

2025 Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE CO-COORDINATORS

MARIAN BAIRD, ANDREA DOUCET, JOHANNA LAMMI-TASKULA, AND GERARDO MEIL

We are happy to share our September 2025 newsletter from the Coordinating team of the International Network of Leave Policies and Research.

As many of you know, the main activities of the LP&R Network are the Annual Seminar, the Annual Review, the building of a global network of researchers who work on parental leaves and other care leaves, and varied writing and advocacy initiatives of our members.

We've organized the Newsletter as follows:

- Annual Seminar 2025;
- Annual Seminar 2026;
- 2025 Annual Review;
- Welcome to our newest members;
- Highlighting news and writing from our LP&R members and community.

If your news, highlights, or 2024-2025 publications on parental leaves and care leaves are not here, please reach out and we will make sure to include it in our next newsletter.

If you sent something to us and it is not here, we sincerely apologize and take responsibility for this omission. We are a team of volunteers, with limited time and resources. Thank you for your understanding. And thank you for reading this.

We are also posting this and all previous newsletters on the LP&R website.

LOOKING BACK

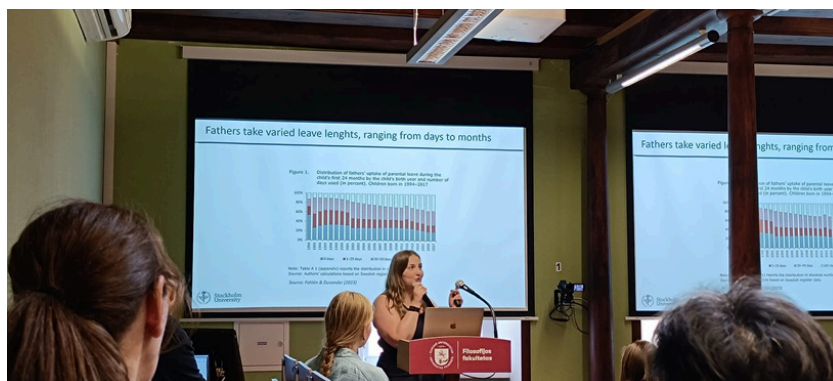
2025 LP&R ANNUAL SEMINAR

VILNIUS, LITHUANIA (JUNE 12-13)

Our 22nd Annual Seminar on The Challenges of Leave Policy and Social Sustainability was held in the beautiful historic setting of Vilnius, Lithuania at Vilnius University in the Faculty of Philosophy. It followed two days of COST Action meetings, and then 2 days devoted to the Leave Network.

You can find [the Programme here](#). PowerPoints will be posted on that webpage soon.

Thanks to Ruta Brazienė and her team for hosting a fantastic seminar and experience for all!





Thanks to Alison Koslowski for sharing a photograph of how she brought some of her Vilnius memories back to London by making Šaltibarščiai, a cold beetroot soup.



NOTES FROM THE BUSINESS MEETING

The LP&R Business Meeting 2025 covered several key points. After thanking Ruta for organizing the meeting and presenting her with a gift, several administrative matters were discussed, with new and honorary members being proposed and approved. The editorial team highlighted the need for updated country notes, consistent data, and potential succession planning for editors. Funding challenges were noted, with a call for volunteers to support the review process. Members also discussed the importance of maintaining active membership and the potential for outreach initiatives in underrepresented regions.



LOOKING FORWARD

2026 LP&R ANNUAL SEMINAR

PRAGUE, THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The next annual seminar for the LP&R will be held at Charles University in Prague, the Czech Republic on May 28th and 29th!

The COST Action conference will take place prior to the seminar, from May 26th to 27th.

Thanks to Jiřina Kocourková and her team for taking on the organization of the 23rd Annual Seminar. We will distribute the CFP later this fall. Stay tuned!



2025 LP&R ANNUAL REVIEW

Congratulations to the Annual Review Team (Ivana Dobrotić, Sonja Blum, Gayle Kaufmann, Alison Koslowski, Peter Moss, and Marie Valentova) for the publication of yet another fantastic policy resource: The 21st International Review on Leave Policies and Related Research 2025. Here is the [link](#) to the Review.

If citing the complete review, please do so as:

Dobrotić, I., Blum, S., Kaufmann, G., Koslowski, A., Moss, P. and Valentova, M. (eds.) (2025) 21st International Review of Leave Policies and Research 2025. DOI: [10.31235/osf.io/5c42d_v1](https://www.leavenetwork.org/annual-review-reports/review-2025/). Available at: <https://www.leavenetwork.org/annual-review-reports/review-2025/>

The 2025 International Review also includes [an accompanying file](#) to the [comparative tables](#). The International Review has a number of comparative tables, enabling comparisons to be made between participating countries. Please note that while the comparative tables in the 2025 International Review are cross-checked by country note authors, the accompanying Excel file is not.

