Due to important socio-demographic changes of the last decades, intergenerational family relations are a highly important topic in the public discourse and in research. These changes refer to phenomena at different stages in the family life cycle – such as, for instance, the younger generations’ postponed transitions to adulthood including longer training times and longer financial dependencies from parents, as well as growing life expectancies and the related issues of elder care. In light of increasing migration and mobility in Europe, these issues become highly important also with regard to acculturation. However, research so far has only seldom taken a larger perspective on these issues by combining views on different stages in the life span and in the context of migration.

The present symposium aims therefore to shed light on intergenerational family relations and migration at different stages in the family life cycle.

Starting with the relations between adolescents and their parents, the first contribution by Colette Sabatier and Virginie Avezou-Boutry (France) concentrates on the dual process of enculturation (ethnic and French) of Moroccan second-generation adolescents living in France. Three different identity patterns of adolescents are described both with regard to transmission and maintenance of the culture of origin in migrant families, as well as host national enculturation. Adolescents’ identity patterns do not only differ with respect to diverse criteria of acculturation and mother’s identity, but also with respect to the family climate and levels of mother-child conflicts.

The second paper by Susana Coimbra and colleagues (Portugal) focusses on the next stage in intergenerational relations, namely between emerging adults and their parents. Several factors that may enhance functional solidarity in families are explored, showing that the most important predictor of intergenerational solidarity is relationship satisfaction. Furthermore, results provide additional support for the assumption that solidarity patterns may – under certain conditions - be transmitted from one generation to the next within families.

Third, Isabelle Albert and colleagues (Luxembourg) move one step further in the family life cycle, by concentrating on two key issues in the relations between adult children and their ageing parents: the balancing of autonomy and relatedness as well as the regulation of support exchange and reciprocity, in Portuguese migrant and native families in Luxembourg. Continuing the lines of reasoning of the two preceding contributions, this study focuses on similarities and differences in identity constructions of adult children and their parents as well as on aspects of intergenerational support exchange as perceived by both groups.

To conclude, Jaan Valsiner and colleagues (Denmark) draw a more general view on the regulation of relations in family networks, considering different generations as well as the geographical distribution of wider family networks. The contribution focuses peripheral communication patterns (PCP) and their roles in constituting developmental contexts over the life course and as a source of family members’ well-being.
Contributions

Parenting in a bicultural context is a multilevel complex task. A study of Moroccan second-generation early adolescents and their mothers living in France

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Most of the times, parents have immigrated to improve their quality of life and the quality of life of their children. Consequently, they expect that their children both maintain cultural and emotional links with their family culture and adapt to the host society at least for an economical purpose. However, this dual transmission is very seldom under study, researchers do focus predominantly on own culture transmission and maintenance. Very few studies have examined the other fold of socialization, the host national enculturation. Transmission of culture and enculturation for the adaptation to a society where we live is a multidimensional process that implies overt and covert, direct and indirect procedures. Parents may want to influence their children with deliberate messages or expect that children adopt their own views and identity. Socialization and enculturation occur through several means such as modeling through behaviors and customs at home, deliberate behavior teaching, transmission of values and attitudes, open discussion with adolescents about cultural and racial topics, parental expectation for acculturation, moderated or mediated by the family climate. Drawing upon literature on values transmission, one may hypothesize that due to the different levels of saliency of ethnic and national identities for families, implicit procedures are more effective for own-culture transmission whereas deliberate messages are more effective for the adaptation to the host culture.

In this presentation we will examine with two groups of Moroccan young adolescents (12 yo), 74 second-generation and 22 third-generation the role dual process of enculturation (ethnic and French) on adolescents cultural identity and of school adaptation. Measures include direct and indirect dimensions: cultural behavior (language, friends, and usage of media), deliberate cultural teaching, maternal goal for adolescent’s acculturation, and mother’s identity. They also include measures of individualist values and family climate, as these two dimensions offer the context in which the socialization process may occur.

With regards to identity, regression and ANOVA indicate that mothers transmit both French and Moroccan identity with different patterns according to the generation. The family climate appears a crucial element of this socialization process. As a result, adolescents differ in their identity: cluster analysis has identified three main patterns, bicultural (64%), Moroccan only (20%), and marginal (16%). In the bicultural group, mothers compared to the two other groups, endorse a high level of Moroccan and French identity, they teach both Moroccan and French culture and expect their children to adopt attitudes of integration. In the marginal group, mothers have a low level of Moroccan identity but also have fewer conversations with their children and have few Moroccan and French practices of pragmatic enculturation. While in the Moroccan only group, mothers and adolescents have a higher level of conflict. Mothers are embedded mainly in the Moroccan culture with few contacts with the French society.

