



5th Congress of the European Society on Family Relations (ESFR)



29 September- 2 October 2010
Milano, Italy

Invitation

We are pleased to announce the 5th Congress of the European Society on Family Relations (ESFR) which will take place in Milano, Italy from September 29 through October 2, 2010.

The objective of the conference is to present innovative research on family relations and facilitate the exchange of today's knowledge and current ideas in the vast and still-expanding area of research on family relations.

The topic of the conference includes perspectives from different branches of psychology and sociology, as well as from other disciplines studying this subject. The conference will highlight the latest research findings and will address topics that are of interest to researchers and those active in different fields of application.

Programme Structure

The scientific program will consist of:

- Opening lecture
- Invited addresses
- Symposia
- Individual paper sessions
- Poster sessions

All submitted papers will be peer reviewed under the coordination of a scientific advisory panel.

In addition to featuring internationally renowned keynote speakers, the conference will provide an opportunity for doctoral students to present their work in poster sessions.

Submissions for all papers and poster sessions are to be made online. The Conference Scientific Committee will reserve the right to schedule individual abstracts as papers or posters, but will try to honor individual preferences. It will be recommended that each speaker make no more than 2 oral presentations (however, they may be second or third authors on as many papers as they wish).

Milan - Italian cultural, industrial and financial center

With a population of 1.3 million, Milan is one of the largest cities in Italy, and is considered to be one of the principle artistic and cultural centers of northern Italy. Hosting a large number of universities, the city is very well known around the world for its highly lively cultural life and is also widely regarded as a capital of design and fashion. Furthermore, the city of Milan has been accorded the honour of hosting World Expo 2015!



Arts and Culture in Milan

Milan is one of the major artistic centers of northern Italy. Among its chief landmarks are the Cathedral (il Duomo), the Sforza Castle (once home to a powerful family dynasty), the Teatro alla Scala (whose location here makes Milan one of the most important centers in the world for opera), and the church of Santa Maria delle Grazie (which houses Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper").



Lively University City

Milan is home to eight high-profile public and private universities, covering a wide range of faculties, and has the largest number of university graduates and post-graduate students (34,000 and more than 5,000, respectively) in Italy.



Travel Connection to Italy and Milan

Milan has three domestic and international airports: Malpensa (MXP) airport; Linate (LIN) airport and Orio al Serio (BGY) airport. Special shuttle-services run to and from Milan's railway stations. In particular, Malpensa Express leaves from Malpensa Airport every 30 minutes and takes about 40 minutes to get the Cadorna Ferrovie Nord Railway Station. This station is a 10-minute walk from the Catholic University.

Hotel Accomodation

There is a large selection of accommodation in Milan, ranging from modern hotels and international chains to smaller, more traditional hotels. The Congress staff will pre-book accommodation upon request. Congress rates will be offered to ESFR 2010 participants if the reservation is made in conjunction with the congress registration.

Weather in Milan

In September, the weather may vary, but is generally clear and sunny, with average daytime temperatures ranging from around +12 to +20 C.

Catholic University of the Sacred Heart - Milan



The Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart) was founded in 1921 by father Agostino Gemelli, one of the most prominent psychologists of this time. With its 41,367 students, and 1,411 professors and researchers and 4970 staff members, the Catholic University is by far the biggest private University in Europe, excelling in the diverse study opportunities that it offers, in the humanities, as well as in the sciences.

Milan Campus

The Milan campus remains the principle, as well as the historic, site of the Catholic University. Although there are now five other branches of the university, which have been opened across Italy. From its 68 students in 1921 to the over 30,000 currently enrolled, it is evident how the Catholic University's Milan campus has given birth to an active and influential academic community which includes 13 departments, several institutes, 35 research centers and 9 faculties.

Host

Athenaeum Center for Family Studies and Research

Director: Prof. Eugenia Scabini



The **Athenaeum Centre for Family Studies and Research** was founded in 1976, with the purpose of pursuing family research and applied psychology. It is led by Eugenia Scabini, with Giovanna Rossi serving as Chief Secretary. The scientific committee includes: Giuseppe Anfossi, Guy Bodenmann, Vincenzo Cesareo, Francesco D'Agostino, Pierpaolo Donati, Luigi Pati, Federico Perali, Eugenia Scabini and Norbert Schneider.

The interdisciplinary collaboration between psychologists and sociologists has aided in the establishment of a theoretical and methodological framework of reference, which is known as the relational-symbolic approach to the psycho-social and clinical perspective (Scabini & Cigoli, 2000) and the relational approach in a sociological perspective (Rossi, 2001).

Within this perspective, family is conceptualized as a whole, and is characterized by gender, generation and differences in lineage. The family is considered as a social subject with its own identity and a unit for social policies and clinical intervention as well as scientific analysis.

This perspective guides both the research and the intervention in these areas:

- Adolescents and young-adults
- Couple relationship
- Parent-child relationship
- Family and culture
- Family, community, and social policies

Conference secretariat

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Local Scientific Committee

E. Scabini ■ V. Cigoli ■ C. Regalia
G. Rossi ■ R. Rosnati ■ S. Tagliabue

Features of Italian Families

The Italian family presents some characteristics that distinguish it from the European model. The most important are the following:

- There is an increase in the average age at which people get married: it has increased from 26 years old in 1980 to over 32 in 2006 for men, and from 23 to almost 30 years old for women.
- Nowadays 3,9% of Italian couples choose to form a family without getting married. In contrast to other European countries, however, this phenomenon seems to represent, in contrast with other European countries, a step towards the marriage more than being an alternative to it. At 0,8 the Italian divorce rate is one of the lowest in Europe, as is the birth rate (1,4).
- The age at which young people leave the family home and start living independently varies markedly across Europe. In Italy this age is the highest in Europe (we talk of *young adults*) and the transition to adulthood is still linked to the act of marriage.
- The number of women that have a full time job (45.2 %) is also growing , together with the percentage of women who have a part-time job (8,5%). However these percentages are also among the lowest in Europe.
- The presence of foreign families throughout the Italian territory has nowadays become a notable phenomenon (the number has tripled in the past ten years) due to families joining a member who had previously come to Italy seeking employment, as well as to the creation of new families.

Despite this demographic evolution, the intergenerational bonds of the average Italian family are still very intense, and the family solidarity networks are becoming ever stronger. Due to a lack of social services available, and to thus-fare insufficient political and economic measures provided to residents of Italy, the family unit has again taken on a fundamental role of support.

We are looking forward to seeing you
at the ESFR Congress in Milan in September 2010!

Congress website will be opened in 2009

Congress Venue

The Congress will take place
at the Catholic University of Milan.
Largo Gemelli, 1
20123 Milan - Italy
www.unicatt.it/ucsc_EV.asp

How to reach the University:

Subway station Cadorna (Line 1 red or Line 2 green);
or Sant'Ambrogio (Line 2 green);
Bus stop Sant'Agnese (Line 50), Sant'Ambrogio (Line 58)
or De Amicis/Carducci (Line 94);

Tram stop Corso Magenta (Line 19, 20 or 24).