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A Conceptual Journey between Multilocal and Transnational Family

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Outline

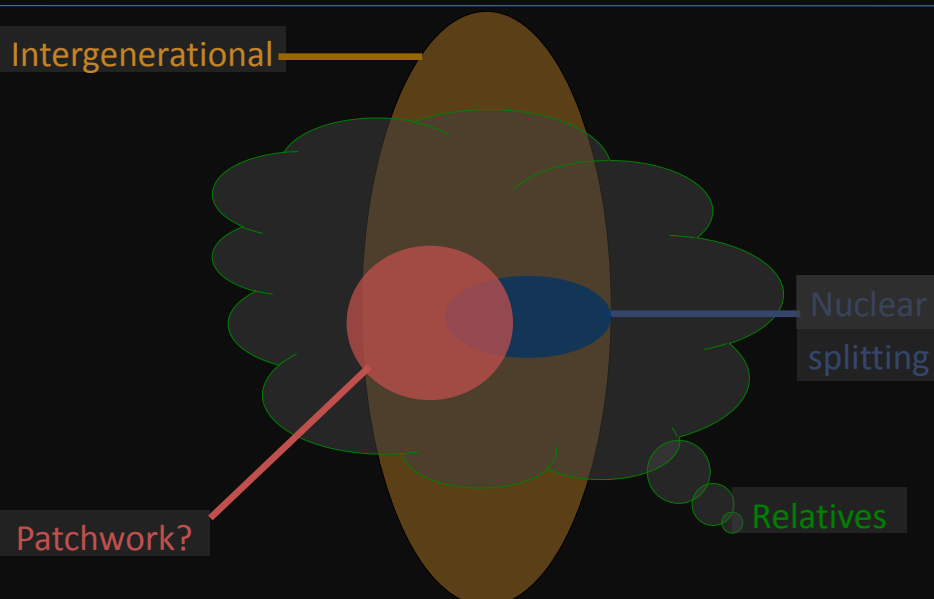


- I. Spatial Limits of multilocal family concepts
- II. Conceptual differences between multilocal and transnational family
- III. Comparisons between multilocal and transnational family lives

I.

Spatial Limits of multilocal Family Concepts

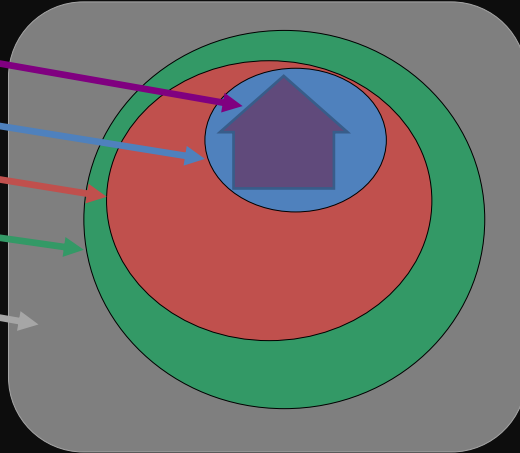
Family forms: more localities



Multi-Situated dwelling family

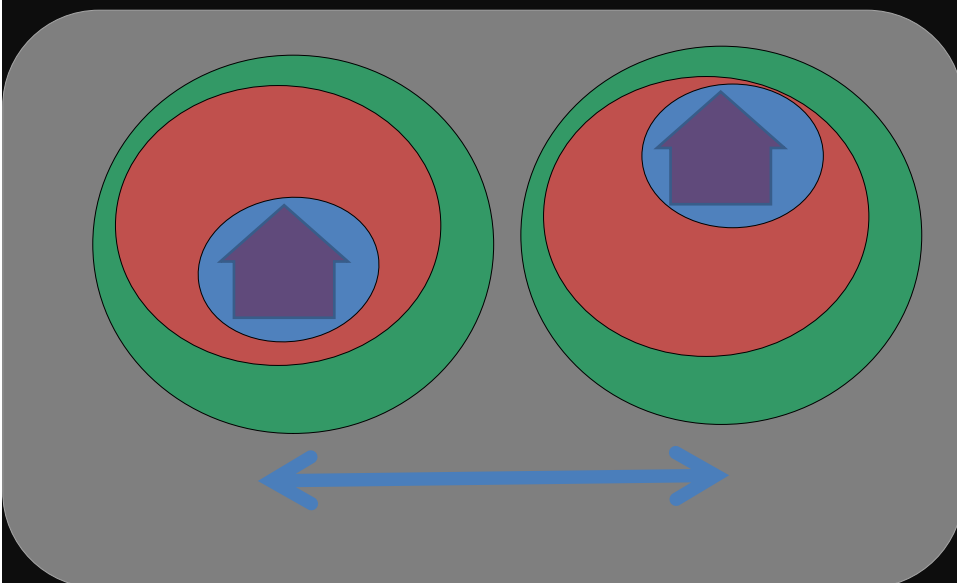
Dwelling is always

- Local
 - Regional
 - National
 - Supranational
- Placed



e.g. In official statistics

Multi-situated dwelling family



Multilocal family

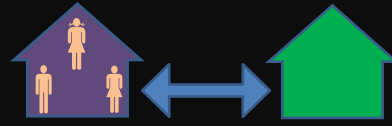


As a spread family over at least two places:

