

CONFERENCE

JUSTICE, CARE, RESPONSIBILITY:

RETHINKING THE FAMILY FROM A LEGAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL PERSPECTIVE

8 & 9 February 2024

University of Geneva,
Switzerland
Uni Mail MR070



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE

FACULTY OF LAW
Center for Legislative and
Evaluation Studies

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Faculté des lettres



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SVRSP
Swiss Association for Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy

OUTLINE

In Western societies, barely any social institution has been changing so rapidly as the family. Today's diversity of family models challenges traditional accounts of care and responsibility within the family, leaving space to reflect on the legal and ethical parameters that govern our notions of the various relations within the family. The Conference aims at discussing the family and its future from an interdisciplinary standpoint, bringing together philosophy, sociology and law, and in a global perspective.

To begin with : what is a « family » anyway and what is its future? How should it be regulated by law? What are the alternatives to current family structures and how could such alternatives be regulated by the law? For answering these questions, it seems fruitful to look back in order to highlight some of the major shortcomings and injustices that lead to the transformation of the family in the 20th century. Equally important is a thorough philosophical reflection on the variety of personal relationships and on different concepts of relationships within the family. In this context, it seems especially important to reflect on current discussions about marriage as the touchstone of the bourgeois family, and its connection to parenthood, discussions that challenge yet enrich and extend traditional concepts of marriage, leading to legal innovation and change. Those reflections inevitably raise fundamental questions of justice: what do we owe each other within a family? Which legal and ethical obligations are at stake in (family) relationships? What does justice in personal relationships mean at all, and across generations? Which normative ideals should guide our ethical and legal assessment of affiliation to a family? Those questions are especially salient in regard to the notion of care that entails basic assumptions about individual and collective responsibility, and the need of compensation – arguably a societal task. Those reflections get even more challenging with the globalization of the family, and new questions arise as family relationships transcend borders : How can the law account for the protection of family life and personal relationships across borders? Do we need to rethink the family even more profoundly in light of our responsibility towards future generations and the ever more important problem of population growth?

10.00 - 10.15 **Introduction**

SESSION 1: THE FAMILY: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Chair: Simone ZURBUCHEN

10.15 - 11.00 **Gabrielle RADICA (University of Lille)**
The Family in Early Modern Philosophy: Affection, Protection and Power

11.00 - 11.15 Coffee Break

11.15 - 12.00 **Alice MARGARIA (University of Zurich)**
Legal Parenthood: between Change and Continuity

12.00 - 12.45 **Elisabeth HOLZLEITHNER (University of Vienna)**
The Future of the Family: Queer Perspectives

12.45 - 14.15 Lunch Break

SESSION 2: PHILOSOPHICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE REGULATION OF PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Chair: Anne KÜHLER

14.15 - 15.00 **Clare CHAMBERS (Cambridge University)**
Regulating Relationships in a Marriage-free State

15.00 - 15.45 **Monika BETZLER (University of Munich)**
Ending a Special Relationship: Toward an Ethics of Divorce

15.45 - 16.15 Coffee Break

SESSION 3: CARING AND JUSTICE

Chair: Anne KÜHLER

16.15 - 17.00 **Caroline ARNI (University of Basel)**
The Nature and Politics of Maternity in 19th century Proletarian Feminism

17.00 - 17.45 **Jonathan HERRING (University of Oxford)**
Caring and Social Justice

17.45 - 18.00 **Conclusion**

18.00 - 19.00 **General Assembly of the members of the Swiss Association of Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy**

SESSION 4: GLOBALISATION AND THE FAMILY – THE GLOBAL FAMILY

Chair: Michelle COTTIER

- 9.00- 9.45 **Amrita PANDE (University of Cape Town)**
**Globalisation, Repro-genetic Technologies and the Future of
Reproduction**
- 9.45 - 10.30 **Ivana ISAILOVIĆ (University of Amsterdam)**
Family, Law & Globalization: Centering Political Economy
- 10.30 - 11.00 Coffee Break
- 11.00 - 11.45 **Janine DAHINDEN (University of Neuchâtel)**
**“Who belongs”? Cross-border Marriages as Key Sites of European
Migration Control**
- 11.45 - 12.30 **Makane Moïse MBENGUE (University of Geneva)**
**The Global Family and Intergenerational Responsibility in
Environmental Law**
- 12.30 - 12.45 **Conclusion**

A workshop for junior researchers will take place on Friday afternoon.

REGISTRATION

<https://formulaire.unige.ch/outils/limesurveyfac/droit/index.php/513473?lang=fr>

VENUE

University of Geneva
Uni Mail, lecture hall MR070
Boulevard du Pont-d'Arve 40
1205 Geneva
Switzerland

Access by public transport:
From the train station CFF
Cornavin:
Tram n° 15 (direction « Palettes »)
Stop « Uni Mail »

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Conference organized by Prof. Michelle COTTIER (University of Geneva), Prof. Simone ZURBUCHEN (University of Lausanne) and Prof. Anne KÜHLER (University of Vienna) on behalf of the Swiss Association of Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy in Collaboration with the Centre for Legislative Studies (CETEL) at the University of Geneva