When using this data, cite them as:

Dobrotić, I., Blum, S., Kaufman, G., Koslowski, A., Moss, P., and Valentova, M. (2025) 21st International Review of Leave Policies and Related Research 2025: comparative tables 2023-2025. DOI: 10.17605/OSF.IO/T7SW4. Available at: <https://www.leavenetwork.org/annual-review-reports/cross-country/>

Please share via your social media accounts. You can use this link to share the news: <https://www.leavenetwork.org/news-events/archive-news-details/news/review-2025-now-available-1/>

W E L C O M I N G N E W M E M B E R S

Congratulations to members who have joined the Network, or those who are taking on a new role within the Network!

Australia:

- Alexandra Heron - NEW Associate Member

Canada:

- Donna Lero (University of Guelph) - PROMOTED to Honorary Member
- Rachael Pettigrew (Mount Royal University) - NEW Associate Member
- Natasha Stecy-Hildebrandt (Brock University) - NEW Junior Member

France:

- Jeanne Fagnani (University of Paris) - PROMOTED to Honorary Member
- Gianni Gaboret (Caisse nationale des Allocations familiales) - NEW Junior Member
- Alix Sponton (Sciences Po) - PROMOTED to Associate Member

Germany:

- Johanna Fischer (University of Bremen) - PROMOTED to Associate Member
- Almut Peukert (Universität Hamburg) - PROMOTED to Associate Member
- Keonhi Son (University of Bremen) - PROMOTED to Associate Member
- Anna Stertz (RWTH Aachen University) - PROMOTED to Associate Member

Greece:

- Evi Hatzivarnava Kazasi (Panteion University) - PROMOTED to Honorary Member
- Nafsika Moschovakou (Panteion University) - NEW Associate Member

Japan:

- Masaki Hosomi (Kansai University) - NEW Associate Member

Slovenia:

- Tatjana Rakar (University of Ljubljana) - PROMOTED to Full Member
- Nada Stropnik (Institute for Economic Research) - PROMOTED to Honorary Member

Sweden:

- Lanninger Wennemo (Swedish Social Insurance Agency) - NEW Associate Member

Switzerland:

- Meret Lütolf (University of Bern) - NEW Junior Member
- Christina Bornatici (University of Lausanne) - NEW Junior Member

Vietnam:

- Ngoc Luong (Bielefeld University) - NEW Associate Member

If we have missed any new members or made errors, please contact us at lprcoordinators@gmail.com

HIGHLIGHTING OUR MEMBERS

2025 WORK AND FAMILY RESEARCH NETWORK (WFRN) BIG IDEAS TALK

LP&R Members **Andrea Doucet**, **Richard Petts**, and **Ameeta Jagga** each presented at the 2025 WFRN Conference in Montreal. See their presentations below, with the write ups that were crafted by the WFRN's Ellen Galinsky.

Andrea Doucet: [“Nothing Exists Alone”: Three Lessons About Care from Ecologist Rachel Carson](#)

Doucet is a care scholar. “For 30 years,” she says, “I’ve consulted with governments and international organizations – and I’ve told stories about how women and men care for children and aging parents”. As care crises worsen, Doucet is convinced that we need to think differently about what care is and to seek solutions in unlikely places. In this talk, she shares her journey of turning to ecologist Rachel Carson and of finding three lessons about care in Carson’s best-selling book, *Silent Spring*. These lessons are about the inter-relations of all human and non-human life, the ethical responsibilities of scientists and researchers, and the power of storytelling grounded in science.

Ameeta Jagga: [Why Policies Must Recognize Care Realities](#)

It is fitting that we release this remarkable Big Ideas Talk just before International Women’s Day on March 8th. It’s about South Africa—a country with one of the most progressive constitutions in the world in addressing racial and gender injustices from the past. Yet, as Ameeta Jaga makes clear, legal protections and policies meant to promote gender equality do not always translate into meaningful change for all women – especially low-income women who are mothers. Despite laws prohibiting discrimination and

safeguarding women's rights, there are disconnects between policy intentions and lived experiences. Watch this Big Ideas Talk with Ameeta Jaga to learn about a powerful research project with low-income mothers who becomes co-researchers, and who, as experts of their lived realities, share their compelling stories and poignant photographs on "Why Policies Must Recognize Care Realities: Insights From The Motherload."

Richard Petts: [What if All Fathers in the U.S. had Paid Paternity Leave?](#)

When you think about having babies, what images come to mind? If you're like most people, you'll think about mothers. That's certainly the tenor of the pronatalist discussions in the U.S. today. Fatherhood scholar Richard Petts asks us to think differently—to think about fathers, not just mothers. He asks us to work toward a future where all fathers have paid paternity leaves. That future was far from his reality when his first child was born. When he asked for more a few days off, he was told "I would need a letter from my wife's doctor stating that I needed to be at home because she was unable to care for her newborn son." As he puts it, his wife had to be "incapacitated" for him to have time to care for and bond with his newborn. In the U.S. only 27% of new parents—mothers and fathers—have access to paid leave and less than two thirds have access to unpaid leave. As a result, most new parents try to cobble together time off. Fathers who ask for paternity leave face being seen as uncommitted to work. Watch this very timely Big Ideas Talk, [What If All Fathers In the U.S. had Paid Paternity Leave?](#) to learn about the powerful impact of paternity leaves on fathers, on children, and on society itself.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Rachael Pettigrew

Rachael participated in a virtual workshop, “Parental leave navigator: Strategies for success in work and family balance,” followed by a panel discussion with McAteer, C., Hynes, G. & Hawco, J.

