CPFR

Contemporary Perspectives in Family Research

CALL FOR PAPERS

Flexible Work and the Family

Flexible work, such as telework or flexi-time, has been argued to facilitate a better integration of work and family responsibilities, and to provide protections from career penalties to care work (e.g. care for children or parents). Within the EU and many other countries, national strategies with the aim to facilitate a better work-family balance increase the pressures upon work organizations to offer work arrangements which are more family-friendly. The spread of digital technologies further facilitate the flexible execution of work tasks, not only in traditional work organizations, but also in the emerging fields of the platform economy. Most recently, the global COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an increased use of flexible work (at home) in order to reduce the spread of the virus. Thus, experiences with flexible work have transpired for more workers and employers than ever before.

Existing research evidence on the implications of flexible work for the work-family interface is mixed, indicating that flexible work can be a resource for better work-family balance. However, it can also involve flexibility stigmas, due to presence cultures in workplaces or can involve high work demands due to flexibility interests of employers. Existing research further indicates that flexible work may actually reinforce gender inequalities in the labor market and/or the division of labor in couples. With this special issue on "Flexible Work and the Family", we would like to provide wide-ranging insights on current developments in the study of flexible work. We welcome submissions which contribute to the understanding of when flexible work encourages and when it disrupts work-family conflicts, career penalties to care work, along with the gendered division of labor. We also encourage researchers to consider occupational, gender and age specific patterns of the use and implications of flexible work, experiences with flexible work in the pandemic as well as new forms of flexible work facilitated by digital technologies such as platform work.

Submission guidelines. Manuscripts should be limited to 40 double-spaced pages (not including tables, figures, and references), adhere to APA format, and submitted as MS WORD documents. Include an abstract of 150-200 words at the beginning of the manuscript. Anja-Kristin Abendroth and Laura Lükemann will serve as coeditors for the upcoming volume. Please submit manuscripts directly to the editors (anja.abendroth@uni-bielefeld.de and laura.luekemann@uni-bielefeld.de). All manuscript submissions should be original work. Manuscript submission to this call for papers implies a commitment to publishing with CPFR. All manuscripts will undergo peer review.

The deadline for initial submissions has been extended to March 1, 2022.
Direct all questions to the editors: anja.abendroth@uni-bielefeld.de and laura.luekemann@uni-bielefeld.de.