

Summary

Families in Barcelona: diversity, dynamics and structures

Cristina López

This article seeks to describe the peculiar evolution of demographic transformations in the city, and their impact on the structure and composition of households.

The closing quarter of the 20th century was marked by substantial demographic and social changes that have had a direct effect on the way households are formed and dissolved and on forms of residence. Falling and delayed fertility and marriage; increasing break up rates; increased longevity and population ageing; and intensifying migratory flows: all this has added enormous diversity to the ways we live together, making the itineraries for building families much more flexible.

As in the entire Latin Mediterranean region, the city of Barcelona has experienced these changes with extraordinary intensity and exceptional speed. Like the large city it is, Barcelona absorbs and expands transformations earlier than the rest of the territory whilst, as the capital of a metropolitan region, it also maintains population flows with the other townships in the region. The effect of such factors can be seen in the singular structure and composition of households in the city where, under the same morphologies, we can find both *old* and *new* forms of co-existence.

Based on data regarding the Natural Movement of the Population and Statistics on Residential Change, the article outlines recent demographic evolution in the city. Moreover, using the 1991 and 2001 population censuses (the only source that permits study of households at municipal level), the author analyses their effect on the distribution of households and the characteristics of the population that reside in them.

Family policy in Europa: trends and challenges

Lluís Flaquer

The article consists of three sections. In the first, the author discusses the concept of family policy and the need for such measures in order to respond to challenges posed by the knowledge so-

ciety with regard to equal opportunities for children. The second part is devoted to examining the varied forms that family policy takes in the European Union, focusing, above all, on the debate on interaction between welfare systems and the different family models. These discussions help to contextualise the situation in Spain, which is described in the third and final part of the article.

The Reorganisation of Time in Everyday Life in Homes with Adolescent Children

Pau Marí-Klose, Carme Gómez-Granel, Cristina Brullet, Sandra Escapa

The article studies uses of time in Catalan households with adolescent children, from the viewpoint of both the adults and the children in them. The authors describe new strategies for organising and managing the different family responsibilities in the context of the great transformations that have affected family models and dynamics in recent years. Particular attention is paid to inter-generational relations between parents and children, and to the quality and quantity that these shared times contribute to the wellbeing of the latter.

The legal status of new family models

Judit Solé

Apart from the traditional model of the family formed by a heterosexual married couple with children directly related to both, a growing number and variety of models for co-existence can now be found in our society, models that also require the attention of legislators. Legal recognition of these new models is intimately linked to advances in respect for people's basic rights to equality and the freedom to realise their personalities as they wish. Spanish law already recognises and regulates some of these new models of the family or co-existence: stable unions between couples, situations of mutual assistance, the "adoption" of elderly persons and homosexual marriage, all of which are provided for under current legislation.

In the necessarily constant adaptation of laws governing the family to social reality, the main challenges for the future at present entail providing greater protection for single-parent families, which are substantially increasing in number, and regulating compound families, an ever-more frequent phenomenon. These are families formed by couples with children not directly related to both, and which have specific characteristics and needs.

Family Protection Policies in Figures. Catalonia, Spain and Europe

Maria Cubel, Cristina de Gispert

This work describes the principal family policies in Spain and the European Union. In it, the authors focus particularly on monetary assistance, family tax status, measures to promote conciliation between family life and work, and children's primary and secondary education. The aim of this study is, firstly, to survey family policies established by central government, sketching out their development over time and referring, when possible, to the spending devoted to each different policy, the number of beneficiaries and the amounts provided. Secondly, the study is complemented by data, broken down by Autonomous Community and compared with European Union Member States. Analysis of this information enables us to assess the situation in Spain and, particularly, in Catalonia, within the context of Europe and Spain.

From Ecuador to Catalonia: how immigrant families manage everyday life

Claudia Pedone

Since 1999, the worsening socio-economic crisis in Ecuador, combined with greater demand for female workers in large Spanish cities, has made women the first link in the migratory chain. The decisive role played by women in the displacement of Ecuadorians to Europe and, more specifically, Spain, has brought about

a reaccommodation in relations between genders and between generations. The resulting higher profile shown by women and children within the domestic group and as decision-making players in the power relations game has enabled study to be focused on the family as a place of conflict and negotiation and to analyse its transformations within a transnational migratory context. The aim of the article is to study: certain transformations that have taken place in relations in Ecuadorian families as a result of the feminisation of migratory flows to Spain and, specifically, to Catalonia; the forms of family regrouping; the organisation of new care networks; and family migratory strategies within new transnational migratory contexts.