She presented a paper entitled “The importance of dads taking parental leave in STEM fields” at the largest integrated Earth Science conference in Canada, GeoConvention National Conference, to share parental leave research with industry.



Rachael was also Invited by the Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology (CCWESTT) to join a panel called “Learning to lead: The power of systems change” to discuss leading through systems change, Rachael Pettigrew spoke to the need to shift workplace culture, policy and practices to support parents.

ESPAnet Conference

Several members of the LP&R attended the ESPAnet conference in Milan on from August 27th to 29th.

Papers presented included:

Anna Kurowska, Hideki Nakazato, and Sanae Saito: From Policy Transfer to Cultural Shift? Japanese Fathers and the “Nordic Turn” in Parental Leave

Merve Uzunalioglu and Mary Daly: The childcare gap and its consequences: A comparative European analysis

Ivana Dobrotić and Merve Uzunalioglu: Work-Life Balance for All? The Evolution of the EU Work-Life Balance Agenda Over Three Decades

Johanna Lammi-Taskula and Johanna Närvi, with Mesiäislehto, M.: The complex interplay between changing gender role attitudes and family policies: case Finland.



This photo is of Hideki Nakazato, Sonja Blum, Cassandra Engeman, Anna Kurowska, Stephan Koeppe, Pia Schober, Merve Uzunalioglu, Ivana Dobrotic, and Marie Valentova at the ESPAnet Conference. Missing from this photo are Mara Yerkes, Keonhi Son, Tine Rostgaard, Johanna Närvi, Johanna Lammi-Taskula, and Guðný Björk Eydal, who were also in attendance.

AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS, AND RESEARCH GRANTS

Andrea Doucet

Andrea has received the Distinguished Professor Designation, a lifetime appointment which is the highest honorary designation at Brock University and the 2025 Mirabelli-Glossop Award from The Vanier Institute of the Family, which recognizes those who have made a significant contribution to our understanding of diversity and complexity of families through their work, research, and service to families in Canada. Andrea was also appointed an Honorary Professor at the University College London's (UCL) Social Science Research Unit.

Jochen Devlighere

In September 2024, Jochen was appointed Professor in Child and Family Pedagogy at Ghent University.

Ann-Zofie Duvander

Ann-Zofie was appointed an Honorary Professor at the University College London's (UCL) Social Science Research Unit.

Cassandra Engeman

Cassandra recently received a European Research Council Starting grant for her project "Making Time." The project investigated the role of organized labour in the development of care leave provisions, including parenting leave. The project started in August 2025 and will hire researchers for three positions:

- One Ph.D. candidate in sociology: The candidate should be interested in conducting research on care leave policies, trade unions, or the politics of family policy or a combination of these topics. The position requires a Masters' degree (or near-completion), training in quantitative methods, and an appreciation for qualitative approaches. A main task for the Ph.D. student will be to collect the policy measures that will comprise the Care Leave Policy data set. The Ph.D. candidate will be welcome to use these measures in their own research. Applications open 1 September 2025 and close 1 October 2025. Read the official call for applications [here](#).
- Two Researchers: The researchers will use process-tracing techniques to study the adoption of new leave policies in the Netherlands and France (one for each country). The candidate should have a Ph.D. in sociology, political science, or related social science field. Proficiency in either French or Dutch is preferred. Remote work from France or the Netherlands is possible, and the researcher can hold another position abroad while performing work on this project a percentage of their employment.

You can read more about the project on Engeman's website:

<https://www.cassandraengeman.com/making-time-erc-project.html>.

Please express your interest by emailing cassandra.engeman@sofi.su.se, and you will be notified when the call for applications open.

Johanna Fischer

Johanna received a 3-year postdoctoral research project grant, "Work-care conciliation policies for informal elder care: Comparing the generosity of long-term care leave schemes in Europe" from the Central Research Development Fund of the University of Bremen, Germany:

Across Europe, long-term care (LTC) for older persons has become a salient topic. As the predominant providers of LTC are (still) informal care givers – mostly female family members – they often face the issue of combining paid work and care. Care leave, which allows a temporary withdrawal from employment to engage in care work, constitutes an increasingly popular policy measure for supporting work-care conciliation. Care leave policies are very heterogenous, for instance as regards target group, duration and payment.

