

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

Prof. Dr. Lieselot De Wilde
Department of Social Work and Social Pedagogy, Universiteit Gent,
9000 Ghent, Belgium

Deadline for manuscript submissions

31 July 2026



Social Sciences

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 1.7
CiteScore 3.1



mdpi.com/si/255589

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

mdpi.com/journal/

[socsci](https://mdpi.com/journal/socsci)





Social Sciences

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 1.7
CiteScore 3.1



[mdpi.com/journal/
socsci](https://mdpi.com/journal/socsci)



About the Journal

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, 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.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Daniel McCarthy

Department of Sociology, University of Surrey, Guildford GU2 7XH, UK

Author Benefits

Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

High visibility:

indexed within Scopus, ESCI (Web of Science), RePEc, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

JCR - Q2 (Social Sciences, Interdisciplinary) / CiteScore - Q2 (General Social Sciences)