



*Athenaeum Centre for  
Family Studies and Research*

**5th ESFR Congress - Second Call for Papers**

# **Family transitions and families in transition**

**Catholic University of Milan, Italy**

**29<sup>th</sup> September – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2010**

The Athenaeum Centre for Family Studies and Research is pleased to host the 5<sup>th</sup> ESFR Congress in Milan, Italy, from 29<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2010.

## **Congress theme and sub-themes**

The 5th ESFR Congress will be focused on the transitions that the family faces during the course of life, the identification of resources and risks associated with them, and the processes that families go through whenever a transition occurs.

Transitions have for long been a central concern in family studies. The key transitions in the family life cycle are brought about by predictable or unpredictable events like gaining new members (marriage, birth, adoption...), losses or threats of loss (death, illness...) and breaking up of existing relationships (separation, divorce, migration, left behind families...). Other equally specific events appear less focused and delimited, such as the transition to adulthood or old age. Families therefore have to reorganize their relationships in response to the challenges set off by these transitions.

Moreover, families are always in transition, as they are involved into the economic, social and cultural events characterising the contemporary world, and thus have to manage the challenges prompted by setbacks like financial problems, job mobility or loss, natural disasters, political changes, and so on. All the transitions that the family experiences may either point to a difficulty to cope with change, or represent valuable opportunities to transform relationships. When a transition occurs, the family finds itself at a crossroad: it can either re-organize its relations or let them degenerate. Hence in the process

of coping with the difficulties brought about by the critical events of the family life cycle and the social context, families may access to both internal and external resources.

The study of the family facing different kinds of transitions allows researchers from various disciplines to focus on the relational, symbolic, and structural aspects that constitute the family itself, while identifying resources, risks, strengths and weaknesses.

The Congress aims to explore the dynamics and the context of family transitions/families in transition through a number of key themes:

- Major family transitions: transition to married life; transition to parenthood (including adoption and foster families); transition to adolescence and adulthood; transition to old age; transition to divorce and remarriage...
- Critical life events affecting family life: illness, presence of disabled members, death of a member, migration...
- Major contextual events affecting family life: political changes and family development, cultural changes and family structure, economic hardship, welfare state changes...
- Intra and intergenerational processes describing/explaining the transitions that families face during their life.
- Strategies and approaches that support family transitions and families in transition at political, social, and relational level.

### **Keynote speeches**

The Congress will host, in plenary sessions, the contributions of prominent lecturers from different disciplines: prof. Brian K. Barber (University of Tennessee, USA), prof. Pierpaolo Donati (University of Bologna, Italy), prof. Frank D. Fincham (Florida State University, USA), prof. Johannes Huinink (University of Bremen, Germany), prof. Kurt Lüscher (University of Bern, Switzerland), prof. Margaret Strobe (Utrecht University, Netherlands), prof. Froma Walsh (University of Chicago, USA).

### **Round table**

Eminent scholars from different backgrounds are invited to confront in a round table plenary session titled "*Raising a new generation: a challenge for the family in today's Europe*".

## **Types of presentations**

Three types of presentation may be proposed:

### *Proposed Symposia*

A Symposium will consist of three to four papers plus the discussant contribution with the total number of speakers not exceeding five. Contributions should stem from different research groups. Symposia which include contributions from at least two different countries will be preferred.

The Chair of a Symposium is expected to recruit a group of participant contributors and a discussant, and to submit an integrative abstract (300 words) delineating the topic.

The Chair of the Symposium should also submit the abstracts (300 words) of each presentation.

Proposals for Symposia should include:

- a) The title of the Symposium, the title of each presentation and the names, affiliations and addresses of authors; name, affiliation and address of the discussant; and names and address of the organizers. The e-mail address of each participant should also be listed.
- b) Title and 300-word integrative statement describing the general topic.
- c) Title and 300-word abstract and preferred keywords of each presentation.

The time allocated for every Symposium will not exceed 90 minutes.

### *Free papers*

Anyone interested in presenting a paper must submit the following information:

- a) Author's and co-author(s)'s: full name, current position including institutional affiliation with complete mailing address, a phone number, and email address.
- b) Paper title.
- c) Abstract (up to 300 words).
- d) Preferred keywords (up to 5).