However, there are insufficient studies dealing with the existence and characteristics of leave schemes for care givers of older persons with LTC needs. The project addresses this gap by describing and explaining LTC leave design in international-comparative perspective. In doing so, I employ my novel, two-dimensional conceptualisation of social policy generosity, consisting of inclusiveness as the personal dimension and scope of benefit as the material dimension. The project makes two main contributions. Firstly, I generate a comprehensive, original dataset on the generosity of LTC leave schemes for 27 European Union (EU) member states. Secondly, drawing on welfare state theories, I investigate which explanatory factors influence the generosity design of LTC leave policies in Europe. I employ fuzzy set Qualitative Comparative Analysis for identifying which care regime institutions and socio-economic factors condition generous LTC leave. Complementing this cross-country analysis, I comparatively study LTC leave policies in two cases – Austria and Germany – with similar welfare and care arrangements to investigate in-depth how political factors and discourses have shaped the divergent care leave design in both countries.

Jiřina Kocourková

In June 2025, Jiřina was appointed Professor of Demography at Charles University in Prague by Petr Pavel, the President of the Czech Republic. Congratulations! You can [read more here](#).



Sophie Mathieu

Sophie began a new faculty position at the Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines at the Université de Sherbrooke in Quebec, Canada.

Diane-Gabrielle Tremblay

Diane-Gabrielle has received research funding from the Fonds de recherche du Québec (with Observatoire international sur les impacts sociétaux de l'IA et du numérique) and Réseau québécois de recherche en études féministes (Québec Network on Feminist Research and Studies) for a project on the impact of AI on work and competencies, including a specific analysis on the place of women in IT and AI, and training to adapt their competencies and impact their place in employment in those sectors

She has also been awarded the prestigious King Charles III Coronation Medal, recognizing her contributions to Canadian society through significant impact on policy development and organizational practices.

Keonhi Son

Keonhi began a new position as a research fellow at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES), University of Mannheim.

Mara Yerkes

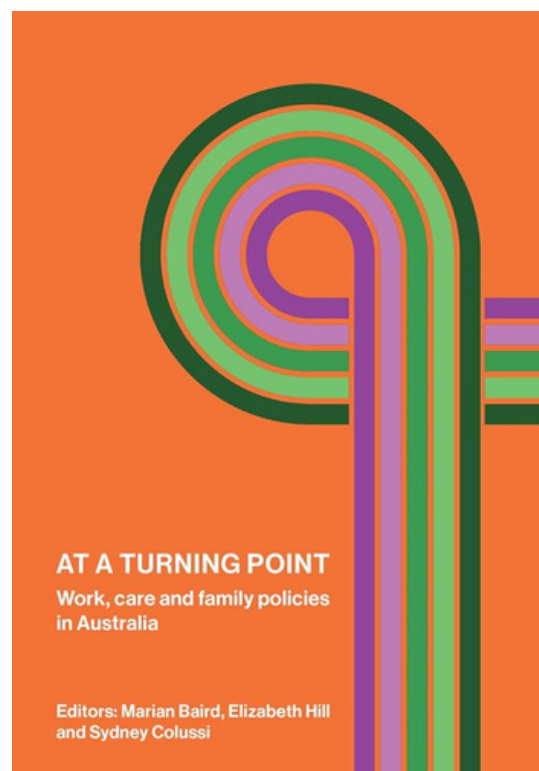
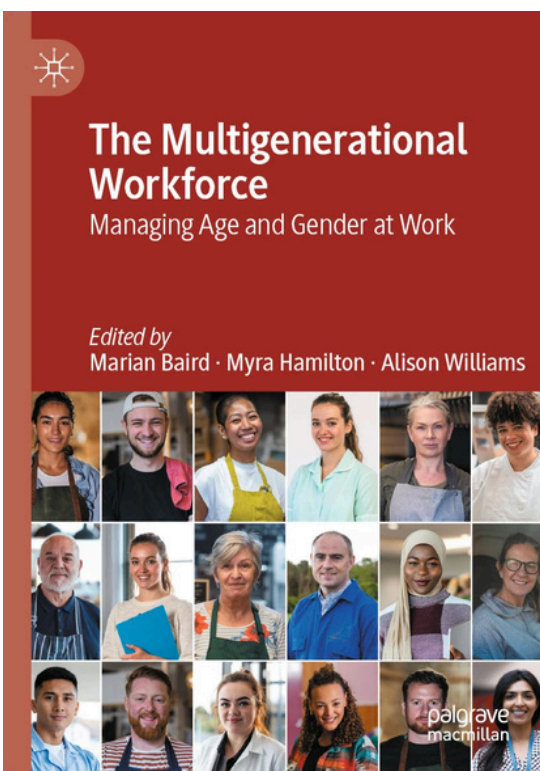
Mara and Marilou Vlaanderen (SEO, Amsterdam) were successful in obtaining an ODISSEI LISS Panel and Microdata Access Grant from the ODISSEI National Research Infrastructure for Social Sciences. Their project, On Call, Off Track? The Hidden Career Costs of On-Call Parenthood, will investigate gendered patterns in the registration of primary and secondary caregivers at childcare centres and primary schools in the Netherlands, and the gendered impact of this 'on-call parenthood' for parents' career development.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Below is a small sample of the many publications from our international membership. Be sure to follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Bluesky](#), where we regularly post new publications from our members!