‘Regular’ dwelling

Positions of at least two family members

E.g. ‘Multilocal intergenerational family’

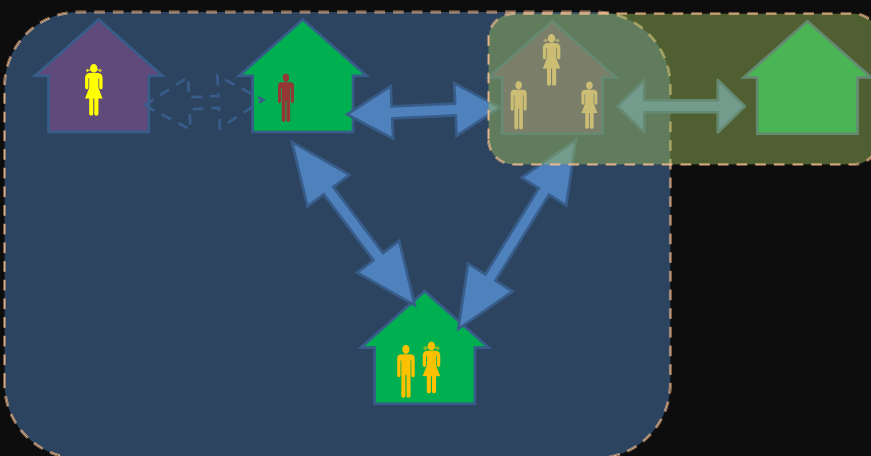


As a family with at least one member usually outside a common dwelling for a while (overnight):

1. Member(s) which are geographically separated from the others
2. Family household outside a common dwelling/locality

Switching living practices here, there and between

Which Multilocal Family?



II.

Comparisons between multilocal and transnational family lives

Asymmetric Common Ground

- \neq political/cultural borders
- Coping with distance, timing, energy, switching presence/absence, technology (NTIC)
- Doing Family (Internal integration and production)
- External integration of the family (members)
 - (Multi-)Local (which could be also multi-national)
- Lived as temporary situation for most dwelling family
- Capitals= \Rightarrow inequality before multilocality
- Heterogeneity of the concerned populations
 - family forms, practices, reasons of multilocality, etc.

Doing Family (intergen.& nuclear unit)

Internal Integration and production of family through five dimensions:

1. Standing solidarity network of acquainted members
2. Social space in which each have a position (attempt and roles of each member)
3. Cultural and information system
4. Identity reference, collective history
5. Reproduction unit (nuclear unit)
(und auch Raumproduktion)

III.

**Conceptual differences between
multilocal family and transnational
family**

Multilocal and Transnational (family)

1. Anchor / Shift
2. Scale
3. Nature of Territorialities
4. Cultural context
5. Position of national border
6. Scientist position

1. Focus on Anchorage or Shifting

Multi-Local

- ⇒ Focus on locations, housing, materiality
- ⇒ Anchorage

- ⇒ Also empirical interest for the mobility practices (trans-local)

Trans-national

- ⇒ Implies a (factual and epistemological) dis-anchorage from one national area
- ⇒ Over “national container”
- ⇒ Flow, shift, circulation

2. Geographical scale

Multi-Local

- ⇒ Small places
- ⇒ Distance in between (“multi”)
- ⇒ Smallest unit to characterize all geospatial family situations (transnational is also translocal)
- ⇒ Focus on the local issues and effects

Trans-national

- ⇒ Country areas
- ⇒ Long distance relatively to internal scale (space and time)
- Crossborder commuter as “border case”

3. Nature of the living territories

Multi-Local

- ⇒ Chaplet of living small places
- ⇒ Cognitive and private appropriation
- ⇒ Cognitive and private borders
- ⇒ Family Archipelago

Trans-national

- ⇒ Political definition of the areas
- ⇒ Coping with different national rights, laws etc.
- ⇒ Border permeability
- ⇒ Over national borders but inside a group of national territories