With regards to school adaptation, the deliberate cultural teaching towards French culture, and individualist values are the main predictors. These dimensions sustain adolescent’s French identity, which in turns sustains the school adaptation.
Intergenerational solidarity, relationship satisfaction, values and altruism in emerging adults-parents dyads

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Demographic and social changes observed over the last decades in western societies have increased the interest in the study of intergenerational solidarity. On the one hand, increasing longevity enlarges public spending on pensions and health care, and makes more likely the dependency among the elderly. On the other hand, young people tend to prolong their training in order to compete in a demanding labor market, postponing their transition to adulthood and/or acquisition of autonomy from their parents. These changes may increase either competition or solidarity between generations. Relationship satisfaction, values (familism and individualism), and altruistic dispositions are important predictors of functional solidarity. These predictors are likely to be transmitted across generations through parents and children reciprocal interactions. This study aims i) to identify the contribution of those variables to functional intergenerational solidarity in two generations of the same family, and ii) to explore the intergenerational transmission of solidarity patterns. Functional solidarity is captured by the support provided by the sandwich generation, middle-aged adults, to their elderly parents and their emerging adults' children, and by the support currently provided and anticipated by emerging adults to their parents and grandparents. This study explores the dyadic effects among these variables using actor-partner interdependence models.

Data was gathered among 80 dyads of emerging adults ($M = 19; SD = 1.35$) and one of their parents ($M = 48; SD = 5.3$) regarding functional solidarity, relationship satisfaction, altruism, values, and sociodemographic variables. Results confirm that members of the sandwich generation (especially women) are the main caretakers of the family, and that they tend to provide more support to their offspring than to their parents. Relationship satisfaction seems to be the most important predictor of intergenerational solidarity in both generations (emerging adults and their parents). Overall, results suggest interdependence between parents and children and support the hypothesis of an intergenerational transmission of solidarity patterns. The implications of the findings will be discussed with reference to prior studies and for future research.

Regulation of intergenerational family relations between adult children and their ageing parents in the context of migration

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In the next years, many western societies will be confronted with specific challenges regarding ageing migrants, since an unprecedented number of first generation immigrants are approaching retirement age. Until now, only few studies have concentrated on the regulation of intergenerational family relations of older migrants and their adult children, although migrant families at this stage of the life span might be confronted with very special tasks. In general, the acculturation situation may result in an increased need for intergenerational support due to a smaller social network or fewer sociocultural resources in the host country. Depending on the time spent in the host country, an acculturation gap between the first and the second generation might appear leading to different expectations regarding intergenerational solidarity or to ambivalences, which can affect well-being of family members.

The present study will concentrate on two key issues regarding the regulation of adult family relations, first the balancing of autonomy and closeness - a major developmental task in adolescence and emerging adulthood that remains important over the whole life span -, and second the regulation of support exchange and reciprocity that might gain special importance between adult children and their ageing parents. The study reported here is based on a pilot
study with $n = 31$ Luxembourgish and $n = 20$ Portuguese immigrant mother-daughter-dyads in adolescence and young adulthood. Here we found an acculturation gap between Portuguese mothers and daughters regarding felt obligations toward family members that had a particularly high salience for Portuguese mothers. Further, differences between Luxembourgish and Portuguese families were found in patterns of social support (see Albert, Michels, & Ferring, 2013).

The present study will implement a cross-cultural comparison of altogether $N = 120$ Portuguese and Luxembourgish triads of older parents and their adult children, both living in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg. The study addresses three specific research questions: Firstly, we will examine similarities and differences in family values and internalized norms of older parents and their adult children that may indicate a generational gap. Secondly, we will examine how intergenerational relations are regulated with respect to mutual expectations in migrant compared to non-migrant families and if this indicates an acculturation gap. Finally, we will explore how these aspects are related to relationship quality and subjective well-being (SWB) of all involved family members.

Results will be discussed in the framework of an integrative model of intergenerational family relations in the light of migration and ageing that might serve as a heuristic to explain similarities and differences between and within cultural groups in adult child-parent relations.

Regulating family networks: Centrality of peripheral communication

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Families are social units that expand in time (across generations) and space (as geographically distributed sub-structures of wider kinship networks). Understanding of intergenerational family relations thus requires conceptualization of communication processes that take place within a small collective of persons linked with one another by a flexible social network. Within such networks, peripheral communication patterns (PCP) set the stage for direct everyday life activities within the family context. PCP are conditions where one family network member (A) communicates manifestly with another member (B) with the aim of bringing the communicative message to the third member (C) who is present but is not explicitly designated as the manifest addressee of the intended message. Inclusion of physically non-present members of the family network (elders living elsewhere, deceased relatives, ancestors’ spirits, etc) in efforts that use PCP creates a highly redundant social context for human development over life course which is the basis for family members’ resilience during critical life events. Examples from the social contexts of USA, Greenland, Denmark, Italy and India will be analyzed to arrive at a general model of the role of Functional Kinship Networks as support systems for human living.