

# MULTI-LOCALITY AND WORK-LIFE RECONCILIATION

2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR MULTI-LOCALITY STUDIES

24./25. May 2018 // INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY/CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES/PRAQUE

AKADEMICKÉ KONFERENCEČNÍ CENTRUM/HUSOVA 352/110 00 PRAHA 1-STARÉ MĚSTO

## 1 | Program

Thursday / 24 May	
13:00-13:30	<b>Registration/Welcome Refreshments</b>
13:30-13:45	<b>Welcome Address</b> LENKA FORMÁNKOVÁ/TINO SCHLINZIG
13:45-14:30	<b>Key Note: Multilocality as indicator of an all-at-once-society?</b> CÉDRIC DUCHÊNE-LACROIX
14:30-14:45	Coffee Break
Session 1: 21st Century Labour Markets and Multi-local Living Arrangements	
14:45-15:00	JOSEF BERNARD <b>Structure and dynamics of work-related multi-locality in Czechia</b>
15:00-15:15	HEIKO RÜGER <b>Weekend commuting of employees in Germany between 1991 and 2012</b>
15:15-15:30	LENA GREINKE <b>TempALand - Temporary attendances and absences of multilocal living workers in rural areas. Companies and their crucial influences on rural development</b>
15:30-15:45	LISA STADTLER <b>Work-related Multilocality: Analysing the Role of Employers</b>
15:45-16:15	Discussion
16:15-16:30	Coffee Break
Round Table: Employment Mobility and Care at a Distance: Impact on Intimate and Family Life	
16:30-16:40	LENKA FORMÁNKOVÁ <b>I have barely seen my parents, when I was small ... reflections on multi-local care arrangements by children of third country migrants living and working in the Czech Republic</b>
16:40-16:50	MARCO ALBERIO <b>Work-care balance in a multi locality perspective. The case of Québec, Canada</b>
16:50-17:00	PETRA EZZEDDINE/HANA HAVELKOVÁ <b>Transnational Care vs Territorialisation of Social Rights</b>
17:00-17:10	MILA MAEVA <b>Multilocal living in Bulgaria (on Russian and Turkish Cases)</b>
17:10-17:40	Moderated Roundtable Discussion
20:30	Social Dinner (optional, arranged by organizer and at everyone's own expense)

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**Friday / 25 May**

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09:30-10:00 Morning Refreshment

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**Session 3: Multi-Locality and Work-Life-Reconciliation: Conceptual and Methodological Considerations**

10:00-10:15 SARAH MURRU/LAURA MERLA  
**Studying children in shared physical custody in Turin, Italy: methodological considerations for the study of multi-local residency.**

10:15-10:30 MATTEO COLLEONI/FEDERICO LA BRUNA/CAMILLA LOCATELLI/MATTEO TONOLI/CHIARA VITRANO  
**Socially Expected Durations and Strategies on the Move: A Socio-Temporal Approach to Multilocality**

10:30-10:45 CÉDRIC DUCHÊNE-LACROIX  
**Between unities and discontinuities: Remarks about the concepts of household, doing family, and the rationale of being multi-local**

10:45-11:00 TINO SCHLINZIG  
**Between convergence, rejection and self-assertion: normalization strategies of multi-local post-separation families and the role model of the "normal family"**

11:00-11:30 Discussion

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11:30-11:45 Coffee Break

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11:45-12:45 **Planning session: The Network, Publications and Joint Research**

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12:45-14:00 Lunch (optional, arranged by organizer and at everyone's own expense)

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## 2 | Abstracts

// Thursday / 24 May

### Session 1: 21st Century Labour Markets and Multi-local Living Arrangements

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JOSEF BERNARD // INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY OF THE CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, CZECH REPUBLIC / JOSEF.BERNARD@SOC.CAS.CZ

#### **Structure and dynamics of work-related multi-locality in Czechia**

The paper deals with non-daily work-related commuting, which in the context of the Czech Republic is the dominant form of work-related multi-locality. I conceptualize non-daily commuting as a specific economic strategy affected by the spatial mismatch between job opportunities and job-related expectations of different social groups. Non-daily commuting results from the intersections of spatial and social inequalities, at the same time being heavily gendered and life-cycle dependent.

The fundamental structural and spatial changes of the labor market that the Czech Republic has undergone over the past three decades have also been manifested by an increase in work-related multilocality. While the dynamics of various forms of social inequalities were a frequent objective of analysis in this period, the diversity of economic strategies was less profoundly analyzed, and the strategies associated with unusual forms of space use, such as non-daily commuting, were explored only sporadically (e.g. Temelová et al. 2011; Bernard et al., 2016). This is at least partially so due to a very limited amount of empirical data on how individuals utilize space. In this paper, using anonymized microdata from three consecutive censuses (1991, 2001, 2011), I analyze the extent and dynamics of non-daily commuting strategy during the Czech transformation and the spatial and social structural changes that have taken place.

