



# International Section Newsletter

## GREETINGS!

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are in good spirits and enjoying the Spring!

We are in the process of planning the 2018 NCFR Conference International Section (IN) Program and I want to thank you very much for submitting and reviewing proposals for the conference. I greatly appreciate your support with this! The International Section will have a great program at the 2018 Conference with a strong global representation, in line with the conference theme this year on *Families and Cultural Intersections in a Global Context*.

As you make your plans to participate at the conference, please plan to attend the *International Section Business Meeting on Friday, November 9, 2018 at noon*, where besides networking and seeing dear friends and colleagues we will also have a guest speaker from a local organization in San Diego. We are delighted to have Dr. Mahvash Alami Rad share with us information about the services that *Survivors of Torture International* are providing in the San Diego area. During the business meeting we will also commemorate our dear colleague, Dr. Jan Trost from Uppsala University in Sweden, who passed away in February. Please also plan to attend the meeting of the *Eastern European Families Focus Group* which is part of our section and chaired by Dr. Sylvia Asay.

We hope you had a great time at the NCFR Conference in 2017, particularly since we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the International Section. We had a great Celebration for this event at the 2017 IN Section Business Meeting. A panel organized by Dr. Yan Ruth Xia, IN Past-Chair, and made of former IN Section Chairs: Drs. Stephan Wilson (1999-2001), Jacki Fitzpatrick (2001-2003), Mary Ann Hollinger (2003-2005), Catherine Solheim (2007-2009) and Angela Wiley (2013-2015), as well as Drs. Jan Trost (1979-1981) and John DeFrain (1995-1997), through written comments sent by email, shared with the audience their experiences and thoughts about the past and future of the IN section.



Former IN Section Chair Panel (from left to right): Drs. Angela Wiley, Stephan Wilson, Jacki Fitzpatrick, Catherine Solheim

Thank you very much for making the International Section such an exciting and supportive environment, and for increasing the understanding of families all over the world! I look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Mihaela Robila, Ph.D., CFLE, IN Section Chair (2017-2019)  
Professor, Human Development and Family Studies  
Queens College, City University of New York

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Section Awards .....	2
Members' News.....	4

## INTERNATIONAL SECTION AWARDS

### *INTERNATIONAL SECTION 2018 AWARDS - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS DEADLINE JUNE 15TH, 2018*

#### **Jan Trost Award**

In recognition of outstanding contributions in International Family Studies, this award is given in honor of Jan Trost, Uppsala University, Sweden. He is one of the founding members of NCFR's International Section and a past section chair.

Please submit application to

Dr. Yan Xia at  
[rxia2@unl.edu](mailto:rxia2@unl.edu)

#### **Annual Conference Travel Scholarship and**

#### **Student / New Professional Annual Conference Travel Scholarship**

The International (IN) Section seeks to encourage scholarship with a focus on international families by offering scholarships to assist with travel expenses to present original research at the NCFR Annual Conference.

Please submit application to

Dr. Mihaela Robila at  
[Mihaela.Robila@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:Mihaela.Robila@qc.cuny.edu)



### *CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2017 JAN TROST AWARD RECIPIENT*

#### *Dr. Judith A. Myers-Walls*

**Judith A. Myers-Walls, Ph.D., CFLE**, is Professor Emerita from Human Development and Family Studies at Purdue University where she worked for 31 years primarily as an Extension Specialist and then for 7 years in the classroom. Her primary area of specialization was child development and parenting with a focus on the cultural context of families and how parents and children talk about difficult topics, especially war and peace. She worked with many international students and led study-abroad trips to India. She also worked with a number of international student research projects.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE TRAVEL  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

***Tumaki Aruanã***

**Tumaki Aruanã** is Project Coordinator at the municipal board of education at Tremembe, Brazil. He coordinates the international program FAST - Families and Schools Together and he is a certified FAST trainer. Besides that, he is responsible for special education and education for youth and adults in the municipality. He is an assistant professor at Santa Cecilia College. His research with Dr. Cristiana Berthoud and Fernanda Zanitti discusses the impacts of the FAST Program training process for low-income mothers in the municipality of Tremembe.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
2017 STUDENT / NEW PROFESSIONAL ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP  
RECIPIENTS**

