

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.

Guest Editors

Prof. Ann-Zofie Duvander

Department of Sociology, Stockholm University, 106 91 Stockholm, Sweden

Prof. Alison Koslowski

School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh, 15a George Square, Edinburgh, Scotland EH8 9LD, UK

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
socsci@mdpi.com

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Editor-in-Chief

Emeritus Prof. Nigel Parton

School of Human and Health Sciences, University of Huddersfield,
Huddersfield HD1 3DH, UK

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