HEIKO RÜGER // FEDERAL INSTITUTE FOR POPULATION RESEARCH, GERMANY / HEIKO.RUEGER@BIB.BUND.DE

#### **Weekend commuting of employees in Germany between 1991 and 2012**

Many employees must cope with long distances between their workplaces and residences. While some employees manage these distances via daily commuting, if distances are very large, employees may be required to relocate permanently (sometimes with their families) or to establish second homes closer to their workplaces. A typical form of the latter multi-local living arrangements is for the employee to live in their second home during the week and return to their primary (family) home for the weekend (weekend commute). Using data from the German Microcensus 1991-2012, this paper first examines changes over time in rates of weekend commuting among employees in Germany. Second, it explores socio-demographic characteristics related to weekend commuting and whether gender differences exist. Results show continuously increasing rates of weekend commuting, rising from 0.34% in 1991 to 1.02% in 2008. Weekend commuting has thus approximately tripled over the past 20 years, with a total of 339,000 weekend commuters in 2008. The number of impacted individuals doubles if weekend commuters' partners and children are also considered. In contrast to the long-term trend, in 2012, reported rates of weekend commuting declined. We discuss how this drop may reflect a methodological bias rather than true decreases in weekend commuting. We observed gender differences in the factors contributing to weekend commuting, most notably the impacts of family living arrangements and occupational status. Compared to previous investigations of weekend commuting, the large sample size of the current analyses permitted identification of more nuanced relations among gender, age, geographic region, and other factors influencing weekend commuting choices.

LENA GREINKE // INSITUT FÜR UMWELTPLANUNG HANNOVER, GERMANY / GREINKE@UMWELT.UNI-HANNOVER.DE

#### **TempALand - Temporary attendances and absences of multilocal living workers in rural areas. Companies and their crucial influences on rural development**

The existing focus in research on multi-locality is mainly on large cities or urban regions – but also in rural areas the phenomenon of temporary attendances and absences can take place and cause several challenges. This is the reason why the research project “TempALand” focuses on multi-locality and its influence on housing markets, social and technical infrastructures, the field of municipal finances, civic engagement as well as land use and governance in a case study in the rural district Diepholz in Lower Saxony in Germany. Main questions are:

- › Which effect does multi-locality has on companies, local and regional authorities, the individuals itself, their social relations as well as spatial structures and developments?
- › What can planning, companies and local authorities do to prevent or solve spatial challenges because of the life on different places?

LISA STADTLER // FORSCHUNGSGRUPPE "METROPOLE UND REGION", ILS DORTMUND, GERMANY / LISA.STADTLER@ILS-FORSCHUNG.DE

### **Work-related Multi-locality: Analysing the Role of Employers**

In western industrial countries work-related mobility is increasing in the context of deregulated and flexible labour markets, which cause short-term contracts and an increasing turnover of labour (Schneider/Meil 2008; Williams et al. 2013). The number of work-related moves is growing and more and more people work at long distance from their residence and commute outside their city, region or even their country (Huber/Nowotny 2011; Ehreke/Axhausen 2015). Simultaneously, several households establish two or more residences and live multilocal (Weichhart 2015). The increasing work-related mobility and multilocality is affecting diverse sectors and professions, especially highly-specialized workers in knowledge-intensive sectors (Bauder 2012; Nadler 2014; Plöger 2016). In spatial terms, particularly bigger cities with numerous job opportunities and connectivity in long-distance transport systems have a higher occurrence of multilocal households, which can shape the cities' housing markets, infrastructures and social cohesion (Dittrich-Wesbuer/Plöger 2013; Wood et al. 2015; ARL 2016).

A large number of research deals with the employees' perspective on work-related multilocality. Especially mobility studies, sociology and urban studies focus amongst other things on employees' motivations for multilocal-living (e.g. Reuschke 2010), residential location decisions (e.g. Dittrich-Wesbuer/Osterhage 2014; Toppel et al. 2017) as well as effects on neighbourhoods, cities and regions (e.g. Reuschke 2011; Plöger 2016; Dittrich-Wesbuer 2016). Although there is increasing knowledge about employees' perspectives, the role of employers remains unclear. This paper focusses on knowledge-intensive sectors in bigger German cities and deals with the employers' influence on their workers' mobility, multilocality and place-attachment. The paper will provide an overview of the state of research in the field of work-related multilocality and points out the importance of further research about the employers' influence on this phenomenon. Furthermore, it derives an empirical research plan which serves as basis for discussion.

