

Family changes

Dolors Comas d'Argemir

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- Family is a public institution
 - ◆ welfare functions: protection and care
 - ◆ social inheritance, location and social mobility of its members
- Family is not only the private domain. Its functions are vital for social reproduction
- State and market have assumed some of these functions.
- Family changes should be seen as related to social system changes

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Family, individual autonomy and public policy

- Public policies make individual autonomy possible
- Familism is stronger in countries with a weak welfare state
- Individualism is stronger in countries with a developed welfare state
- Systems of social protection and new kinds of family

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Family's death?

- Do family changes mean the death of family?
- Crises are also adaptations
- Decline of the traditional model of family
- Backwardness of Spain compared to other European countries

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Constructing the contemporary family

- Reduction of infant and maternal mortality
- New roles of women, new relations between sexes
- New relations between generations
- Value of individuality
- Development of the welfare state

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1. Reduction of infant and maternal mortality

- Infant mortality rate (per 1000 births)

Sub-Saharan Africa: 171	Sweden 2,4
South Asia: 90	Finland 3
Caribbean: 32	France 3,8
Turkey 23,6	Spain 4,1
- Danger of death during pregnancy or childbirth
 - Sub-Saharan Africa: 1 per 16 women
 - EU countries: 1 per 3800 women
- Death becomes dissociated from birth and infancy and affects mostly old people
- Birth rate diminishes
- Offspring as a choice, not as a wish of God

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2. New roles of women, new relations between sexes

- Incorporation of married women into the labour market
- From working daughters to working mothers
- Reorganization of domestic life
- More horizontal, more negotiated and more fragile conjugal relations
- Decline in male authority

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3. New relations between different generations

- Longer life expectancy at birth
 - Catalonia: 1960 Men: 67.4 Women: 72.0
 - 2004 Men: 77.4 Women: 84.0
 - Zambia: 37.5 years
 - Japan: 82.0 years
- From a trigenerational world to four generations
- More horizontal relations between ages, change in the system of authority
- Increasing care needs

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4. Value of individualism

- The emergence of individualism does not imply the dissolution of the family
- The new family is constructed on the individual autonomy of its members
- Example: women and infancy
- The interpretation of changes: Ideologies and moral values are projected into the family

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5. Development of the welfare state

- Public policies of social protection
- Family policies
- From paternalistic assisting practices to public responsibility

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FAMILY TODAY: MAIN CHANGES

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1. Marriage loses ground but not conjugal life

- Marriage is not a requirement to start conjugal life
- Redefinition of conjugal life
- Less marriages, and later
- More free unions
 - 9 out of 10 in France
- Living apart together
- Liquid love

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2. Conjugal unions are more fragile

- Increase in divorce
 - France: 42 divorces out of 100 marriages
 - Spain: 22
 - Catalonia: 28
 - Sweden: 54
 - United Kingdom: 46
 - Portugal: 16
 - Italy: 8
- Does divorce debilitate bonds between parents and children?
- Divorce weakens individual trajectories: impoverishment, less support, two household organization, relationship with children
- Debate over shared custody

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3.1. Women's work as a motor for natality (I)

- **Countries with female employment rates above 60% have high fertility rates:**
 - Iceland (2.04)
 - United Kingdom (1.80)
 - France (1.94)
 - Finland (1.80)
 - Norway (1.84)
 - Sweden (1.77)
 - Netherlands (1.73)
- **Countries with female employment rates below 60% have the lowest fertility rates:**
 - Italy (1.34)
 - Spain (1.34)
 - Greece (1.28)
 - Poland (1.24)