Marian Baird and Myra Hamilton

The Multigenerational Workforce: Managing Age and Gender at Work offers unique insights into multigenerational workforce strategies in Australian workplaces through the lens of age, gender and caring. Drawing from a large-scale study with six organizations, it examines policies promoting successful ageing at work, identifies optimal work designs for older workers, and presents strategies for balancing work and care responsibilities. It provides valuable guidance for researchers, managers, HR professionals, and diversity staff seeking to implement age- and gender-inclusive practices in aging workforces.



Marian Baird

At a Turning Point: Work, Care and Family Policies in Australia is edited by Marian with Elizabeth Hill and Sydney Colussi, and includes a chapter co-authored by LP&R Member **Myra Hamilton**.

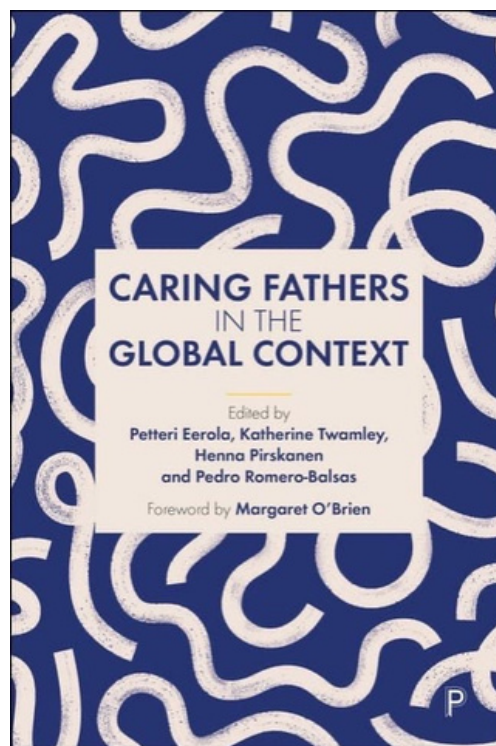
Australia faces a critical juncture in work, care and family policy as women, families and communities struggle with competing demands. Social changes, evolving workplaces and post-pandemic realities necessitate policy reforms to support all Australians in working and caregiving roles. Leading scholars examine key policy areas affecting work-care experiences across the life course: reproductive wellbeing, parental leave, early childhood education, flexible work, elder/disability care, and tax systems. The book argues that centering gender equality, economic security and caregiver wellbeing in policy design is vital for national prosperity and social welfare.

Pedro Romero Balsas

Caring Fathers in the Global Context

Edited by one of our members **Pedro Romero Balsas**, with chapters by him and **Andrea Doucet, Alison Koslowki, Johanna Lammi-Taskula, Johanna Närvi, and Gerardo Meil**. It also includes a foreword by **Margaret O'Brien**.

This timely edited collection offers a rich, comparative exploration of how men become 'caring fathers' and the pathways leading to this. It connects fatherhood studies with care scholarship to provide new theoretical and empirical insights into how care is shared, negotiated and made meaningful in everyday life.



Andrea Doucet and Peter Moss

Care Leaves and Care Time for All is a forthcoming book (spring 2026) which builds closely on the work of this Network. They look forward to sharing it with the LP&R community in 2026.

MAJOR REPORTS

Ann-Zofie Duvander and Åsa Lundqvist

Sweden's parental leave insurance marked its 50th anniversary last year, showing both achievements and remaining challenges. A **Swedish Patchwork. 50 Years of Parental Insurance** highlights improved gender equality with more fathers taking leave, but points to persistent income inequality issues. Policy changes have primarily benefited dual-income households while disadvantaging single parents and those with unstable employment. Recent flexibility reforms may inadvertently widen inequality gaps. Additionally, the system needs to address declining birth rates and connect parental leave policies with sustainability concerns. After five decades, Sweden must reassess its parental leave system to create more inclusive and equitable policies that support diverse family structures while promoting gender equality in a changing society.

Here is the [link](#) to the Executive summary of this report, in English,

From the Nordic countries:

A 2025 report edited by **Ásdís A. Arnalds, Ann-Zofie Duvander, and Johanna Lammi-Taskula** for the Nordic Council of Ministers: **Paid Parental leave and Social Sustainability in the Nordic Countries**. Here is the [link](#) to the Report.



PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Marian Baird

Jack, M., Baird, M. & Hill, E. "The impact of firm-level work and family initiatives on organizational outcomes, employees and their families: An umbrella review", *Community, Work and Family*, forthcoming.