### **Session 2: Employment Mobility and Care at a Distance: Impact on Intimate and Family Life**

LENKA FORMÁNKOVÁ // INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY OF THE CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, CZECH REPUBLIC / LENKA.FORMANKOVA@SOC.CAS.CZ

#### **I have barely seen my parents, when I was small...reflections on multi-local care arrangements by children of third country migrants living and working in the Czech Republic**

Migration is typical for successive back-and-forth movements entailing circular patterns of migration and stressing the fluidity of multi-local configurations (Elmhirst, 2012). In research on migrant families, a growing number of researchers conceptualize migrants and their kin as transnational families. These families practice caregiving across long distances and national borders, leading to redefinition of practices of caregivers (Yeates, 2005). Care provision in transnational families has been discussed in the theory of global care chains (Hochschild, 2000). Bal-dassar & Merla (2014) argue that the care is not a chain in which family members are either caregivers or care receivers, but give and receive care at the same time, participating in various circuits of care. The analysis is based on 16 narrative interviews and 4 focus groups with young migrants who grew up in transnational and multi-local family arrangements. The focus is on the care provision during their preschool and early school age. By interviewing the 2nd (1.5) generation I gain insight in multi-locality and the care arrangements of migrant families reflected on from the children's perspective. In the presentation, I aim to identify the multi-local caregiving strategies adopted by migrant families from the biggest migrant communities - those of Vietnamese and Ukrainian origin.

MARCO ALBERIO // UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC À RIMOUSKI, CANADA / MARCO\_ALBERIO@UQAR.CA

#### **Work-care balance in a multi locality perspective. The case of Québec, Canada**

We studied carers in the working population who provide aid to their elderly parents. Our reference area is the Lower Saint Lawrence region with a population of 199,977 people in an area of 22,234 square km. In some parts of this region, population density barely reaches 22 people per km<sup>2</sup>. These spatial characteristics affect work-care reconciliation, and have specific impacts on the carer's work-care-life reconciliation, in particular since their (urban) residential situation often contrasts with the rural settings where their parents often live.

For this reason they often drive quite long distances to take care of their parents. Moving from a qualitative perspective, we focus on the daily life experiences of these workers trying to reconcile work, care and family responsibilities, often in a multi-local perspective: the place where they live, the place where they work and where they provide care (Schier et al. 2015). These multi local activities may structure the experience of work-family-care balance. The multiplication of places can clearly become a challenge for the balance of these three spheres. However, in some cases this situation could also allow a specific relationship to care, putting forward some other strategies in order to provide care, such as for instance: a better use of the services available (both at the work place, at the residence and where the older person lives), of social relations and technology.

ETRA EZZEDDINE/HANA HAVELKOVÁ // CHARLES UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC / PETRA.EZZEDDINE@FHS.CUNI.CZ/HANA.HAVELKOVA@VOLNY.CZ

### **Transnational care vs Territorialisation of Social Rights**

The paper is based on the analyze of migration policies (the migration apparatus) and biographical interviews with women with refugee experience from the former Yugoslavia, aged 50+, who have already been living in the Czech Republic for more than twenty years. The research covers a long time period of life in migration, which has allowed us to show that the refugee experience of women is not linear but cyclical, gaining new significances at various stages of women's lives, in various social contexts and transnational environments. We will focus on ageing and entrance into retirement age, when the women find themselves under a double pressure: they are trying to safeguard their own position at workplace and at the same time to meet the normative gender commitments (traditionally expected from women in country of the origin) regarding transnational care of seniors. We will argue here, that national social policies do not reckon with the mobility of citizens and their transnational lives (including care practices) and social rights. What we see here, instead, is the territorialisation of social rights, which puts women with refugee experience in a vulnerable social situation "here" and „there“.

MILA MAEVA // IEFSEM-BAS, BULGARIA / MILA\_MAEVA@YAHOO.CO.UK

### **Multilocal living in Bulgaria (on Russian and Turkish Cases)**

The study is based on a round of ethnographic fieldworks among representatives of two ethnic and religious groups in Bulgaria. The first one includes political emigrants leaving the country and living in Turkey as a result of totalitarian polics towards Turkish minority. The second group are leisure immigrants from Russia settled in Bulgaria in the last 20 years. The research is conducted in a wide range of time from 2010 until 2018. The aim of the paper is to analyze the reasons for house (flat) maintaince in Bulgaria searching the ethnic, religious or social peculiarities among representatives of the studied communities. The acquisition of new or reconstruction of the old home will be presented according the migrant`s behavior strongly related to the transnational live and relations to the new and home country.

