FAMDEM: Family Analysts Meeting to Discuss Emerging Manuscripts

FAMDEM, originated in Fall 2008, is a friendly, informal group for students, faculty, and postdocs to present early results from (and get feedback on) their research on Family Demography. Families are central to many social processes at the macro and micro levels. Marriage and childcare continue to be highly gendered, with implications for stratification in the workplace. Changes in work and social policy over the past century have had profound implications for social expectations about marriage, fertility, and intergenerational relationships. Families continue to link the opportunities of children to those of their parents and thus families are still central to (re)production of the next generation. These are some of the topics of research FAMDEM members discuss at meetings.

In the Fall 2023 semester, we will meet from 10-11am on Wednesdays in RLP 2.706 (PRC Conference room); a zoom link is also available upon request.

If you would like to join FAMDEM or if you are a member who would like to present send an email to kimm cerlean@utexas.edu and kerry.waldrep@utexas.edu. Our schedule and open slots are below.

Upcoming presentations (Fall 2023).


October 11. Amanda Nagle. Informal presentation: Pregnancy loss through a demographer's lens: How common is the experience of pregnancy loss among American women?


November 8. Kylie Jaeyun Yim. Informal presentation

November 29. Kimberly McErlean and Jennifer Glass. Show Me the Money: How children's monetary support is split between mothers and fathers in the contemporary U.S.

Recent presentations

March 1. Michelle Eilers. Gendered Expectations when asked to Perform Oral Sex: Capturing Women's, Men's, and Nonbinary People's Perceptions in a National Survey Experiment. Discussant: Amanda Nagle

February 15. Shannon Cavanagh. Mothering while Sick: Poor Health and Educational Attainment among Young Adults. Discussant: Kristen Burke

February 8. Narae Park. "Is There a Child Penalty in South Korea?" Discussant: Rob Crosnoe


October 26: What are the economic consequences of the rise in maternal breadwinning? by Kim McErlean, Joanna Pepin, and Jennifer Glass.

September 28: Relationship Type and Relationship Satisfaction: Major Differences Across Generations of LGB Individuals. by Gaëlle Meslay. Discussant: Asya Saydam


May 4: Uncertainty about maternal mortality in India: New, higher estimates from the National Family Health Survey, by Diane Coffey. Discussed by Kim McErlean

April 20: Moral Attitudes and Sexual Behavior in the Transition to Adulthood: Is there a Reciprocal Relationship for Young Women? by Michelle Eilers

March 9: Why Are So Many U.S. Mothers Becoming Their Family’s Primary Economic Support presented by Kim McErlean

February 23: "Family Migration Context and Adolescent Family Formation Expectations: Comparative Evidence from Three High-Migration Settings” Sarah Hayford

Members (updated August 2023)

Youngjoon Bae, Postdoc
Kristen Burke, Graduate Student
Shannon Cavanagh, Professor
Hyungmin Cha, Graduate Student
Jordan Conwell, Professor
Robert Crosnoe, Professor
Diane Coffey, Professor
Michael Garcia, Graduate Student
Lauren Gaydosh, Professor
Jennifer Glass, Professor
Jaime Feng-Yuan Hsu, Graduate Student
Kara Joyner, Professor (UTSA)
Kim McErlean, Graduate Student
Isabel McLoughlin Brooks, Graduate Student
Gaëlle Meslay, Postdoc
Amanda Nagle, Graduate Student
Taylor Orth, Postdoc
Narae Park, Postdoc
Kelly Raley, Professor
Iani SAM, Graduate Student
Asya Saydam, Graduate Student
Sarah Song, Graduate Student
Kerry Waldrep, Graduate Student
Abigail Weitzman, Professor
Kathryn Wiley, Graduate Student
Brooke Whitfield, Graduate Student
Carly Young, Graduate Student
Kylie Jaeyun Yim, Graduate Student

Past Participants currently in academic or research positions

Liz Ackert, Assistant Professor of Geography, University of California Santa Barbara.
M. Carolina Aragao, Research Associate, Pew Research Center
Jennifer Augustine, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of South Carolina
Kathleen Broussard, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of South Carolina
Christina Caramanis, Lecturer, University of Texas at Austin
Kimberly Daniels, Associate Service Fellow at National Center for Health Statistics
Rachel Donnelly, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Vanderbilt University
Shih-Yi Chao, Postdoctoral Scholar, University of Southampton
Michelle Eilers, Postdoctoral Scholar, University of Minnesota
Michelle Frisco, Associate Professor of Sociology and Demography, Penn State University
Conrad Hackett, Associate Director, Senior Demographer, Pew Research Center
Carol Johnston, Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Science, East Carolina University
Sarah Kendig, Associate Professor Arkansas State University

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Sarah Kendig, Associate Professor Arkansas State University


October 27 – Abigail Weitzman. informal presentation, "Family Changes and Instability Among the Recent Venezuelan Diaspora."

October 13 - Jordan Conwell formal presentation "Women's Household Income Returns to College Quality: Racial Disparities Across Two Cohorts" student discussant Carolina Aragao.

September 29 – Inbar Weiss (informal presentation) "The Social Determinants of Transnational Marriage: Ethnic Cohesion, Global Economic Inequality, or Gender Norm?"

September 15 – Kim McErlean (informal presentation)

April 7 – "Excess neonatal mortality among private facility births in rural India: a demographic analysis of a nationally representative survey" by Diane Coffey. Discussant: Shannon Cavanagh

March 24 – "Unraveling Mate Selection Processes Through Conjoint Survey Experiments" by Kara Joyner


March 3 – “Transnational marriages: A test of competing explanations” by Inbar Weiss. Discussant: Jeffrey Swindle

February 3 – Responding to an R&R by Diane Coffey

Select Publications


Rachel Donnelly, Debra Umberson, and Tetyana Pudrovska. 2018. “Family Member Death and Subjective Life Expectancy Among Black and White Older Adults.” Journal of Aging & Health