New family dynamics and their implications for family support policies

Pau Miret

The aim of this study is to describe the type of households in which people in Catalonia live at present, and to deduce what might have been the family dynamics that shaped them. The article then goes on to suggest certain considerations regarding public policies that appear best suited to protecting these family structures. The technique used to reconstruct the households was based on microdata from the Active Population Survey (Encuesta de Población Activa, EPA) for the second quarter of 2008. The results show a delay in emancipation on the part of young people that is no less extraordinary being known to all. Although an increase is noted in the number of young people living alone or with groups of friends, that path that most take to emancipation continues to be the establishment of a couple and—also for the majority—to have children within this relationship. It is from within this family dynamic that processes strongly emerge that lead to the creation of single-parent families, caused by break-up between the couple. Another phenomenon observed in Catalan households is the presence of very elderly people in their children's homes. We can infer that these must have requested assistance once they could no longer fend for themselves; however, before reaching this point it is observed that the elderly usually

continue to live in their own homes, generally accompanied by their partner or alone. With regard to public policy, all this makes it necessary to increase provisions with regard to emancipation law, in legal frameworks that help to reconcile family and working life (particularly the establishment of crèches) and to apply the law on dependence more widely.

Why family care is needed

Carmina Català

The family has diversified, but there is no doubt that it continues to be a key reference point for people's wellbeing. In the most recent stage in the process, we have gone *from the nuclearisation of the family to the diversification of family groups*. The new family models are the dynamic result of adaptations, options, projects and personal and collective interests. The emergence of new family roles and models generates new family forms and different ways of "being a family".

Families are a source of affection, but also of disaffection. They are a source of support and mutual aid, but also of confrontation and violence. In short, they are a source of both problems and solutions. We can consider preventive family actions to be all those measures that contribute to the independence of family members (according to the age and circumstances of each) and to giving them power in certain areas, that is, preparing them to face new situations as they present themselves at the different stages in the family life cycle. We need to ensure the welfare of the family because, from a strictly preventive point of view, investing in the family helps to prevent family and individual conflicts and dysfunctions.

The 2006-2010 Municipal Programme for Families is a framework and a path for care, support and participation for families. The plan consists of 5 strategic lines, 16 objectives and 52 specific actions, developed transversally in the city of Barcelona.

Family regrouping in the city of Barcelona

Ramon Sanhuja, Gloria Elena Rendón

This article focuses on a subject that has become very important in managing migratory flows: family regrouping, which has now become the main form of entrants by immigrants with residence permits to the city of Barcelona.

Having discussed the importance of family regrouping, the authors then go on to present the experience of Barcelona in this respect.

This discussion begins with a review of the legal framework governing family regrouping and the local instruments provided to deal with it: housing reports, including statistics from 2005 onwards, and profiles of people requesting this report.

Housing reports are a compulsory requirement for anyone wishing to regroup with their family, and is Barcelona City Council's basic tool for establishing the programme to provide guidance for families seeking to regroup. This programme is also described in the article, which concludes with a qualitative review of the regrouping process as seen at local level.

Intra-family violence and gender violence

Margarida Saiz

Violence always supposes the existence of an abusive psychological pattern towards the person attacked. One of its manifestations is gender violence, which goes far beyond violence amongst couples or the family, and can also be seen in the workplace and/or the social or community sphere.

Gender violence is a social phenomenon that knows no borders and that, therefore, requires global treatment on several fronts: the person who suffers the violence (women and children); the person who inflicts it (usually the partner or ex); and the social context in which the violence takes place (beliefs and attitudes, legislation, etc).

