

Workshop

## CALL FOR PAPERS

International workshop on *The Power of the Family. Family influences on Long-Term Fertility Decline in Western and Eastern Societies, 1850-2010*, 9-10 October 2015, Wageningen University, the Netherlands

Organised by Sociology of Consumption and Households Group  
Date Fri 9 October until Sat 10 October 2015  
Venue Wageningen, t.b.a.



### **The Power of the Family. Family influences on Long-Term Fertility Decline in Western and Eastern Societies, 1850-2010**

Over the last 160 years, a remarkable decline of fertility has taken place in many Western and Eastern societies. With rapid population aging, current below-replacement fertility looms as a key social issue of the twenty-first century. Intriguingly, substantial regional disparities in fertility levels and reproductive change have been prevalent and remain existent. Previous explanations emphasizing economic development and cultural change have not been able to clarify these differences. Building further on recent approaches that stress the social relations and interactions that connect individuals to one another, this workshop zooms in on the place where decisions on procreation are primarily taken: the institution of the family. Family relations are known to differ strongly across regions as a result of different family systems. In different family systems, family may affect fertility in highly distinctive ways. By combining previous economic and cultural explanations with theories on family influences and the cultural variation therein, the workshop aims to open up new vistas for understanding long-term population change.

The *key research questions* of the workshop are:

1. How and why do family relations ((grand)parents, siblings, spouses, and in-laws) influence fertility behaviour over the life course?
2. How and why do family influences on fertility behaviour differ across family systems, social, religious, and ethnic groups, and between rural and urban areas?
3. How and why has the relative importance of family influences on fertility behaviour changed over the last 160 years, independent from and in interaction with other determinants of fertility decline?

Researchers from a wide variety of disciplines (historians, demographers, sociologists, and anthropologists) are invited to submit an extended abstract (2-3 pages) including title, research questions, theory and/or hypotheses, methods, and preliminary results. Travel and accommodation costs will be funded for those who are selected to participate, conditional upon having a full paper ready by September 1<sup>st</sup> 2015. A selection of the papers will be published in a new volume in the Peter Lang Series *Population, Family and Society*. Paper proposals can be submitted to [pof-2015@wur.nl](mailto:pof-2015@wur.nl). Decisions on submissions can be expected around the end of May 2015.

**Call For Papers Deadline (extended abstracts): 30 April 2015**

**Deadline Full Papers: 1 September 2015**

**Local organisation committee (Wageningen University):**

Hilde Bras, Sandra van der Brink, Yuliya Hilevych, Bastian Mönkediek, Paul Rotering

The workshop is part of the five-year research project (2011-2016): 'The Power of the Family. Family Influences on long-term Fertility Decline in Europe, 1850-2010', funded by a VIDI-grant of the Netherlands Organization of Scientific Research (NWO). For more information on the VIDI-project see: <http://www.hildebras.nl/index.php/vidi-project>.

More information on the workshop will be available soon on: <http://www.wageingenur/pof-2015>

Contact: [pof-2015@wur.nl](mailto:pof-2015@wur.nl)