UNIVERSITY
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Organise

the International Symposium

# Family in All its Forms

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The family has always been the subject of numerous researches in several fields including sociology, anthropology, psychology and history. But what has always conceptualized the family are biological links. Currently, different authors such as Minuchin, Lee and Simon (2006, quoted by Favez 2010) give a completely different definition, for these authors indeed, the family would be "a group of people connected emotionally and/or by blood, who have lived together long enough to have developed specific interactive patterns and stories that justify these interactive patterns" (p.33, cited p.17). Other authors, such as Lévi-Strauss (quoted by Delsemme, 2018, p.3), consider it «a community of individuals united by kinship and existing in all human societies».

According to this definition, the notion of kinship can be considered a "privileged social relationship, inbred or not, based on the existence, real or assumed, of a common filiation, alliance or adoption". Given the social evolution, family practices and conceptions of the family vary from one era to the next, depending on the social environment and the surrounding culture. For example, in Europe, the family is seen rather as people sharing a biological relationship (although this conception evolves with the arrival of new families), while in Africa, the family is not referred to as biological ties but rather social ties. (Goldbeter-merinfeld, Linares, Onnis, Romano, & Vannotti, 2017). In some contexts, the family can go beyond blood.

In Algeria, it seems difficult today to find a unique typology of the family. In fact, there are two main types of family: the traditional family that has always existed, and the nuclear family, which is increasingly tending to gradually replace the traditional family because of the economic constraints and changing living conditions imposed by urbanization. Thus, family structures have evolved over time, reflecting social, economic and cultural changes. The traditional family, usually composed of parents and children living under the same roof, has long been considered the standard model. However, the nuclear family, centered on parents and their children, has become increasingly common, especially in urbanized societies where economic constraints and new social dynamics play a major role.

The diversity of family forms has become more apparent, with structures such as single-parent families, recomposed, extended or chosen, where ties are based on emotional relationships rather than blood ties. These changes are often the result of factors such as later marriage, higher divorce rates, increasing autonomy of individuals and redefinition of family roles. Some sociologists speak of an extended, composed, extended family and challenge the notion of a single family model; others speak of a diversified family model with several types (Addi, 2005).

Even if it is not a typology, we can speak today of a real evolution in the models that the family presents in Algeria, in particular of single parent family, which increases day by day. According to D'Amore (2010), "the single-parent households that once arose from the death of a parent are on the rise and are more due to separation." Indeed, we see that many «new families are born from different types of crises (divorce, coming-out, exile,...).

The transformations affecting the family and the evolution it is experiencing today can be a source of discomfort for its individuals. It seems that today, families are increasingly at risk of parental exhaustion and most of them feel the need to have more time to be with their family (parents' barometer, 2017). Now that both parents can work outside the home, that it has become necessary or almost necessary to bring back two salaries to have a good quality of life, Parents have less time to care for children and must arrange their work with the education of children. This redefined roles within the family.

Thus, the family system rests on a balance that it self depends on the determination of the roles and rules that each must follow. The family system will have to go through different phases during its development and face various events, leading to multiple changes, thus forcing it to reorganize in order to continue functioning. The family must therefore have some flexibility, which will allow its members to readjust and be ready for change.

This change will be made while safeguarding the place and roles of each member in the family. The unity of the family is maintained by a sense of belonging.

ARGUMENT

However, in order to forge their identity, individuals must find their belonging outside the family circle. According to Goldbeter-Merinfeld et al. (2017, cited in Cales, 2019), the autonomy of an individual sometimes requires some "infidelity" towards his family. This is why teenagers often feel the need to belong to a different group than their family. This approach allows the individual to develop his own identity, fundamental to build his future family, while preserving the family heritage and perpetuating the family myth, will thus contribute to perpetuate the memory and history of the family from generation to generation.

Since the family system is in constant contact with other systems, they influence each other. According to several authors (Bopp-Limoge, 2017; Angel, 2005; D'Amore, 2015), the goal of each system is to survive and thus maintain its cohesion by the different rules it imposes. As a result, the transformations that the family will undergo will be the result of different operations of contact with society and its institutions, in this case the school. The latter, being the first external organization in the life of the child, will initiate him to citizenship. Then comes the role of the community. What will finally allow a global development to the child is to establish links between the different systems: family, school, community (the street).