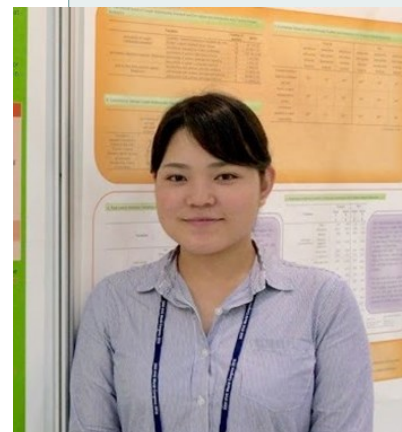
***Nadia Moratto and Mika Omagari***

**Nadia Moratto** is Ph.D. candidate in Social Sciences at Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana in Medellin, Colombia. She has a Master's degree in Psychology with a minor in Educational Psychology from Universidad de San Buenaventura. Nadia is a faculty member at Universidad CES as research coordinator in the Psychology Department. Her doctoral dissertation focuses on understanding the subjectivity of those people who were part of illegal armed groups in Colombia (guerrilla and paramilitaries). The purpose is to explore how, based on the meanings of family and family relationships, the demobilized constitute families after deciding to reintegrate into the civil society.



*Mihaela Robila and Nadia Moratto*

**Mika Omagari** received the M.A. degrees in social science from Ochanomizu University, Tokyo Japan, in 2014. She is now a doctoral student of Ochanomizu University. Her research interests are in family sociology and home economics. In the gender studies program, she is studying with Dr. Masako Ishii-Kuntz.





## INTERNATIONAL SECTION MEMBERS' NEWS

### *STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE*

#### *Dr. Catherine Solheim Leads Study Abroad in Thailand*

Professor **Catherine Solheim**, Family Social Science, University of Minnesota, has been leading study abroad experiences in Thailand for several years. She will be leading again a 3-week learning abroad course beginning May 13, 2018 - Thailand: Global Change, Communities, and Families. This interdisciplinary course uses social justice and human ecological lenses to examine global change that is occurring at the intersections among Thailand's natural environment, communities, families, and culture. Topics include globalization, human trafficking, education, religion, environmental issues, and cultural integration/identity formation, particularly among indigenous populations in northern Thailand. Students interact with key community leaders, village leaders, elders, and students who serve as teachers; this leads to critical understanding of Thai culture and the contemporary issues faced by Thailand's families and communities. Through journaling, digital stories, blogging, and discussions, students will synthesize, integrate, apply, and communicate what they've learned.



*Study Abroad in Thailand, 2017*

## *RESEARCH PROJECTS*

*The transition to adulthood in a comparative perspective: a research program based on harmonized national panel studies from East Asia, North America, and Western Europe*

Prof. Dr. Bernhard Nauck, Department of Sociology, Chemnitz University of Technology, Chemnitz, Germany

The research program examines the transition to adulthood through the lenses of the life course approach, which entails considering this transition as a time dependent, multidimensional, and multilevel process or set of processes. The transition to adulthood is a significant phase within the life course and a status passage, which involves several interdependent partial transitions, such as leaving the parental home, the transition from education to employment, entry into an intimate relationship, cohabitation, marriage, and parenthood. This perspective calls for the use of longitudinal data and corresponding methods of data analysis. The transitions are analyzed by means of event history, sequence and panel analysis. The former allows for the analysis of the timing of transitions, sequence analysis allows us to study the order and length of phases, and the latter enables us to conduct analyses of the causal relationships between these transitions and diverse outcomes, such as (mental) health, attitude and preference changes, and intergenerational relationships.



Data from the following surveys have been harmonized for comparative analyses (for a description of the datasets, please click on the following links):

- [China Family Panel Studies \(CFPS\)](#)
- [Taiwan Youth Project \(TYP\)](#)
- [Japanese Life Course Panel Surveys \(JLPS\)](#)
- [National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 \(NLSY97\) from the United States](#)
- [German Family Panel \(pairfam\)](#)

Nauck, B., Groepler, N., and Yi, C.C. (2017). How kinship systems and welfare regimes shape leaving home: A comparative study of the United States, Germany, Taiwan, and China. *Demographic Research* 36: 1109-1148.

## *BOOKS BY MEMBERS*



## *CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS!*

**Yan Ruth Xia, Ph.D.**, received a Fulbright Distinguished Chair Award and will be doing research and teaching in Shanghai during the 2018-2019 academic year.

**Çağla Giray, M.S.**, Doctoral Student in Human Development and Family Studies at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, was awarded a Fellowship from Save the Children and will be working as the Program Development and Quality Guyer Fellow in Washington, DC.

## *INTERNATIONAL SECTION OFFICERS*

Section Chair – Mihaela Robila, Ph.D., CFLE (2019)  
Past Section Chair – Yan Ruth Xia, Ph.D., CFLE (2019)  
Section Chair Elect – Grace H. Chung, Ph.D. (2019)  
Secretary/Treasurer – Jane Rose Njue, Ph.D., CFLE (2019)  
Students & New Professionals Representative - Çağla Giray (2019)



*Colleagues at the International Section Business Meeting at NCFR Conference 2017*