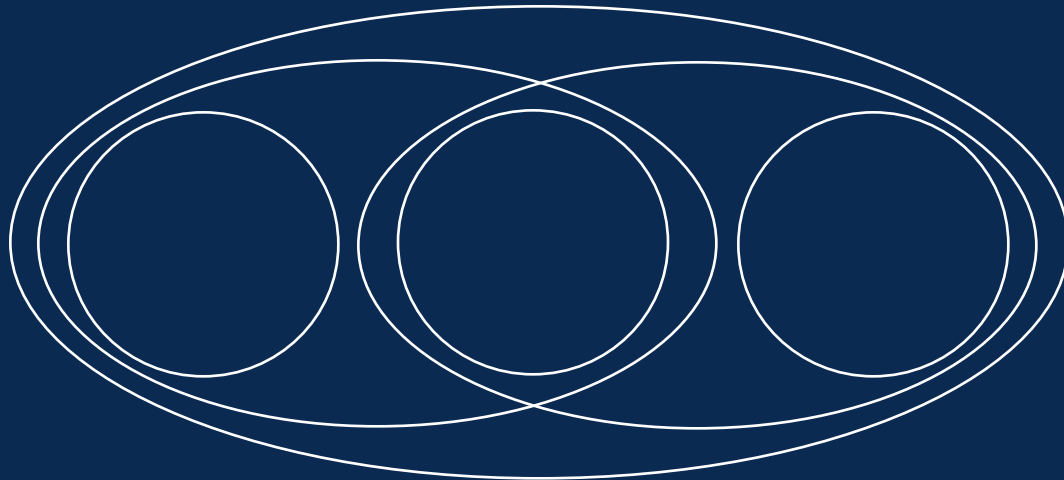




Negotiated Family Identity – Multi-locally Living Children Constructing Family



1. Introduction

Context of Discovery

- Sociological debate on the family – diversity, changes or crises
- increasing numbers of parents living apart + commuting children (BMFSFJ 2006, Steinbach 2008, Jensen 2009) > bi-nuclear step-families with multi-locally living children
- neglected research field: multi-locally situated families + family identity
- demand to clarify concept of family identity (under conditions of multilocality)

1. Introduction

Central Research Question

How are self-definitions and -concepts of family commonly produced within unconventional family arrangements as in shared residence step-families itself and within interactions with their social environment in the light of a discursive still dominant model of the nuclear family?

Outline

1. Introduction
2. Identity – Concepts and Approaches
3. Commuting Children as Family Identity Practitioners
4. Research Design
5. Reconstructing Family Habitus in Photographs
6. Exemplary Analysis
7. Conclusion

2. Identity: Concepts and Approaches

- no common definition of identity in scientific discourse
- common sense: identity closely related to group membership + embedded/developed in interactions or (biographical) narratives
- distinction personal, group and collective Identity

(Goffman 1967, Berger/Luckmann 1987/1966, Krappmann 1988, Mead 1991, Knoblauch 1999, Schäfer 1999, Hettlage 2000, Rost 2000, Christmann 2005)

2. Identity: Concepts and Approaches

Family Identity

- family identity as *interleave* of balance + compatibility management and the biographical day-to-day-making of commonness + we-ness (Schier 2009)
- *Working Hypothesis*: daily practices inherent to *familial self*
(see also Lang 1996, Behringer 1998, Morgan 2011)
- identity as a narrative and construction of self-sameness + continuity
- in a nutshell: *we are what we do, respectively how we do it*