Gulesserian, L., Veen, A. & Baird, M. (2025). 'Gig' Work and Fatherhood: A Typology of Ride-Share Fathers in Australia", *New Technology, Work and Employment* <https://doi.org/10.1111/ntwe.12333>

Ann-Zofie Duvander

Duvander, A-Z, & Fahlén, S. (2025). To Take Leave or Not to Take and How Long to Take? A Study on Swedish Fathers' Parental Leave Use. *Journal of Family Issues*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X251329594>

Anna Escobedo and Peter Moss

Escobedo, A., & Moss, P. (2025). Parenting leave and gender in Spain: terminology, rationale and design. *Community, Work & Family*, 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13668803.2025.2481861>

Sigtona Halrynjo

Halrynjo, S., & Kitterød, R. H. (2025). Child-Centered Versus Work-Centered Fathers' Leave: Changing Fatherhood Ideals Versus Persisting Workplace Dynamics. *Social Sciences*, 14(2), 113. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci14020113>

Halrynjo, S., Mangset, M. (2024). Motherhood Penalty—Beyond Bias? From Stereotypes to Substitutability Structures, *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sp/jxae027>

Madeleine Eriksson Kirsch

Eriksson Kirsch, M. (2025). (Re)Imagining equality and care: parental leave plans among lesbian mothers-to-be in Sweden. *Families, Relationships and Societies* (published online ahead of print 2025). Retrieved Aug 29, 2025, from <https://doi.org/10.1332/20467435Y2025D000000069>

Gayle Kaufman

Kaufman, G., & Martinez, A. R. (2025). US fathers' perceptions of parental leave: Work interruptions and attitudes toward leave policies. In Sung, S. (Ed.), Gender, family and policy: International perspectives (pp. 240-256). Edward Elgar Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781802205558.00022>

Johanna Lammi-Taskula

Närvi, J., Eerola, P., Lammi-Taskula, J. & Terävä, J. (2025) Continuities, Changes, and Critical Moments: A Longitudinal Analysis of Sharing Parental Responsibilities in Finland. Journal of Family Studies. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13229400.2025.2548597>

Gerlinde Mauerer

Mauerer, G. (2025). Fatherhood Practices and Shared Parental Leave: Advancing Gender Equity in Parenting. Soc. Sci. 2025, 14, 269. <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-0760/14/5/269>

Mauerer, G. (2025). Hybride Männlichkeiten praxeologisch analysiert: Väter als sorgende Elternteile in der frühen Phase von Elternschaft. Österreich Z Soziol 50, 3 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11614-025-00588-4>

Mauerer, G. Parenthood, Money and Gender: Partnership Agreements and Parental Efforts to Achieve Gender-equity in Sharing Tasks. Sozialwissenschaftliche Rundschau, Heft 2-25, Wien, pp. 187-202.

Mauerer, G. (2024). Elternkarenz und soziale Nachhaltigkeit. In: Tomaschek, Nino/ Raschauer, Agnes: Nachhaltige Arbeit. Reihe University – Society – Industry. Beiträge zum lebensbegleitenden Lernen und Wissenstransfer, Band 13, Waxmann, Münster, p.71-81.

Zsuzsanna Makay

Ökrös, F., & Makay, Z. (2024). Mothers' labour market entry after childbirth: the role of pre-pregnancy job characteristics and socio-demographic factors. Demográfia, 67(2), 101-143. <https://doi.org/10.21543/DEM.67.2.1>

Gerardo Meil

Meil, G. & Romero-Balsas, P. (eds.) (2025), Towards a comprehensive terminology on paid parenting leave, COST Action Parental Leave Policies and Social Sustainability (Sustainability@Leave), https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/wkuam_v1

Richard Petts

Petts, R. J., Carlson, D. L., & Knoester, C. (2025). Paternity leave-taking and US Fathers' participation in housework. *Journal of Social Policy*, 1-24.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0047279425100901>

Richard Petts and Gayle Kaufman

Petts, R. J., Kincaid, R., Mize, T. D., & Kaufman, G. (In Press). Gone too long or back too soon? Perceptions of paid parental leave-taking and variations by gender and family structure. *Journal of Marriage and Family*.
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jomf.13101>

Cristina Castellanos Serrano

Recio Alcaide, A. y Castellanos Serrano, C. (2025). ¿Qué factores influyen más en que los padres usen el permiso por nacimiento sin solaparlo con la madre? Caracterización del solo care en España y comparativa con los países de la Unión Europea, Documentos de Trabajo del Instituto de Estudios Fiscales 2/2025, pp 1-34.

https://www.ief.es/docs/destacados/publicaciones/documentos_trabajo/2025_02.pdf

- What factors most influence fathers to take paternity leave without overlapping with the mother? Characterization of solo care in Spain and comparison with other European Union countries.

