

## **ISA World Congress of Sociology**

**By : Gothenburg, July 2010**

### **Chairs' Report on Session JS: RC13/RC06 Leisure and the Family in Contemporary Society**

**There were 5 presentations in this session:**

- David Maume (University of Cincinnati, USA)
- Daniel Lois and Oliver Arranz Becker (Technische Universität Chemnitz, Germany) (presentation given by Oliver Becker)
- Gisela Taschner (Fundacao Getulio Vargas, Brazil)
- Magdalena Zadkowska, University of Gdansk, Poland)
- Vera Toepoel, Tilburg University, Netherlands

**Four presenters listed on the program did not turn up. These were:**

- Babita Tewari (Kanpur, India)
- Barbara Borlini, (Istituto di Scienze Umane, Italy)
- Rosalina Pisco Costa (University of Evora, Portugal)
- Sushil Tyagi (S.M.L. PG College, India)

The session went very well, and, with only 5 presentations, allowed for more discussion compared to some other sessions. In terms of individual presentations and the possibility of publishing papers in the proceedings, here are a few comments on each author:

#### **David Maume (University of Cincinnati, USA)**

This was an excellent presentation addressing the issue of sleep and quality of life for parents in working class families in which one or both parents worked night shifts. The presentation was methodologically and theoretically strong, with some very interesting and powerful data. Few researchers to date have addressed the important issue of night shifts and sleep quality, and their relationships to family life and family leisure.

#### **Daniel Lois and Oliver Arranz Becker (Technische Universität Chemnitz, Germany)**

**by : Oliver Becker**

This presentation addressed leisure and the transition to parenthood. The presentation was a bit more difficult to follow, perhaps because of the language issue. The author addressed an important question, although the presentation could have incorporated more insights from previous research, including previous work on the gendered nature of the impact of parenting on leisure.

#### **Gisela Taschner (Fundacao Getulio Vargas, Brazil)**

An interesting and topical presentation on the role that marketing plays (particularly media advertising), on children, children's leisure, and children's leisure consumption. Some potential problems were discussed, such as relationships between product marketing and childhood

obesity as well as deviant behavior. The presentation was somewhat controversial and provoked some discussion and debate.

**Magdalena Zadkowska (University of Gdansk, Poland)**

This presentation focused on “intense” holidays (such as holidays organized around participation in extreme sports). The author essentially used a participant observation technique, based on her experiences of such holidays and conversations with holiday participants. The study used a small sample of young married couples and examined their holiday experiences and their relationships with their partners while on holiday. This seems to be a relatively new research topic, and was more of an exploratory study rather than a theoretical study.

**Vera Toepoel (Tilburg University, Netherlands)**

This was a very good presentation, very thorough, and with a strong theoretical and methodological framework. It examined the influence of others (friends, neighbours, relatives, siblings etc.) on leisure choices of older adults. It examined cultural activities, as well as sports, voluntary work, shopping etc. Grounded in the notion of social capital, the study revealed the importance of social contact and how the influence of social integration on leisure participation increases with age.

Each of the presentations made a good and valuable contribution to the session, although some were stronger, or more complete, than others.

Susan M. Shaw, University of Waterloo

Rudolf Richter, University of Vienna

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