# Sociology of Family and Childhood

## Prof. Donatella Bramanti

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The aim of the course is to provide students with knowledge of family and childhood, beginning with the sociological perspective so as to develop in students an adequate sensitivity towards the challenges that families and children face today in promoting and navigating socio-educational practice.

Specifically, the aims of the course are:

– help students master the use of sociological perspectives to read the deep transformations that have affected family and childhood conditions in the last decades;

– offer a direct access to sociological knowledge through the reading of some short essays written by Italian and world-renowned sociologists;

– confront with the empirical evidence of research conducted on the subject of family and childhood in order to have a clear vision of the relevance of some social phenomena.

At the end of the course, students will:

– be familiar with the main transformations that have affected the family and children starting from the 1970s;

– learn to read and understand short sociology essays on the topics addressed;

– be able to observe family relations guiding socio-educational practice;

– get an understanding of some crucial challenges affecting younger generations.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The theoretical approach within which reflection develops is that of relational sociology, according to which society and, especially, the family are a network of significant relationships.

MODULE ON THE FAMILY

1. For a family definition: new forms and family relationships
2. Socialisation processes and transmission of values in the family
3. Family generations and intergenerational solidarity
4. Family transitions (from the constitution of the couple to the empty nest)
5. Social capital, networks, associative bonds and the role of families

MODULE ON CHILDHOOD

1. Sociological theories of childhood
2. Children's cultures
3. Conflict and peer relationship
4. Pre-adolescence and peer culture
5. New generations and new media

***READING LIST***

Introductory textbooks

G. Rossi - D. Bramanti (edited by), *La famiglia come intreccio di relazioni: la prospettiva sociologica,* Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2012.

D. Bramanti, M.L. Bosoni (edited by), *Famiglie, infanzia e servizi educativi: partecipazione, reti e alleanze,* Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 2021.

L. Boccacin – R. Prandini – P. Terenzi (edited by), *Lessico della sociologia relazionale,* Società Editrice il Mulino, Bologna, 2016, only, the following sections: *Dono, Famiglia: genoma familiare, Generatività, Generazione, Reciprocità, Refero, Relazione di coppia, Religo, Reti informali, Rischio sociale, Scambio simbolico, Schema AGIL, Socializzazione, Solidarietà, Transizioni familiari.*

Classics of sociology of the family/childhood (one at students’ choice):

P.L. Berger-H. Kellner, *Il matrimonio e la costruzione della realtà,* Armando ed., Rome (or. ed. 1964).

L. Boccacin, *Verso una definizione sociologica* della *povertà educativa,* in D. Bramanti, E. Carra’ (eds.), *Famiglia e povertà relazionale. Multidimensionalità del fenomeno e buone pratiche innovative,* Vita e Pensiero, Milano 2021

W.A. Corsaro. *Sociologia dell’infanzia,* Franco Angeli, Milano, 2020, chs. 1,2,4,5,7,8.

I. Crespi-M.L.Zanier, *Migrazioni, processi educativi e percorsi di cittadinanza,* Mimesis, 2020

P. DiNicola, C. Lonardi, D. Viviani, *Forzare la mano*. *Natura e cultura nella società medicalmente assistita*, FrancoAngeli, Milano, 2019.

P. Donati, *La famiglia,* Rubbettino, 2013.

P. Donati, *Generare un figlio. Cosa rende umana la generazione?,* Cantagallo, Siena 2017.

E. Durkheim, *Il divorzio consensuale,* Armando ed., Rome, (or. ed. 1906).

E. Goffman, *Il rapporto tra i sessi,* Armando ed., Rome, 1977 (original edition) (only the first essay).

T. Parsons, *Il sistema della parentela negli Stati Uniti contemporanei,* Armando Editore, Rome, 2012.

C. Saraceno, *Coppie e famiglie,* Feltrinelli, ed. Milan, 2012.

M. Weber, *La donna e la cultura,* Armando ed. Roma, 2018.

E. D. Widmer-G. Aeby-I. De Carlo, *Le ricomposizioni familiari in una prospettiva configurativa*, in

R. Farné (eds.), *Sport e infanzia. Un'esperienza formativa tra gioco e impegno,* «Sociologia e Politiche Sociali», FrancoAngeli, Milano, 2018

C. Satta, *Bambini e adulti: la nuova sociologia dell’infanzia,* Carocci ed., Roma, 2012 in particular: Introduzione e capp 4 e 5

Supplementary study book (one at students’ choice):

AA.VV. , (2020), *La famiglia sospesa*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano, e-book

D. Bramanti (edited by), *Le comunità di famiglie. Cohousing e nuove forme di vita familiare,* Franco Angeli, Milan, 2009.

D. Bramanti (edited by) (2022), *Vivere la transizione alla fragilità, tra resilienza e rassegnazione,* Educatt. Milano, downloadable at Open Access al link : [https://store.streetlib.com/vivere-la-transizione-alla-fragilita-tra-resilienza-e-rassegnazione-per-una-nuova-comunita-amica-degli-anziani-620203/](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fstore.streetlib.com%2Fvivere-la-transizione-alla-fragilita-tra-resilienza-e-rassegnazione-per-una-nuova-comunita-amica-degli-anziani-620203%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdonatella.bramanti%40unicatt.it%7C6e38d80a1161478f8dea08da3ca6db8a%7Cb94f7d7481ff44a9b5886682acc85779%7C0%7C0%7C637888984583665394%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fAY3OGJR8bOkMRTmmy%2BIdCPQis7eePhSiD7H59Q%2FQsY%3D&reserved=0)

D. Bramanti, E. Carra’ (eds.), *Famiglia e povertà relazionale. Multidimensionalità del fenomeno e buone pratiche innovative*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano 2021

E. Canzi, *Omogenitorialità, filiazione e dintorni,* Quaderni del Centro Famiglia 29, Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2017

R. Carriero, L. Todesco, *Indaffarate e soddisfatte,* Carocci ed. Rome, 2016

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course includes lectures alternated with group and individual guided practical work tutorials (case discussions, structured tutorials, etc.) to be carried out in class or remotely (through the *Blackboard* platform).

Lectures are structured into theoretical sessions to provide an in-depth analysis of the texts indicated, and practical exercises to encourage active learning.

During classes the lecturer will use summary tables and explanatory transparencies as teaching support to students’ understanding of the topics covered. This material will be available online on the Blackboard platform, on the Università Cattolica website.

Online activities are also highly recommended for students who do not attend lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam consists of an interview on the topics covered during the course.

At the end of each topic session, students will be regularly tested through 5 online tests on the Blackboard platform aimed at assessing their acquired skills. The test results will be included in the final score during the exam.

Among the assessment criteria considered: students’ ability to use concepts and adequate interpretive categories for a sociological analysis of family transformations; ability to read and interpret secondary data concerning marriage, natality, ageing of population, risk indicators for childhood; a personal and critical approach to the course topics.

The elements for assessing students’ skills are: knowledge of the topics presented during the course (from 1 to 15 points), clarity of presentation (1-5), argumentative relevance (1-5), critical ability (1-5). The use of examples that show interest in their study or work context is particularly appreciated.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students unable to attend the course are invited to contact the lecturer at the beginning of the course to agree on the most effective study method and use of the platform for the on-line tutorials.

A basic background knowledge of sociology of education/sociology and research in educational services is required to be able to master some key concepts of sociology.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.