Castellanos Serrano, C. & Recio Alcaide, A. (2025). Use of Paid Parental Leave in Spain by Mothers and Fathers of Children Born in 2023. The Problem of Simultaneity in the Parental Leave System Design, UNED. <https://oai.e-spacio.uned.es/server/api/core/bitstreams/9e026628-14d6-4fb6-b73d-d422a83dbfb2/content>

Keonhi Son

Son, Keonhi, Tran, Ahn, and Drobnič, Sonja (2025). 'Kinship, Family and Community Networks'. In *The Oxford Handbook of Social Policies in the Global South*, edited by A. Barrientos, M. Carnes, H. J. Kwon, H. Obinger, L. Patel, and C. Schmitt, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Drobnič, S, and Son, K (2025). 'The Legacy of the Common Past: Family Policy in Yugoslavia and the Successor States: The Case of Family Policy'. In *The Generosity of Social Policies in Socialist and Post- socialist States*, edited by A. Heinrich, M. E. Kaminska, H. Pleines, T. ten Brink, Berlin: Springer Nature.

Son, K (2025). 'Discrepancy of Social Insurance between Laws and Practices: Implementation Challenges of Maternity Leave in 73 Low- and Middle-Income Countries'. *Global Social Policy*, OnlineFirst.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2024.2439562>.

Debus, M, Son, K, and Wagner, S (2025). 'Partisan Politics, Economic Hardship, and Full-Time Day Care for Children in German Cities'. *Local Government Studies*, OnlineFirst. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03003930.2025.2465956>.

Son, K (2024). 'Gender Cleavage and Political Parties in 19 Welfare States, 1900–1975'. *Journal of European Public Policy*, OnlineFirst.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2024.2439562>.

Diane-Gabrielle Tremblay

Nogues, S. & Tremblay, D. G. (2025) Work intensification, work-life conflict and turnover intentions in the teaching profession: Evidence from school teachers in Quebec, Canada, *Industrial Relations Journal* Article ID: IRJ12463
<https://doi.org/10.1111/irj.12463>

Tremblay, D.-G. & Gillet, A. (2025). Multi-local arrangements and impact on work-life balance; an international research on flight attendants. *Rivista de sociologia del territorio, turismo, tecnologia. Fuori Luogo*, Volume 20 no 3 (2024). <http://www.serena.unina.it/index.php/fuoriluogo/>

Mara Yerkes

Zamanbin, M., Yerkes, M.A., & V. Seibel. (2025) Between Benefits and Burdens: Navigating the Dutch Landscape of Childcare Allowances From a Migrant Perspective. *Social Policy and Administration*. Online early:
<https://doi.org/10.1111/spol.13142>.

van Tuyll van Serooskerken Rakotomalala, S., Nyalali, K., Wamoyi, J. Gervas Onduru, O., Mshana, G., Stok, F.M., Yerkes, M.A., and de Wit, J.B.F. (2025) Scaling up of parenting support to prevent violence against children in Tanzania: insights from policymakers and service providers. *Implementation Science Communication* 6(8). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s43058-024-00684-8>

Zamanbin, M., M.A. Yerkes, J. Javornik. (2024) Resources for whom? Conceptualizing and comparing childcare policy design for parents of children with additional or complex care needs. *Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/ics.2024.15>

Marie Valentova

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CALLS FOR PAPERS

From **Elitsa Dimitrova**

A second edition of the **Special Issue "Parenting and Child/Adolescent Development: Current Updates and Global Perspectives (2nd Edition)"** with guest editors Elitsa Dimitrova and Prof. Dr. Apolinaras Zaborskis was just released by 'Children' (MDPI):

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/children/special_issues/190WE8KI4D

Information about the journal: Children is an international, peer-reviewed, open access journal on children's health published monthly online by MDPI. The journal is indexed within Scopus, SCIE (Web of Science), PubMed, PMC, Embase, and other databases. Journal Rank: JCR - Q2 (Pediatrics) / CiteScore - Q2 (Pediatrics, Perinatology and Child Health). Impact Factor: 2.0 (2023); 5-Year Impact Factor: 2.1 (2023)

Deadline for submissions: **30 October 2025**

Work and Family Researchers Network (WFRN)

The next WFRN conference will be June 17-20, 2026 at Concordia University in Montreal Canada. More than 400 scholars and stakeholders will convene to discuss the latest research as well as effective policies and practices that contribute to enhanced lives and improved performance.

The 2026 conference theme is Centering Care Across the Life Course. Care is foundational to human well-being and to the functioning of our workplaces, families, and societies, yet it remains chronically undervalued. The 2026 WFRN Conference theme "Centering Care across the Life Course," will explore how we can place care at the core of work, family, and policy conversation, ensuring that care and caregiving responsibilities are supported equitably.

The submission deadline is **October 15, 2025**. More details can be [found here](#).

CALLS FOR PAPERS

From **Eva-Maria Schmidt**:

FACES - Families And Challenges in Evolving Societies in the D-A-CH Region and beyond

It is our pleasure to announce the first-ever joint international conference, launched by the Family Sociology Section of the German Sociological Association (DGS), the Family Research Working Group of the Austrian Sociological Association (ÖGS), the Life Course research committee of the Swiss Sociological Association (SSA) and the Swiss Research Center LIVES, in collaboration with the German Youth Institute (DJI).

