



International Commission on Couple and Family Relations



WORKSHOP

Wellness family, social capital and local development. What relationship?

How the family can be a resource for the society?

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FAMILY: A DEFINITION

- CLAUDE LÉVI- STRAUSS 1956 *The Family*, in H. L. Shapiro, *Man, Culture, and Society*

If family isn't the effect of a natural rule.

*How we can explain the fact that it's present
in each kind of society?*

FAMILY: A DEFINITION

- Everywhere and everytime until now it was necessary to order the relationship between men and women through a symbolic and social framework.
- Goal: to put the baby in a genaealogy where generators and generated are connected and linked through a specific system of rights and duties.
 - THE FAMILY REPRESENTS THIS SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SYMBOL
- ✓ This symbol requires a public recognition useful to creates links and relationships between differents groups.
(→ endogamy and incest).

FAMILY: A DEFINITION

- From a sociological point of view the family is a specific relationship that tries to solve the problem of time and the problem of the sexual differentiation.
 - FAMILY IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SEXES AND GENERATIONS CHARACTERISED BY THE RECIPROCITY RULE AND THE DONATION VALUE.
- Love is the symbol and the medium of the family relationship inside and outside of it.

**WHICH KIND OF RELATIONSHIP EXISTS
BETWEEN FAMILY AND SOCIETY?**

SOCIAL and POLITICAL SCIENCE LITERATURE

- 1958 Edward Banfield *The Moral Basis of a Backward Society*

LOCAL BACKWARDNESS = AMORAL FAMILISM

«The inability of the villagers to act together for their common good or, indeed, for any end transcending the immediate, material interest of the nuclear family»

SOCIAL and POLITICAL SCIENCE LITERATURE

- 1993 Robert Putnam *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*
- This is the starting point for the debate on Social Capital (SC):
 - ✓ SC = the links, shared values and understandings in society that enable individuals and groups to trust each other and so work together.
 - ✓ CS can be produced only outside the family networks because intimate relationships produce only strong links not useful for society.

SOCIAL and POLITICAL SCIENCE LITERATURE

- 1996 Francis Fukuyama, *Trust: The Social Virtues and the Creation of Prosperity*.

The Societies family oriented can never produce a significant socio-economic development because the families internal mechanisms stop prosperity.

- ✓ The networks of family firms in the so called “Third Italy” are an example against the theory of “amoral familism”.
- ✓ But this prosperity is going to stop because the structure of the firms (based on family ties) is not useful for the progress.

SOCIAL and POLITICAL SCIENCE LITERATURE

- All the SC theories suggest that trust, reciprocity, reliability and help relationships produced in the family have no links with the common good.
- In the debate on SC is completely absent a theory that looks at the social mechanisms able to link the goods produced in the family with the social virtues and the common good.

GOODS PRODUCED IN THE FAMILY

- GENERATIVITY
- DONATION
- TRUST
- HOSPITALITY
- COOPERATION
- SOCIAL COMMITMENT

... and others ...

FAMILY SOCIAL CAPITAL

- If we remove the previous elements from the society it collapses because they represent the symbolic matrices of the social cohesion.
- Family is (not has) SC when all the goods she produces inside are able to become social goods.
- ✓ SC is a capital so it needs to be invested. If you want trust you have to give trust, if you need cooperation you have to be cooperative, etc.
- ✓ SC is social because it regards “relationship”. It’s not a personal resource referred to individuals.

FAMILY SOCIAL CAPITAL

- Family **can be** Social Capital if her relationships are:
 - ✓ able to connect each member of the family in a well structure way with the other members of the family;
 - ✓ symbolically defined in terms of free and reciprocal support;
 - ✓ able to produce and distribute relational goods.

DONATI, P. (eds) 2012 *Famiglia risorsa della società*

FAMILY SOCIAL CAPITAL

- **FSC BONDING:** it's referred to the capacity of the family relationships to vehicle trust and reciprocity inside the family itself.
- **FSC BRIDGING:** it's referred to the capacity of the family relationships to connect the members with the external networks.
- ✓ The two SC categories are not mutually exclusive: a social network can be very cohesive internally and significantly connected with external networks .

FAMILY and SOCIETY

- OLAGNERO, TORRIONI E SARACENO *PATTERNS OF SOCIABILITY IN THE ENLARGED EU 2008*
- ✓ The data show that in Europe the family (we are referring to cohabiting and non cohabiting members) remains a key resource for individuals , because it is still the institution that provides more support and help at all levels : financial, practical and emotional .

FAMILY and SOCIETY

- The main point of this research is that the cause of a citizens weak commitment in the public spheres, is not family solidarity "in itself" but the exclusivity of family relationships.
- The Citizens decision to take shelter in the family has not natural reasons, but it's a strategy necessitated by the lack of public sociability .
 - AMORAL FAMILISM → DISAFFILIATION.
- ✓ The family is a victim of the social context and certainly not the actor who de-generates the social coesion and the prosperity of the territory.

FAMILY and TERRITORY

- The territory is the main place in which is possible to empower families in the production of SC.
 - TERRITORY = a way to cooperate, with multiple effects (economic, political, cultural , etc.), which has the goal to create an environment capable of multiplying our common resources , necessary for the functioning of each and everyone involved.

FAMILY AND TERRITORY

- The challenge is to create a territory governed in a family friendly way
→ THE FAMILY FRIENDLY DISTRICT
This approach is useful to produce a new culture about the value of the relationships.
- THE FAMILY FRIENDLY DISTRICT requires:
 - ✓ The re-definition of the identity and the responsibilities of each actor (political-administrative , economic, cultural, health, education , etc.);
 - ✓ The re-definition of the alliance between the actors.

PRANDINI, R. 2014 *Welfare aziendale territoriale: semantiche , innovazioni e primi esempi*

FAMILY AND TERRITORY

- The result could be:
 - a reflexive and subsidiary network able to orienting every actor to the common good;
 - a redefinition of the citizenship in a relational and not individual way.

PRANDINI, R. 2014 *Welfare aziendale territoriale: semantiche , innovazioni e primi esempi*



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THANKS A LOT FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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