2. Identity: Concepts and Approaches

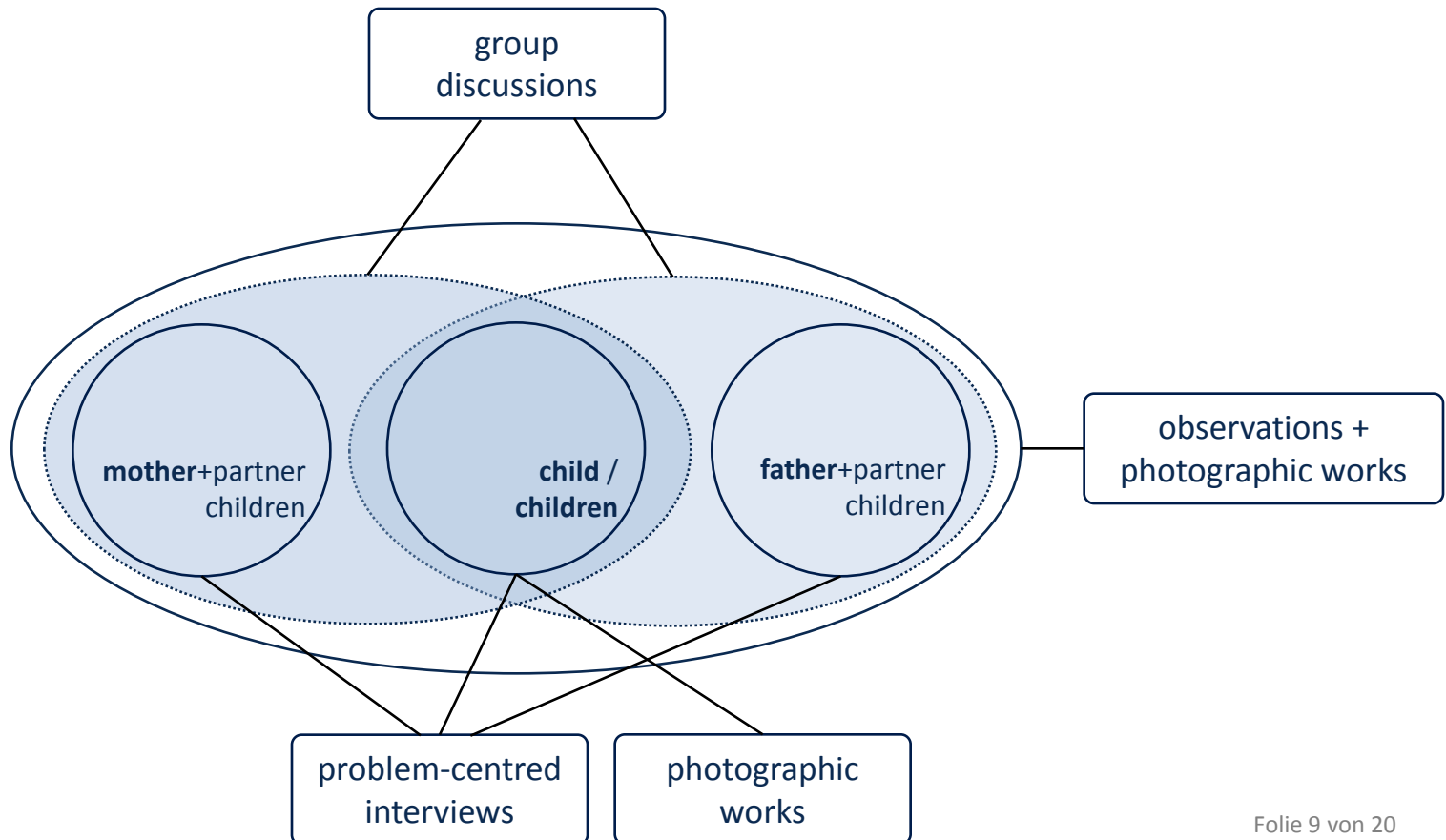
Family Identity under Conditions of Multilocality

- divorce/separation and bi-nuclear family systems (Ahrons 1979)
- children of bi-nuclear stepfamilies in two households resp. two primary step-families as focal point of family identity
- parents involved into co-construction of familial identity + *double mandate*
- children in two sociotopes with different interactional logics (Dencik 2001) > family habitus

3. Commuting Children as Family Identity Practitioners

- children as persons with agency (Smart/Neale/Wade 2001, Morrow 2003, James 2007)
- children's role in mediating between single family nucleuses and construction of family identity
- children as hinge between poles of different family lives they are involved
- practices and interpretive patterns of children in shared residence families and those of the other family members involved

4. Research Design



5. Reconstructing Family Habitus in Photographs

- habitus as basis of social practices, beliefs + perceptual pattern (Bourdieu 1982)
- family practices mediated by habitual orientations > family identity
- social reality constituted by pictures and images + provide orientation for actions and everyday practices (Bohnsack 2008)
- systematic access to inherent laws of picture producer's experience and the world view of those represented – family habitus and *identity*

6. Exemplary Analysis

- > For data protection reasons the analysis of photographs are not published in this presentation.

Thank you for your attention.

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