Date: 26. & 27. February 2026

Venue: German Youth Institute (DJI), Munich, Germany

Call for Papers

Please submit an abstract of no more than 300 words (excluding author details and references) by 30 October 2025, to: ayhan.adams@uni-osnabrueck.de and juliaelsa.sauter@unil.ch

More information can be found at: www.familyscience.eu

NEW RESOURCES

Keonhi Son

Keonhi Son recently released a [historical database of paid maternity leave](#) (HDML) that covers 165 countries, 1883-2020, which has been in the works since 2018.

- Programs: (un)paid maternity leave, social assistance benefits for mothers with newborns
- Main variables: leave benefit (in replacement rate), (un)paid leave length (in weeks), legal coverage (i.e., employment sectors), eligibility criteria (e.g., contribution period), and financing of benefit (e.g., social insurance or employer-liability)

POLICY DEVELOPMENTS AND NEWS

We asked members to share news of policy developments in parental leave and care leaves in their countries. Thanks to Ingólfur Gíslason, Johanna Lammi-Taskula, and Gerardo Meil for news from Iceland, Finland, and Spain.

Iceland (from Ingólfur Gíslason)

A law has been passed in the Icelandic parliament expanding and extending grief leave which has allowed parents, who lose a child, 6 months leave from work with economic compensation. Parents who lose their spouse and have children under the age of 18 now have a right to 6 months grief leave with 80% of salary with a ceiling of IKR900.000. This is an expansion of earlier grief leave but there was also an extension of previous leave. The right to leave following a miscarriage after 18 weeks pregnancy was extended from 2 to 3 months and the right to leave after stillbirth after 22 weeks pregnancy was extended from 3 to 6 months. Economic compensation is the same as when losing a spouse and in all instances those who are outside the labour market or working short hours have a right to compensation. The law was easily passed with only one MP opposing it.

The Icelandic parliament has adopted a change to the law on parental leave, extending the leave in cases of multiple birth and sickness during pregnancy. The leave is now extended by six months for each “extra” child instead of three as it was prior. The months are sharable. In addition, parental leave can now be extended by up to two months if a parent becomes sick due to pregnancy and this sickness continues after birth and makes it difficult for the parent to take care of the child.

Finland (from Johanna Lammi-Taskula)

After the family leave reform in 2022, fathers in Finland used nearly twice the share of parental allowance days compared to fathers of children born before the reform. The majority of fathers take leave independently, rather than only together with the mother. Only a few parents opt for part-time parental leave or divide their leave into multiple short periods. More info can be found here: <https://tietotarjotin.fi/uutinen/1210598/perhevapaauudistus-lisasi-isien-vanhempainvapaiden-kaytto-uusia-joustomahdollisuuksia-kuitenkin-kaytetaan-vain-vahan>

Spain (from Gerardo Meil)

In July 2025, the duration of birth and care leave for each parent was extended by 3 weeks, with each being entitled to 19 weeks of leave (increased from 16 weeks) paid at 100% of their previous salary. In single-parent families, the leave duration will be 32 weeks. With the increase in duration, flexibility in its use has been reinforced: the first 6 weeks remain mandatory following the birth, adoption, or fostering; the following 11 weeks (22 in single-parent families) may be taken until the child turns 12 months old; and the remaining 2 weeks (4 in single-parent families) may be taken until the child reaches 8 years. All non-mandatory weeks may be taken on a full- or part-time basis, subject to employer agreement, either consecutively or in weekly blocks, and will continue to be individual and non-transferable rights. This also applies to transgender pregnant individuals. This reform responds to a fine imposed by the European Court on Spain for failing to fully implement Directive 2019/1158 on work-life balance, as its consequent 2023 parental leave did not guarantee a wage-replacement benefit for salary loss. The approach taken by the legislator hinges on a parenting leave structure based on both well-paid birth and care leave and unpaid parental leave and career breaks. The reform also incorporates the 2024 ruling of the Spanish Constitutional Court requiring the non-mandatory portion of the second parents’ birth and care leave be granted to the first parent in a single-parent family.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all of you for sharing some of your news and letting us know about your publications. We will send out another call in early 2026. Please don't be shy. We can only share what we know about and we are keen to share the news and activities of our awesome and growing Network.

The CFP for the 2026 Annual Seminar will be sent later this fall. Please follow us and share our news on our social media channels: [LinkedIn](#), [Bluesky](#), and [Facebook](#).

The LP&R Coordinating team thanks Andrea Doucet, Kenya Thompson, and Jennifer Turner for all their work in writing, collecting news for, organizing, and designing this newsletter. Thank you to Eva-Maria for maintaining our website and Kenya Thompson and Gerlinda Maurer for maintaining our social media sites, with Kenya on LinkedIn and BlueSky, and Gerlinda on Facebook.