That Barcelona City Council has always been highly sensitive towards and committed to combating gender violence is demonstrated by such measures as the establishment in 1983

of the Women's Care Team (Equipo de Atención a las Mujeres, EAM), a pioneering service in Catalonia, and the battered wives home in 1986. Both services are voluntary, and are run from council funds. Finally, we should mention the launch in 2003, in cooperation with Barcelona Health Consortium, of the Barcelona Circuit Against Violence to Women, and on which the public services of all the systems involved (social services, police, justice, education, etc) are represented.

The Municipal Social Welfare Family Council Group 2004-2008

Teresa Montagut

In this article, the author describes her experience of participation on the Municipal Social Welfare Family Council Group, which she coordinated from 2004, when it was first established, to 2008. The study describes the group's progress over this period, its working dynamic, the bodies represented on it and the proposals drawn up by it. All this experience can now provide the basis for monitoring the participatory dynamic generated by the Municipal Social Welfare Family Council.

A network to care for carers

Xabier Ballesteros, Joana Chinchilla

The article presents the experience of the *Xarxa de Grups de Cuidadors* (network of carer groups), a project established to provide support for those who care for people with different degrees of dependence (mostly people with Alzheimer's disease and similar dementias). Most of these carers are family members who, as a result of the physical and emotional overload caused by this work, have lost their networks of support and relations and find themselves in a situation of vulnerability and risk.

The piece describes the circumstances and reasons behind the establishment of a shared, networking project before going on to describe how the network is organised, the methodology used, the types of groups and the practical learning generated.

More specifically, the author relates how the carer support groups are organised and how they operate, following the group intervention methodology. The aim of the groups is to provide participants with the chance to acquire skills enabling them not only to better themselves as carers but also to improve their own physical and emotional wellbeing.

Those that have participated in these groups, which have a duration of approximately one year, then have the chance of joining "*la colla cuidadora*" (the "carer gang"), a group which seeks to respond to carers' need for a permanent place where they can interrelate, think, and exchange experiences and learning.

The *Xarxa de Grups de Cuidadors* is a project jointly run by three services in Barcelona Eixample District, which belong to different areas and institutions: a municipal social services centre, a primary health care unit and a regional office of Càritas.

School culture, education, the family and environment

Ramon Casares

The relations between the school and the family are acted out within the context of a crisis in education linked, to a large extent, to the social changes that have taken place over recent decades of economic and cultural globalisation. The failure of compulsory school education has revealed the educational shortcomings of both school and family, reflected, to a considerable degree, in the absence of "meaning" in educational practices. The new role—at once more autonomous and more dependent—adopted by young people and adolescents, and the weakening of such powerful factors as the broad family or the nation also contribute to this loss of meaning. The environment, in which school, family and young people or adolescents can meet, may help to give meaning to values derived from a renewed idea of social cohesion.

Policies for family time and relations: a path to tread through everyday life

Sara Moreno

The objective of this article is to discuss the implications that policies on time for citizens can have for family relations. These are implications that enable the concept of the family to be extended as it proposes the family's leap into everyday life. Understood as a body of precise time and works for reproduction, everyday life enables the diversity of family relations deriving from socio-demographic dynamics currently found in western societies to be captured. At the same time, it proposes a new form of making policy that is more sensitive to everyday shared issues for any type of family relation. Outstanding amongst all these issues are the needs linked to care, without doubt one of the main challenges to the welfare state in the 21st century.

Inequalities in living conditions amongst social groups in Catalonia

Cristina Sánchez

This article comprises a summary of the results from the research carried out using data from the first wave (2001-2002) of the Social Inequality Panel (Panel de Desigualdades Sociales, PaD) in Catalonia on the social structure of our countries and its key characteristics. The results from this research identify three core groups that define the social structure today: the property-owning middle class, the salaried middle class and the work group. These are social groups that are known historically but which today appear before us with new elements and with different contrasts between each other and between the very groups they are made up of with regard to living conditions.

The results obtained from the PaD show the significance of the changes that occurred over the course of the 20th century, particularly towards the end, amongst social groups. Behaviour patterns amongst them come to resemble each other more and more, and classes lose their peculiar mark, but living conditions between the social groups continue to be different. This fact is what really gives meaning to the existence of classes as such and provides a measure of the importance they have to studies researching into social inequalities, poverty and social exclusion.