

Special Issue

Family and Work: Parental Leave and Careers

Message from the Guest Editors

The intersection between parental leave and career trajectories is a crucial dimension for understanding gendered life courses. In part, self-perpetuating gendered understandings of career trajectories may explain the strongly gendered patterns that persist with regard to parental leave taking: Fathers usually take a much lower proportion of leave than mothers. How decisions around leave taking are made and their consequences vary substantially between mothers and fathers, and also between contexts and across time. Opportunities for taking leave available in the workplace also vary substantially between mothers and fathers, and also between contexts and across time. We aim to broaden and deepen our understanding of the relationship between taking parental leave and careers and occupations, for both mothers and fathers. We therefore welcome empirical contributions with a focus on such aspects as gender equality, the workplace perspective, couple interactions over leave, and career decisions.

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Social Sciences is an international, open access, peer-reviewed journal publishing the latest research across all disciplines of the social sciences, including anthropology, economics, law, linguistics, education, geography, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and other related areas. The journal is especially interested in interdisciplinary research, and aims to encourage creative, innovative, and critical reflections across social science disciplines. The journal welcomes conventional length articles, shorter Research Notes or articles, as well as Special Issue submissions, as long as they meet the journal's standards of quality and originality.

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