

# International Network on Leave Policies and Research

Annual Seminar

Parenting Leaves, Equality, and Social Sustainability:  
Emerging Research Agendas

28–29 May 2026 Prague

Albertov 6, Faculty of Science, Charles University

Room Velká geologická



**ZOOM: <https://cesnet.zoom.us/j/95641422068>**

## DAY 1 — 28 May

- 8:00–9:00 Registration

### Opening session: Introduction and Welcome

- 9:00–9:15
  - Jiřina Kocourková (Deputy Head of Department of Demography and Geodemography, Faculty of Science, Charles University)
  - Vladimír Krylov (Dean of Faculty of Science, Charles University)
  - Luděk Šídlo (Vice-Dean of Faculty of Science, Charles University)
  - Alice Velková (Head of Department of Demography and Geodemography, Faculty of Science)

### Session 1: Parental Leave Policies in Czechia

- 9:15–10:30
- Chair: Fred Deven (Population & Family Research Centre, Belgium)
- Presentations:
  - Jiřina Kocourková (Charles University, Czechia), Anna Šťastná (Charles University, Czechia): *Does Parental Leave Matter for Fertility? Insights from Czechia*
  - Hana Hašková (Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Czechia), Jana Klímová Chaloupková (Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Czechia): *Between Inclusion and Exclusion: Attitudes and Implications of Parental Leave Policies in Czechia*
  - Sylva Höhne (Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs, Czechia), Naděžda Křečková (Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs, Czechia): *Parental Leave in Czechia: Preferences and Reality*
  - Blanka Plasová (Masaryk University, Czechia), Marie Valentová (Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research, Luxembourg): *Employers as Gatekeepers of Parental Leave in Czechia: Real Return-to-Work Opportunities*
- Discussion

10:30–11:00 Coffee break

## Session 2: Gender Equality and the Role of Fathers

- 11:00–12:30
- Chair: Johanna Lammi-Taskula (National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland)
- Presentations:
  - Diane-Gabrielle Tremblay (TÉLUQ University, Canada), Sarah Nagues (TÉLUQ University, Canada), Sophie Mathieu (Sherbrooke University, Canada): *Participation of Fathers in Parental Leave and Impact of Remote Work*
  - Ann-Zofie Duvander (Stockholm University, Sweden), Eleonora Mussino (Stockholm University, Sweden): *When Do “Latte Papas” Take Parental Leave? A Socioeconomic Analysis of Timing Patterns among Swedish Fathers*
  - Sigtona Halrynjo (Institute for Social Research, Norway): *Fathers and Parental Leave – Do Men in Norway want Gender Equality and the Fathers’ Quota?*
  - Elitsa Dimitrova (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria), Tatyana Kotzeva (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria), Dimiter Katsarski (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria), Kalina Ilieva (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria): *Parental Leave Arrangements and Changing Gender Role Models in Childcare, Housework and Parental Employment in Bulgaria: Results from a Qualitative Study*
  - Johanna Lammi-Taskula (Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland), Johanna Närvi (Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland), Anneli Miettinen (Kela, Social Insurance Institution, Finland): *Working Life Meets Parental Leave Reform: Experiences from Finland*
- Discussion

12:30–13:30 Lunch

## Session 3: Inequalities in Access, Use and Outcomes

- 13:30–15:00
- Chair: Hana Hašková (Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Czechia),
- Presentations:
  - Cristina Castellanos-Serrano (UNED, Spain), Adela Recio-Alcaide (Institute for Fiscal Studies, Spain), María Pazos-Morán (Independent Researcher, Spain): *From Policy Design to Practice: Understanding Gender Inequality in Leave Use. Evidence from 31 European Countries (1983–2023)*
  - Stephan Köppe (University College Dublin, Ireland): *Take-up of Paid Parent Leave in Ireland*
  - Rūta Brazienė (Vilnius University, Lithuania): *Sustainability and Resilience in Parental Leave Policies: Evidence from the Baltic States (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia)*
  - Ásdís Arnalds (University of Iceland, Iceland), Guðný Björk Eydal (University of Iceland, Iceland): *Individual Strategies in a Universal System: Intersectional Patterns of Leave Use in Iceland*
  - Hideki Nakazato (Konan University, Japan): *Being Excluded from the Trend of Increasing Access to Parental Leave among Fathers: How Do Self-Employed Fathers in Japan Perceive This Situation?*
  - Mara A. Yerkes (Utrecht University, Netherlands): *Five Years Post-paid Parental Leave: Evaluating Changes in Dutch Leave Policy*
- Discussion

