

*Gerardo Meil and Luis Ayuso*

### **Family change and socialisation of the new generations**

Family life, just like the rest of society, is immersed in a profound process of change that has an impact on all its dimensions. The man is no longer the only breadwinner in the family unit and there are ever more families where both the man and the woman have paid employment. A project of a common shared life is now not only initiated by means of marriage, but there are ever more frequent cases of couples living together, sometimes as a trial marriage, other times as an alternative to the commitment of marriage itself. Divorce, as a solution to an unsatisfactory project of a common shared life, is also becoming more frequent. The models inherited from the past have lost their capacity to shape the life projects of successive generations and have given way to what is known as the “negotiated family”.

Based on a national survey of parents, and of children between 10 and 18, carried out in 2004, we seek to analyse the effects of some of these changes on the styles of upbringing used by parents. The aspects of family change which we seek to analyse are the emergence of single parent families and families with two incomes compared with the typical middle-class family. The features of the styles of socialisation which will be considered are the values which are passed down to children, the autonomy of children to use their leisure time (the time they spend watching TV, individual leisure – going out with friends- as opposed to family leisure time and the time they have to be back home), the involvement of parents in the formal education of their children (support and control of homework as well as academic results), gender equality (participation in household chores) and more generally, the perception of control of their children’s educational process. The hypothesis under discussion is whether the emergence of the negotiated family has led to more inconsistent educational styles.

*Gerardo Meil and Luis Ayuso*

*Department of Sociology, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain*

*e-mail: [gerardo.meil@uam.es](mailto:gerardo.meil@uam.es) and [luis.ayuso@uam.es](mailto:luis.ayuso@uam.es)*