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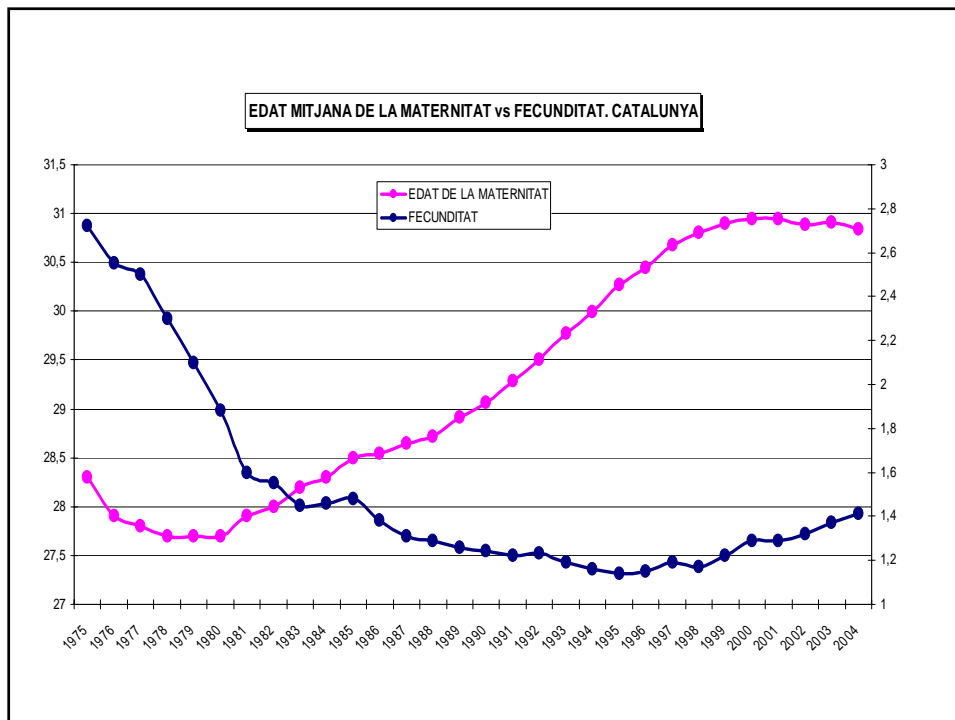
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3.2. Women's work as a motor for natality (II)

- Family times has changed
- Work has to be reconciled with motherhood
- Less children and later
- Mean age at childbearing over 30 years: Spain, Denmark, Holland, Sweden, France, Ireland
- Young fathers, new masculinity

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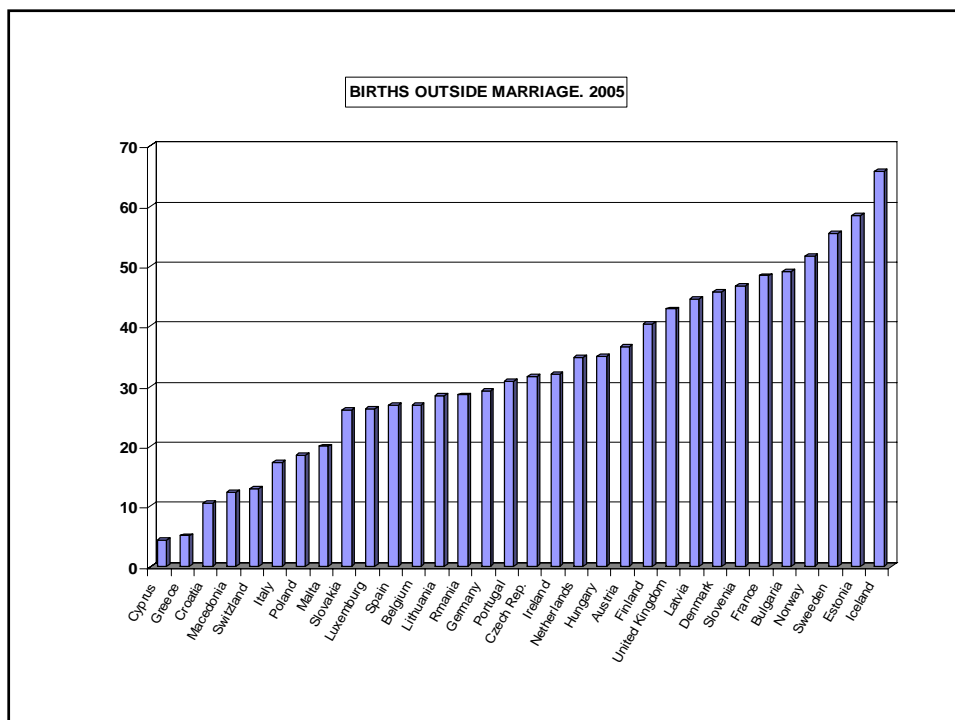


