

Special Issue

Parenthood in the Contemporary Foster Care System

Message from the Guest Editor

The aim of this Special Issue is to raise awareness of new perspectives on parenthood within the contemporary foster care system, as well as the methodological and theoretical challenges this entails. At the intersection of private family life and public state intervention, foster care systems across different contexts are marked by increasing diversity in family structures and complex negotiations of roles between biological parents, foster carers, professionals, and kinship networks. Children are at the centre of these dynamics, navigating multiple relationships over time. We particularly welcome studies that explore how shared parenthood is conceptualized and practiced in foster care, how parental responsibilities are negotiated, and how children and young people themselves experience these dynamics. By drawing on diverse theoretical frameworks and innovative methodologies, this Special Issue seeks to advance critical reflection on parenthood in foster care within a broader socio-political context of children's rights and participation, family diversity, social justice, and contemporary policy tendencies favouring out-of-home placements in family settings.

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Social Sciences is an international open access peer-reviewed journal publishing the latest research across all disciplines of the social sciences including anthropology, criminology, economics, education, geography, history, law, linguistics, political science, psychology, social policy, social work, sociology and related areas. The journal is especially interested in interdisciplinary research, and aims to facilitate the interaction and communication between different social scientific disciplines. The journal welcomes conventional length articles as well as shorter Research Notes or short articles, as long as they meet the journal's standards of quality and originality.

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