4. Cultural context

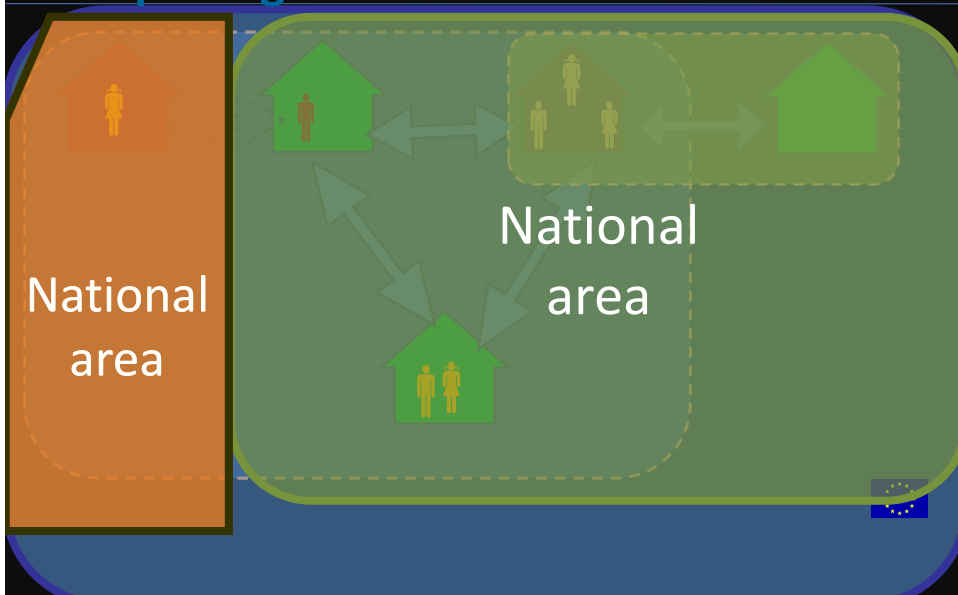
Multi-Local

- ⇒ Family culture
- ⇒ Practice the culture of distance and ubiquity
- ⇒ Local differences exist – which could be national, ethnic – but are less the research point

Trans-national

- ⇒ National differences of the areas
- ⇒ Recognition through nationality
- ⇒ Cultural capital (language)
- ⇒ As potential consequence may be the ethnic differences in the family
=> multinational, multiethnic or multicultural family

5. Family Structure Configurations and Sharpening of National Borders



3.

To conclude

CL: Multilocal and transnational family

Multilocal
Family

Transnational
Family

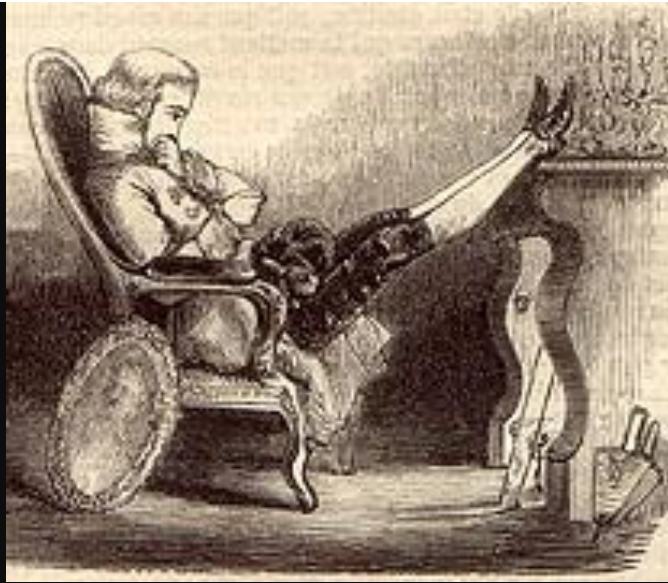
CL: Multilocal and transnational family

Multilocal family as Sub-national or Transnational Family

- Common ground in practice (except political/cultural border)
- A transnational family is always a multilocal family
- Multilocality studies gather transnational and subnational studies about multilocal Inhabiting

Two level of differences between multilocal and transnational family

	multilocal	transnational
Focus	Anchorage, housing	Flow, shifting
Scale	Small places, local issues	Country, large space-time scale
Nature of Territorialities	Living places Cognitive, private appropriation	Political and macrosocial definition of the areas
Cultural context	Family culture, mobility culture, less the ethnic culture	National differences, multicultural family, language, law
National border	Ambivalent. Most inside in researches	Long distance over countries, except local cross borders



Xavier de Maistre,
Journey around my Room, 1794