4. Desired children: overprotected, controlled

- Marriage does not make the family; children make the family
 - Increase of births outside marriage
- Children have the command in the family and organize it
- Overprotection. Surveilled freedom. Children's world under the gaze of adults
- Children's difficulty in valuing people and things. Living dangerously. Drugs, risk, bullying, aggression, anorexia

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5.1. Children like any other children. Adoptive family

- Increase in international adoption
 - 40.000 adopted children in 2004
 - Spain: 942 adopted children in 1997; 5.541 in 2004.
- Adoption is not a right for the parents but for children
- Parents' suitability. A second abandonment would be catastrophic
- Social and familial integration of children: difficulties, conflicts, learning the origins
- Kinship without biological link; replacement of the filiation of origin
- Plural kinship: biological parents and social parents

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5.2. Children like any other children. Foster family

- No new filiation; the filiation of origin is kept
- Foster family as secondary kinship
- Almost a family. Relationship with biological parents continues
- Assuming the incapacity of parents to take care of them
- Plural kinship: biological parents and foster parents ("almost parents")

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5.3. Children like any other children. Assisted reproduction

- Plural kinship: genetic parents, natural/social parents
- Challenging nature

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6. Monoparental and recomposed families

- Divorce and remarriage: post-divorce families
- Plural kinship: household is not enough; kinship is a network
- They are not stepparents; coexistence of two persons as fathers or mothers
 - ◆ Substitution: social parents and biological parents
 - ◆ Coexistence: biological parents and everyday life parents
 - ◆ Additional kinship based on taking care: *legal stranger*

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7. Homoparental families

- Legalization of homosexual unions
 - ✦ No regulation: Italy, Ireland, Greece, Austria, Luxemburg
 - ✦ Common-law partners: Portugal, France, Catalonia
 - ✦ Homosexual civil unions: Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany, United Kingdom.
 - ✦ Marriage: Holland, Belgium, Spain
- Children of homosexual parents: adoption, assisted reproduction, previous marriage
- Heterosexuality is not a condition to become parents
- Male and female role models in familial and friendship networks
- Plural kinship: household is not enough; kinship is a network

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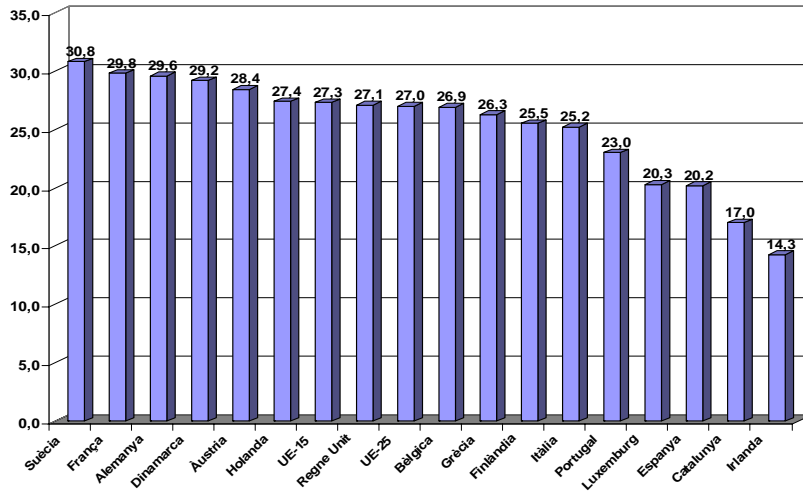
8. Strengthening of intergenerational bonds

- Strong relations reactivated in certain periods of life (sociability, maintenance, and transfer of goods)
- Parents taking care of adult children's needs
 - ✦ economic help
 - ✦ accommodation,
 - ✦ care of ill adults,
 - ✦ care of grandchildren
 - ✦ emotional support.
- Children taking care of parents needs
 - ✦ Dependence, economic help, emotional support
- The "economy of love". The role of women

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DESPESA EN PROTECCIÓ SOCIAL. PERCENTATGE PIB. ANY 2000



POLÍTIQUES FAMILIARS I D'HABITATGE. PERCENTATGE RESPECTE AL PIB. 2002

