Call for Papers

Social Science History Association 38th Annual Meeting
Chicago, IL, November 21-24, 2013

“Social networks and fertility”

Submission Deadline: 31st January 2013

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Session topic

Individual lives are embedded into broader social networks of family and kin relationships, as well as relationships to important others (for example neighbors and friends). Based on its structure, these networks provide different social influence and potential to shape people’s life courses and life course decisions. Since some years, researchers started to link the structure of families and social networks to explanations of individual’s fertility behavior and fertility similarities in kinship groups; stressing additional sources of social influence which go beyond parent-offspring pairs. Yet, the question ‘in how far social networks and family structures matter in the context of fertility behavior’ remain unanswered. On the one hand, it has been assumed that the experience of growing up in, for example, an extended family leads to higher fertility or to an earlier age of first birth. On the other hand, empirical research in both historical and contemporary societies seems to sometimes contradict these assumptions.

To shed further light on the influence of social networks and family structures on people’s fertility behavior this session invites papers addressing these and linked topics in both contemporary and historical societies. In this context, papers applying a social network approach are favored.

Submission of paper proposals

Please, submit your paper proposal in the form of a 500 to 800 word abstract, stating clearly the questions that will be examined, the type of empirical material that will be used, and an outline of the main argument that will be developed in the paper. Proposals should be sent to: Bastian Mönkediek (b.monkediek@let.ru.nl). The deadline for submission is the 31st January 2013.

For general information on the 38th Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association, see the SSHA website: www.ssha.org.