

Call for Papers

for a



Special Issue of the

Journal of Family Research ***Zeitschrift für Familienforschung***

on *Families and Health*

Guest editors:

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Families shape health by providing economic, social, and psychological resources (and strains) that protect (or threaten) the health of their members. From the early fetal stage until old age, family constitutes the closest social environment that has a long-term impact on well-being and health. Pre- and perinatal conditions (e.g., diet in pregnancy, breastfeeding) are known to influence subsequent child development and health. Primary socialization in childhood sets the fundamentals of health behavior (e.g., nutrition habits, lifestyle). Marriage and own family formation correlate with better health and longevity, although part of this association may reflect (self-)selection, which is inevitably confounded with causal effects in the large body of cross-sectional studies. The long-term effects of fertility on health can hardly be separated from the impact of typically life-long intergenerational support and exchange, which may become particularly vital in old age.

However, the notion that marriage and family are universally protective for all members, regardless of specific family arrangements and health outcomes, has been challenged recently. Growing family diversity increasingly requires a careful consideration of family complexity including nonmarital and same-sex unions, comparison of biological and social parent-child relations, and post-divorce family arrangements. Furthermore, more recent longitudinal studies have started to consider the temporal dynamics of health effects (e.g., anticipation and delayed impact) as well as cohort differences in the tradition of life course research. Despite recent advances in the availability of high-quality datasets containing a broad range of health indicators, including biomarkers, many questions regarding the interplay of family and health remain unexplored.

We invite scholars to submit their papers to the editors of the JFR Special Issue. Welcome contributions include (but are not limited to) the following topics:

- How and under which conditions do family transitions (e.g., marriage, parenthood, union dissolution) and family processes (e.g., communication and exchange between partners, siblings, and generations) impact diverse health behaviours and outcomes?
- What is the role of health in shaping family transitions and family processes?
- How is gender associated with health in the family context, and are there gendered patterns in the family-health nexus?
- How is health (re-)produced within families, both within and across generations, and how do families cope with illness?
- Do the interrelations between health and family processes vary for different types of families, e.g. families of same-sex couples and step families?
- Theoretical and methodological approaches to studying health-related processes in families

Extended abstracts of 2-3 pages containing information on background, data and analysis, results, and discussion should be sent to Kurt P. Bierschock, the managing editor of the Journal of Family Research | Zeitschrift für Familienforschung (redaktion-zff@ifb.uni-bamberg.de) by Dec 15, 2017. Authors of the selected papers will be informed by the end of January, 2018.

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Preliminary time schedule:

- Deadline for submitting extended abstract (2-3 pages): December 15th, 2017
- Feedback to authors by end of January 2018
- Deadline for submitting the full papers (up to 46,800 characters, 30 pages): by end of October 2018
- Decision on the contributions: mid-December 2018
- Revisions to be received by: March 2019
- This special issue to be published in September 2019