It is still difficult, in particular, for some families and in very specific contexts, to establish balanced links with other systems. As well as, sometimes families go through crises that sometimes require family therapy. Also called systemic therapy, this form of therapy allows family members to safely express and explore their difficult thoughts and emotions, understand the experiences and perspectives of others, perceive the needs of each, to build a family force and make useful changes in their relationships and in their lives.

However, the family can be a «carrier» of the psychological disorder, or simply be the source, especially when it comes to parents who disrupt the good development of their children by inflicting either abuse or acts of violence that can sometimes go as far as sexual abuse. Finally, in some cases, the family may suffer a collective trauma that will even be transmitted from generation to generation.

From all that we have developed above, we deduce that the family is a system that is defined by very precise rules and values and that develops in constant contact with other systems. These can in some cases constitute threats to the values of the family that will constantly face challenges requiring some resistance, especially in recent years with the effects of globalization that has reduced the world into a village, thanks in particular to the Internet.

Indeed, although social networks offer many advantages, such as the ability to stay in constant contact with family members. However, they can also pose risks to family relationships by increasing conflict, temptations and social pressure. In addition, it turns out that family members increasingly prefer this mode of remote relationship than family visits, which impacts the quality of ties between family members.

We see from everything we have just said about the family, from different readings on the subject, that it is becoming increasingly difficult these days to maintain family ties and to ensure the continuity of the family union. Indeed, whether old or new, these families are increasingly at risk of breakup. Separations in the family sometimes cause significant individual suffering, isolation and loneliness, especially for elderly subjects or children who can sometimes find themselves without any family protection. In this case, the social services intervene to replace, temporarily or durably, the Family.

Substitutes for the family, state institutions such as foster homes for assisted children, retirement homes, Shelters for women in distress or in difficult situations that offer a welcome and hospitality to people alone, in difficulty or simply deprived of their family. As they may also concern foster families. These families are formed following an adoption project or Kafala (legal collection). It turns out that this project often fails in Algeria (observation made by the homes of the foster homes of Mostaganem and Oran, 2022). It would be interesting to question the reasons for this failure, to shed light on key concepts such as filiation, affiliation and disaffiliation. The sharing of experience around adoption and the Kafala will, moreover, allow the different specialists here and elsewhere to open up to international experiences and consequently to propose new strategies.

All these issues and many others will be discussed at our conference which has as general objective to study the question of the family in all its states.

Therefore, this conference is part of the perspective of the evolution of the family system, and proposes, as a first step, to shed light on the concept of Family, to define what is now called «the new families», in Algeria and elsewhere. And secondly, to study the family in interaction with all the systems that surround it in this case, the school, the street or the community and social networks. This colloquium also aims to highlight the problems suffered by the Family today, particularly in Algeria, such as intra- and extra-family violence and the traumas it undergoes.

**THE CONFERENCE
FOCUSES ON :**

1- Family Types/ New Families

2- The individual in the family

3- Family and other systems

4- Family therapy

5- Family, violence and trauma

6- The influence of the internet and social media on the family

7- Substitutes for the Family

This colloquium addresses researchers, students and professionals in several fields that are interested in the theme of the family

Anyone wishing to participate through the presentation of a paper or in the form of a poster, must send an abstract that does not exceed 300

**THE COMMUNICATION
PROPOSAL MUST INCLUDE
THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

- Title
- Name and surname
- Affiliation, email and telephone
- Tthe thematic axis
- The purpose of the contribution
- Five key words

**THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE SENT TO:**

houda.bouzidi@univ-mosta.dz

*Key dates:*

Abstract <u>submission</u> deadline: 31 July 2024
Notification of <u>acceptance</u> of abstracts: 15 august 2024
<u>Receipting</u> of integrate paper: 31 august 2024
<u>Colloquium</u>: 18 and 19 september 2024