15:00–15:15 Coffee break

## Session 4: Demographic Sustainability and Fertility Dynamics

- 15:15-16:00
- Chair: Jiřina Kocourková (Charles University, Czechia)
- Presentations:
  - Ecaterina Grigoras (Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, Moldova), Raluca Popescu (University of Bucharest, Romania), Olga Gagauz (Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, Moldova): *Family Support Policy Models and Their Fertility Effects: Evidence from Romania and Moldova*
  - Aleksandra Dragin (University of Novi Sad, Serbia), Livia García Faroldi (University of Malaga, Spain), Zrinka Zadel (University of Rijeka, Croatia), Sara Mazzucchelli (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Italy): *The Impact of Climate Change Perception on Family Planning: A Study of University Students' Perspectives in Southern Europe*
  - Kristina Kořić (University of Novi Sad, Serbia), Lejla Źunić (University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina): *Comparative Analysis of Parental Leave Policies in Serbia and Former Yugoslav Countries: Similarities and Differences*
- Discussion

## Session 5: Business Meeting and Annual Review Discussion

- 16:00-18:00
- Chair for Business meeting: Andrea Doucet (Brock University, Canada) (60 min)
- Chair for Annual Review discussion: Ivana Dobrotić (University of Zagreb, Croatia) (60 min)
- Discussion

19:00 Conference dinner in Charles Bridge Restaurant, Smetanovo nábřeží 195

- <https://maps.app.goo.gl/4tZYryFPx1NwAyhd9>

## DAY 2 — 29 May

### Session 6: Concepts, Measurement and Comparative Perspectives

- 8:00–9:30
- Chair: Andrea Doucet (Brock University, Canada)
- Presentations:
  - Cassandra Engeman (Stockholm University, Sweden): *Investing in Fathers' Leave Provisions: The Politics of Paid Parenting Leave across Affluent Democracies since 1965*
  - Sonja Blum (Bielefeld University, Germany), Aysegul Kayaoglu (University of Mannheim, Germany), Sooahn Meier (Bielefeld University, Germany), Keonhi Son (University of Mannheim, Germany): *Measuring What Matters: Socioeconomic Outcomes of Work–Family Policies and Policy Learning across the Global North and South*
  - Johanna Fischer (University of Bremen, Germany): *Introducing Long-Term Care Leave Policies: Discourses and Narratives in Austria and Germany*
  - Pedro Romero-Balsas (Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain), Gerardo Meil (Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain): *Expanding Paid Parenting Leave for Fathers and the Motherhood Penalty in Spain*
- Discussion

9:30–10:00 Coffee break

### Session 7: Book Panel: Care Leaves and Care Time for All

- 10:00–11:30
- Andrea Doucet (Brock University, Canada) & Peter Moss (UCL Institute of Education, United Kingdom)
- Chair: Ann-Zofie Duvander (Stockholm University, Sweden)
- Panel Members: Cassandra Engeman (Stockholm University, Sweden) and Sonja Blum (Bielefeld University, Germany)

## Session 8: Parenting Leaves, Well-being and Social Sustainability

- 11:30-12:30
- Chair: Pedro Romero-Balsas (Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain)
- Presentations:
  - Anna Escobedo (University of Barcelona, Spain), Livia García-Faroldi (University of Malaga, Spain): *Paid Leave, Economic Constraints and Future Sustainability Concerns in Spain*
  - Tindara Addabbo (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy): *Parenting Leaves and Sustainability in the Capability Approach*
  - Gerlinde Mauerer (University of Vienna, Austria), Eva-Maria Schmidt (Austrian Institute for Family Studies, Austria), Sonja Doerfler-Bolt (Austrian Institute for Family Studies, Austria): *Social Norms of Fatherhood in Relation to Parenting Leaves and Childcare*
- Discussion

12:30-13:30 Lunch

## Session 9: Flexibility, Work-Care Balance and Changing Labour Markets

- 13:30–15:00
- Chair: Anna Escobedo (University of Barcelona, Spain)
- Presentations:
  - Sandra Idrovo Carlier (INALDE Business School, Colombia), Patricia Debeljuh (IAE Business School, Argentina): *Hybrid Work in Latin America: Trust, Flexibility, and Work–Life Interference as Determinants of Quality of Life*
  - Sara Mazzucchelli (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Italy): *Reframing Work–Care Balance as a Life-Course Challenge: Interconnected Leave Policies, Labour Market Dynamics, and Care Arrangements in Italy*
  - Barbara Godlewska-Bujok (University of Warsaw, Poland): *The Changing World of Work and Intentional Care Flexibility: The Example of Poland*
  - Anna Kurowska (University of Warsaw, Poland): *Non-Standard and Flexible Working Arrangements as an Excuse for Non-Take-Up of Earmarked Parental Leave by Fathers? A Comparative Qualitative Study of Poland, Germany, Japan, and Sweden*
  - Aysegul Kayaoglu (University of Mannheim, Germany): *Paid Maternity Leave and Maternal Employment: Evidence from Turkey’s 2003 Reform*
- Discussion

15:00–16:00 Final discussion

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Please make sure that your presentation does not exceed 10 minutes



On our website you will find all the information about LP&R Network.