Free papers will be grouped into thematically homogeneous sessions by the Scientific Committee.

### *Individual posters*

Posters are recommended when the contribution is strongly data-based and therefore particularly suited for graphic or visual presentation. Individual posters will be grouped into thematically homogeneous poster sessions by the Scientific Committee.

Moreover, the Congress program includes the possibility to hold an interactive poster session, whereby individual posters will be organized, around a specific theme with a discussion facilitator. In this case, there will be a display period followed by an interactive discussion. The author(s) of posters selected for the interactive session will be informed immediately after the notification of acceptance of their proposal.

Submissions should include:

- a) Author's and co-author(s)'s: full name, current position including institutional affiliation with complete mailing address, a phone number, and email address.
- b) Poster title.
- c) Abstract (up to 300 words).
- d) Preferred keywords (up to 5).

### **Submission guidelines**

ESFR invites researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds (psychology, sociology, anthropology...) to submit abstracts describing empirical or methodological works on 'Family transitions and families in transition' and related sub-themes.

To have a paper considered for inclusion in the Congress program, please submit your abstract on-line. Details for the on-line submission are provided in ESFR Congress website <http://esfr2010.unicatt.it/>.

Abstracts must not exceed 300 words in length and they should not include any tables or figures, nor bibliography. Abstracts must include the following:

- a) Author's and co-author(s)'s: full name, current position including institutional affiliation with complete mailing address, a phone number, and email address.
- b) Paper title, recommended maximum length 12 words
- c) Abstract (up to 300 words):
  1. Objectives
  2. Methods including data sources
  3. Results
  4. Conclusions
- d) Preferred keywords (up to 5)

### **Multiple submissions**

Please be aware of the fact that one person is permitted to submit not more than two abstracts with him or herself as the first author. This rule applies generally irrespective of the type of abstract.

Regulations limit the participation of individuals to no more than two sessions, regardless of their role in each presentation.

### Language

The official Congress language will be English. Therefore, abstracts and presentations must be delivered in English.

### Deadline for abstract submission

*February 1st, 2010*

### Notification of acceptance

The abstracts will be reviewed by the ESFR Scientific Committee and a notification of acceptance will be sent to proposers not later than *April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010*.

The accepted abstracts will be included in the Book of Abstracts only if at least one author has regularly registered to the Congress, before *15<sup>th</sup> May 2010*.

### Congress Fees

Congress registration fees are divided into Regular and Student fees.

Each student must submit to the e-mail address [info.esfr2010@unicatt.it](mailto:info.esfr2010@unicatt.it) or via fax to the no. +39.02.7234.2642 a photocopy of her/his valid student card or equivalent.

There are different fees available for ESFR Members and Non-Members. ESFR Members are scholars who paid to the ESFR Secretariat their individual membership fees for the current year.

To join ESFR see <http://www.esfr.org/membership.html>.

		<i>ESFR members</i>	<i>Non-members</i>
<i>Regular</i>	Early-bird (before May. 15, 2010)	€160	€220
	Late (after May 15, 2010)	€200	€260
<i>Student</i>	Early-bird (before May 15, 2010)	€90	€110
	Late (after May 15, 2010)	€120	€140

**Note: If you are not an ESFR member and attend the 2010 Congress, you can enjoy a biennial ESFR membership at a special Congress rate (€100 instead of €130). You will also take out a annual subscription to the ESFR journal, Family Science.**

### Congress venue

The 5<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Society on Family Relations (ESFR) will take place on the historic campus of the Catholic University of Milan, Italy. Milan is one of the largest cities in Italy, and is considered to be one of the principle artistic and cultural centers of Northern Italy.

## Travel Award Competition

For the purpose of bringing East-Central European scholars into a broader research community, the Organizing Committee is pleased to announce the 2010 Travel Award Competition for East-Central European PhD students and young researchers up to 35 year old.

Up to 3 stipends in the amount of €350 will be awarded to East-Central European PhD students and young researchers up to 35 year old to travel to the 5<sup>th</sup> ESFR Congress in Milan, Italy, September 29<sup>th</sup> – October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010.

