

## Lecture

# Family, Work and Gender: Theoretical and empirical perspectives

**JANA MIKATS**

(Department of Sociology, University of Graz)

**Date:** Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019, 10:00-12:00

**Venue:** "Skype-Room" (015G010080, Resowi-Building, Section G, First Floor)

This lecture aims to present various perspectives, both theoretical and empirical, on the topic of family, work and gender. The first part of the lecture serves as an introduction to the overall topic. It will start with the different sociological explanations of the concept of family and its interrelation with gender. Hereupon I will look at approaches that describe and often problematize the relations between paid work and family life. The second part of the lecture focuses on home-based work as a specific interrelation between family life and paid work. This part draws on my ongoing PhD research that examines everyday practices of family life in the context of home-based work in the creative industries in Austria. I will discuss both the empirical approaches and some of the preliminary results of the research project. Firstly, I present my multiple perspective (parents and young children) and my qualitative, multimethod fieldwork. Secondly, I will exemplify some of the overlaps between family life and paid work and will show how the single location of home and workplace makes existing interdependencies (more) visible. Thirdly, I will critically reflect on how these empirical cases might contest the dualistic construction of paid work and family life and how they might weaken as well as reinforce gendered dependencies.

**Jana Mikats**, MA, is a research associate at the Department of Sociology in the research area "Sociology of Gender & Gender Studies". She joined the University of Graz in May 2016. In her research and teaching, she specialized in family sociology, gender studies, childhood studies and qualitative research methods. Previously she worked as a research associate in Disability & Diversity Studies at the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, as a visiting researcher at the Family Research Center at the University of Jyväskylä/Finland, and as tutor at the Department of Sociology at the University of Vienna. She holds degrees in Sociology (BA, MA) and Fennistics (BA) and currently she is a doctoral candidate in Sociology at the University of Vienna. In her dissertation project "When Home Becomes a Workplace" she examines everyday practices of families engaged in home-based work in creative industries in Austria.

Limited seating capacity, please register with [edith.lanser@uni-graz.at](mailto:edith.lanser@uni-graz.at) by 09<sup>th</sup> April 2019