**Session 3: Multi-Locality and Work-Life-Reconciliation: Conceptual and Methodological Considerations**

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SARAH MURRU/LAURA MERLA / INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CENTER ON FAMILIES AND SEXUALITIES // UNIVERSITY OF LOUVAIN, BELGIUM / SARAH.MURRU@UCLouvain.be

**Studying children in shared physical custody in Turin, Italy: methodological considerations for the study of multi-local residency.**

This paper explores the methods employed to study the experience of children living in shared physical custody arrangements in Turin, Italy. It is part of the ERC Starting Grant research project, supervised by Prof. Laura Merla, MobileKids: Children in Multi-Local, Post-Separation Families, which seeks to understand the lived experiences of children who grow up in separated or divorced families practicing shared physical custody arrangements in Belgium, France and Italy.

Considering children as active social actors that can, to various extents, exercise agency and influence on their own lives as well as on the lives of the people surrounding them, we ask how children are active in developing family practices inside this mobility and look at the process of moving from one house to the other every week. For this purpose, we will present 3 methods that we mobilize to help the children make sense of their multi-local residency: the Social Spatial Network Game (Schier, 2017), the use of photos, and fictional cases about specific key moments in this context.

MATTEO COLLEONI/FEDERICO LA BRUNA/CAMILLA LOCATELLI/MATTEO TONOLI/CHIARA VITRANO // UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA, ITALY / MATTEO.COLLEONI@UNIMIB.IT

**Socially Expected Durations and Strategies on the Move: A Socio-Temporal Approach to Multilocality**

In a well-known essay published in 1984, Merton puts forward the category of Socially Expected Durations (SED) as an interpretative key of the level of social participation and of the interpersonal relationships intensity of individuals in their places of residence. The concept of SED seems to be extremely useful to investigate the identity and the interactions of multilocal individuals. Since the multilocal life is characterized by multiple and, in some cases, temporally limited belongings, our research explores whether restricted SED bring multilocal people to a lower socio-territorial rooting or if SED are re-elaborated by the actors during the stay in a new context. In particular, this research explores how multilocal university and PhD students, studying or working abroad, adopt personalized residential, relational, and work strategies and perceive their socio-territorial identity in a situation characterized by limited SED. This question has been investigated through a series of face-to-face semi-structured interviews to 30 multilocal subjects aiming at shedding light on relations and feelings of belonging.

CÉDRIC DUCHÊNE-LACROIX // UNIVERSITY OF BASEL, SWITZERLAND / C.DUCHENE@UNIBAS.CH

**Between unities and discontinuities: Remarks about the concepts of household, doing family, and the rationale of being multi-local**

Multilocal living is not just a set of practices. This is also a new way to understand and think of society. In this sense multilocal living studies are related with epistemological cultural, spatial etc. turns (Antoine, 2002; Döring and Thielmann, 2008) and the contemporary “rethinking” or “reloading of” concepts (e.g. Kaufmann’s books “Rethink the city” 2011 or “rethinking mobility” 2002). Through multi-locality “glasses” once can see the influence of new social norms, constraints, possibilities and opportunities. For instance, the role of fathers in core family life or the joint custody of children within a “post separation family” (Schier 2011) or the common life of dual career couples or living apart together couples. This way multi-locality contributes also to rethink some basic or familiar concepts such as household (when once has more than a dwelling), family (what’s a family today) and the rationale in “work-family life” arrangements; three points I propose to discuss during this session.

**Between convergence, rejection and self-assertion: normalization strategies of multi-local post-separation families and the role model of the “normal family”**

Following current sociological debates on the family, due to expanding mobility requirements family is increasingly done across space – regarding multiple local daily life and the construction of we-ness and belonging (Schier 2016, Schier/Schlinzig/Montanari 2015, Baldassar 2008, Beck 2000). However, collective ideas of western contemporary societies still consider family as a household unit and physical co-presence as a basic constituent of it, related to widely shared ideas about the needs of children and for their welfare beneficial parental care (Diabaté et al. 2015, Kalicki et al. 2006). As a highly discourse dependent family arrangement (Galvin 2006), shared residence families after separation and divorce considered in this paper constitute an exception in this regard (Schlinzig 2017, Schier 2016, Walper 2016, Ahrons 1979). Their spatio-temporal dual structure, the cyclical growth and reduction of the household community and the changing rhythms and patterns of their everyday life confronts these families with their structural deviance and necessitates them to have innovative interpretations available to balance the cultural lack of concepts and terms and to recognize their complex social networks as family. This paper discusses strategies of children and parents to normalize their arrangement against the background of the normative power of the “normal family” in public discourse on an empirical basis.

## 3 | Venue and Contact Information

### I. Venue

Akademické konferenční centrum  
Husova 352  
110 00 Praha 1-Staré Město  
<https://goo.gl/maps/U7LBmAwRBj52>  
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### III. Contact on site

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