

Tagungsbericht

Value Of Children And Intergenerational Relations

Report on the International Workshop "Value of Children and Intergenerational Relations", March 29th to 30th, 2012

The international workshop "Value of Children and Intergenerational Relations" has taken place from March 29th to 30th, 2012 at the University of Konstanz as part of the cross-cultural and interdisciplinary project "Value of Children and Intergenerational Relations" (VOC-IR) funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). The workshop was organized by *Gisela Trommsdorff* (University of Konstanz, Germany) and *Bernhard Nauck* (Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany). The main goal of this project is to investigate characteristics of parent-child relations and value of children in three generations as well as to study the interrelations between these aspects within and between the generations in different cultural contexts. Originally planned as a six-cultures study, more and more researchers all over the world have joined the project which started more than ten years ago. By now, a large data set with $N = 16.461$ participants (adolescents, their mothers and maternal grandmothers and a sample of mothers with small children) is available from nineteen different countries in four continents.

The present workshop gave researchers (altogether 17 active participants) from Europe (Estonia, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland), Asia (India, Taiwan) and America (United States and Jamaica) who are involved in the project the possibility to present and discuss their analyses regarding the value of children, intergenerational relations, and value transmission from a cross-cultural perspective.

The workshop consisted of three sessions: 1) Value of Children – Cross-Cultural Comparison, 2) Intergenerational Relations: Inter- and Intracultural Comparisons, a) Support and b) Attachment; 3) Intergenerational Relations and Transmission of Values in Cross-Cultural Comparison.

After a welcome address and an introduction to the workshop by *Gisela Tromms-*

dorff, the thematic presentations took place for two days. The papers of the Session 1 on 'Value of Children – Cross-Cultural Comparisons' addressed topics such as intergenerational conflict and emotional ties with parents in various countries, differences in the preferences for male children in North- compared to South-India, and mothers' and adolescents' intentions to have or not to have (more) children in Poland and Germany.

The session started with a presentation by *Bernhard Nauck* (Germany) about "Cross-Cultural Variations in Intergenerational Ambivalence. Affection and Conflict in the Relationship of Women towards their Parents in Seventeen Areas in Asia, Africa, Europe, and America".

The second paper by *Daniela Klaus* (Germany) and *Arun Tipandjan* (India) was entitled "Boy-Preferences in India: An Attempt to Shed Light on the North-South Divide"

The last paper of this session was presented by *Isabelle Albert* (Luxembourg), *Gisela Trommsdorff* (Germany), and *Katarzyna Lubiewska* (Poland) dealing with the question "Do Older Mothers, Younger Mothers and Adolescents in Germany and Poland Differ in their Ideas about Having Children or Not? A Closer Look at the Negative Value-of-Children and its Further Implications".

Session 2, "Intergenerational Relations: Inter- and Intracultural Comparisons", was divided into two parts, "Support" and "Attachment". The first part dealt with adolescents' intentions to support their parents, intergenerational cohesion and life satisfaction from a culture-informed perspective while the second part concentrated on attachment security in Germany and Jamaica, and on the intergenerational transmission of attachment in Poland.

The first paper of this session was presented by *Kairi Kasearu* and *Dagmar Kutsar* (Estonia) and focused on "Adolescents' Motives to Help their Parents in Different Cultural Context – In Germany, Russia and Estonia".

The second presentation of this session was held by *Wolfgang Friedlmeier* (United States) and *Katarzyna Lubiewska* (Poland) concentrating on "Intergenerational Solidarity and Life Satisfaction in Middle-

Aged Daughters and Mothers in Poland and USA".

The second part of Session 2 "Intergenerational Relations: Inter- and Intracultural Comparisons" focused on "Attachment". This session started with a presentation by *Annekatrin Bock* (Jamaica) entitled "Mother – Child Interaction Patterns and its Influence on Attachment Security of Adolescents in Jamaica and Germany".

Subsequently, *Katarzyna Lubiewska* (Poland) presented a study on "Parenting and Attachment: Intergenerational Transmission between Grandmothers, Mothers, Fathers and Adolescent Children in Different Regions of Poland".

Session 3, "Intergenerational Relations and Transmission of Values in Cross-Cultural Comparison", consisted of four presentations focusing on the transmission of value of children between three generations, the conformity of values between parents and children, relationship quality of adolescents with their maternal grandmothers and family-related value orientations in two generations in cross-cultural comparison. First, "The Intergenerational Transmission of Value of Children in the Contemporary Chinese Family: Taiwan and China Compared" was outlined by *Chin-Chu Yi* and *Yu-Hua Chen* (Taiwan).

The second presentation by *Daniela Barni* (Italy), *Ariel Knafo*, *Asher Ben-Arieh*, and *Muhammed M. Haj-Yahia* (Israel) concentrated on "Parent-Child Value Similarities Within and Across Cultures".

This last Session 3 continued with a talk about "Adolescents' Relationship with Maternal Grandmothers in Four Cultures: The Role of the Middle Generation" by *Michaela Friedlmeier* (United States), *Isabelle Albert* (Luxembourg), *Gisela Trommsdorff* (Germany), and *Cigdem Kagitcibasi* (Turkey).

The last presentation by *Boris Mayer* (Germany), *Beate Schwarz* (Switzerland), and *Gisela Trommsdorff* (Germany) focused on "Value of Children and Intergenerational Relationships: Culture-Level Relations in two Generations".

After each thematic session, the respective contributions were discussed and commented by renowned invited scholars, namely by *Fons J. R. van de Vijver* (The Nether-

lands), *Ramesh C. Mishra* (India), and *Hans-Joachim Kornadt* (Germany). The workshop ended with a general discussion chaired by *Gisela Trommsdorff* and *Bernhard Nauck* where possibilities for future studies and publications were debated.

In the light of ongoing demographic changes all over the world and the related socio-economic and cultural change, it has become more than ever necessary to relate context (macro- and micro level), socio-economic change, family and individual development. The present workshop has contributed to an enhanced understanding of the value of children and intergenerational relations from a life-span developmental and culture-informed perspective.

An elaborated report as well as contributions of the workshop are available at: <http://www.psychologie.uni-konstanz.de/en/trommsdorff/research/value-of-children-in-six-cultures/workshop-march-2012/> For more information see: <http://www.psychologie.uni-konstanz.de/en/trommsdorff/research/value-of-children-in-six-cultures/>

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