? Gender and family time preferences
- The motherhood penalty in 10 European countries
- RelationsCrossNations: New relationships in cross-national perspective
- Older adults in America's immigrant families
- The strength of Latino families
- Global trends in laws regulating sexual activity
- Changes in approval of same-sex relationships and related policies
- Effects of organizational and labor market characteristics on gender job segregation and wage inequality
- Cultural influences on racial/ethnic women's employment
- The construction of gender in politics and gendered political behavior
- The effects of incarceration on family life
- Nonmarital romantic relationships and health in early adulthood
- The implications of family complexity for poverty and inequality
- How gender and race influence interracial dating patterns
- Gender and African-American political and civic engagement

COURSEWORK AND FIELD EXAMS

Students wishing to take the written exam or to submit coursework as evidence of expertise will normally complete two of the three core courses. The core courses are:

- Sociology of Gender
- Households and Families
- Inequality Core Seminar

To complete the written exam, students must contact the cluster coordinator who will work with the student to obtain a reading list, which may be specialized within a broader sub-area (e.g., gender and sexuality; family and life course). Students wishing to submit coursework as evidence of expertise must obtain approval by the cluster coordinator.

Below is a list of courses offered regularly by cluster faculty:

- Catherine Bolzendahl (cluster coordinator)
 - Gender, Family and the Welfare state
 - Women in Legislature: Causes and Consequences
 - Family Research Practicum
- David Frank
 - Sexuality and Social Institutions
- Matt Huffman
 - Inequality Core Seminar
- Andrew Penner
 - Women in Science
 - Biological Bodies and Social Inequality
- Belinda Robnett
 - Sociology of Gender
 - Racial and Ethnic Feminist Perspectives
- Judy Treas
 - Households and Families
 - Age, Generations, and the Life Course
 - Sociology of Later Life
- Kristin Turney
 - Inequalities in Contemporary U.S. Families
 - Families and Health

GRADUATE RESEARCH

We encourage newer graduate students interested in studying in this area to forge connections with students currently pursuing projects in this area. Recent graduate student projects encompass:

- Effects of residential mobility on parenting behavior and child outcomes
- Father School: Gender boot camp for Korean-American men
- Farewell to mom: Trends in maternal contact
- Why do older adults spend more time with family members?
- Trends in gender attitudes: A cross-national analysis
- Support for family equality across housework, budgets, and decision-making