### *Eligibility Requirements:*

- a) Applicants must be registered to the Congress and have paid their fees.
- b) Applicants must have a poster, a free or a symposium paper accepted by the Scientific Committee. (Notifications of acceptance will be sent by the Organizing Committee not later than April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. Please do not submit an application for a Travel Award unless you have received notification that your submission was accepted).
- c) Applicants must be the *sole author* of the accepted conference submission.
- d) Applicants must be PhD students at the time of the Congress or young researchers up to 35 year old.
- e) Applicants must be citizens of one of the following Countries: Belarus; Bulgaria; Czech Republic; Hungary; Poland; Republic of Moldova; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Ukraine; Albania; Estonia; Latvia; Lithuania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatia; Montenegro; Serbia; Slovenia; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

### *Application procedure*

PhD students and young researchers wishing to apply for the Travel Award, must send to the Organizing Committee at [info.esfr2010@unicatt.it](mailto:info.esfr2010@unicatt.it):

- a) personal information, such as full name, highest university degree held, current position including institutional affiliation with complete mailing address, a phone number, and email address;
- b) a copy of the notification of abstract acceptance;
- c) a copy of the receipt regarding the payment of the Congress registration fees;
- d) a photocopy of their valid I.D. card and/or student card;
- e) a short draft paper (up to 4 pages including footnotes, tables, references, bibliography, and appendixes).

### *Deadline*

Applications must be submitted not later than **May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010**.

### *Decision Process and Notification*

Award decisions will be based on the excellence of the submitted Congress abstract and the short draft paper. Winners will be notified by email not later than **June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010**.

## **ESFR Young Scientist Prize**

A ESFR Young Scientist Prize is established for the best research article published between 2008 and 2010 (up to the time of the Prize application deadline ). This is open to all current PhD students and recent post docs (that is anyone who defended their PhD thesis after 2006 included). The student/post doc must be the first author. The prize is made available to both members and non-members of ESFR. Any published article in a peer-reviewed journal, regardless of the language, may be submitted, but the entire article would need to be translated to English in order for it to be judged by the Scientific Committee for its merit. The award winner would receive a certificate, €300, and free Congress registration for the 5<sup>th</sup> ESFR Congress in Milan. The winner is expected to give a presentation of the paper at the Congress. ESFR will provide details for the on-line submission at a later date. Please, check out the Congress website <http://esfr2010.unicatt.it/>, which is constantly updated.

## **ESFR Poster Prize**

ESFR is pleased to announce the 2010 ESFR Poster Prize Competition. An on-site Commission, appointed by the Scientific Committee, will judge the best poster presentation displayed during the Congress, with the award consisting of a certificate and €100.

## **Important dates and deadlines**

*October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009: Abstract submission*

*February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010: Deadline for the Abstract submission*

*April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010: Notification of Acceptance*

*May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010: Deadline to apply for the ESFR Travel Award Competition*

*May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010: Early-bird registration*

*May 15<sup>th</sup>: Deadline for authors to register to the Congress in order to have their accepted abstracts included in the Book of Abstracts*

*June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010: Notification of winnings of the ESFR Travel Award Competition*

*July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010: Late registration*

## **Congress Local Scientific Committee**

E. Scabini; V. Cigoli; C. Regalia; G. Rossi; R. Rosnati; S. Tagliabue

(Athenaeum Centre for Family Studies and Research, Catholic University, Milan)

## **Congress Organizers:**

*Chairman*

Camillo Regalia, Catholic University, Milan

*Program Coordinators*

Giovanna Rossi, Catholic University, Milan

Rosa Rosnati, Catholic University, Milan

*Local Organizing Committee of the Athenaeum Centre for Family Studies and Research, Catholic University, Milan*

Camillo Regalia, Full Professor of Social Psychology  
Giovanna Rossi, Full Professor of Sociology of the Family  
Rosa Rosnati, Associated Professor of Social Psychology  
Semira Tagliabue, Assistant Professor of Psychometric  
Stefania Meda, Research Associate  
Daniela Marzana, Research Associate

*Congress Office*

Camilla Quadrio

### **Additional**

For further information please see our website at: <http://esfr2010.unicatt.it/> or contact us at [info.esfr2010@unicatt.it](mailto:info.esfr2010@unicatt.it)

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