CALL FOR PAPERS

The Families We (Do Not) Want
Constructing the Past, Present and Future Families through Rituals

Edited by
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Following a Special Session organized in July 2016 at the Third ISA Forum in Vienna, this edited volume aims to bring together important advances in studying family rituals across a range of disciplines including but not limited to sociology, social anthropology, gender, media, tourism and travel studies.

The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life (Durkheim, 1912) paved the way for sociology to explore, conceptualize and understand the power of rituals in our lives. Since then, rituals ceased to be envisaged in the restricted area of religion and the sacred; its study gradually extended to several dimensions of the everyday interaction and social imaginaries. Family rituals constitute no exception. Including the “big” days such as lifecycle events, family traditions and celebrations but also the “small” days arising from daily life, rituals have never been as studied and celebrated nowadays all around the world.

This volume aims to present and discuss, across borders, the place of rituals in constructing contemporary families. Bringing together theoretical contributions and empirical studies on the “special” meaning of some events, days or occasions, this book aims to portray and understand contemporary family rituals in its multiplex dynamics: actors, spaces, times, feelings, symbols, actions and meanings.

The volume will have a strong international focus. Early scholars and established contributors are welcome to propose chapters addressing, among other, the following themes and issues:

- dealing with the “inherited” rituals: obligations and tensions among family members;
- planning the desired rituals: personalization and individualization;
- media representations and cultural imaginary on family rituals;
- the family ritual process: backstage and frontstage;
- family rituals and gender: old and new issues;
- family rituals and generations: other views and roles;
- beyond gold images: the “dark side” of family rituals;
- family rituals, ICTs and (other) mobilities;
- family rituals across borders, time and space;
- …

Abstracts of no more than 300 words (in English) outlining the focus of the proposed chapter and the methodological approach employed should be submitted to Rosalina Costa (rosalina@uevora.pt) no later than 31st October 2016. In addition, the submission should include details of the authors’ name(s), institution and a short (150 word) biographical note. Authors whose abstracts are accepted will be required to submit their full paper for peer-review in early 2017.