

Dear All,

The Swedish Network for Family and Kinship Studies held its second annual meeting at Södertörn University on October 22-23, 2015. Almost 20 people came, from seven universities. We are grateful to all who took the time to attend this meeting, and hope that those of you who could not attend this year, will be able to do so next time.

We started out by discussing central working concepts, such as family, kinship, and reproduction, but also, for example, kinship grammars, exclusive parenthood, displaying parenthood, föräldrande/föräldraskapande, familial legitimacy, multigenerational family, postfeminist fatherhood, responsibility/responsibilization, next-of-kin, queer kinship, fertility norms, “parentification” of children, and family planning. This discussion was very interesting and helpful in opening shared – as well as not-shared -- questions and making visible different perspectives, at times dependent on discipline, at times on interest and critical perspective.

Throughout the rest of the meeting, nine scholars presented their planned/ongoing/recently finished research projects (Judith Lindh, Maja Bodin, Daniéla Cutas, Berit Åström, Jenny Björklund, Liz Kella, Anna-Lena Almquist, Maria Eriksson, Urika Dahl), and we discussed.

We also discussed the future of the Network towards the end of each day’s program. Important outcomes of that discussion were:

1. The Network should continue to convene once per year, for next time a full two-day meeting is suggested to allow for even more time for discussing and thinking together.
2. The primary rationale behind the Network is still its interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary character.
3. Besides the annual meeting each fall, some now plan to arrange smaller regional meetings/workshops in the spring (e g Umeå, Uppsala).
4. Next year’s meeting: Linköping University has volunteered to arrange the 2016 meeting. [added after meeting: dates will be **October 20-21, 2016**.]
5. The Network should continue to apply for funding, to facilitate the arrangement of annual meetings/workshops, as well as smaller regional/thematic meetings. The application to RJ for “initieringsbidrag” was turned down. A new application for “nätverksbidrag” will be submitted to FORTE no later than Tuesday October 27 [added after meeting: done!]. The steering committee is responsible for writing up the applications, and Helena W Henriksson assumes main responsibility for submission. [added after meeting: HWH will also ask whether members of the SC who were not in Södertörn are interested in staying on for the coming year!]
6. Helena W Henriksson will sit another year as the coordinating/emailing person for the Network.
7. The Network’s homepage should continuously be added to, as new members join the network/send information in to Helena W Henriksson and Daniela Cutas. Should we receive network funding, we will be able to build a proper and “searchable” homepage where people, projects, and publications can be listed both thematically, according to discipline, and according to institution, and where current events can also be included – this, however, is not possible at this time.

8. We will continue to use emails to send out information of interest, Network news, calls for the annual meeting and so on. We establish that it is vital to not flood members with numerous emails, but also stress that IF network members do have news about upcoming events, new publications, etcetera that can be of use to the Network, please send this to Helena for distribution to all. We advise against using the “reply to all”-function, unless truly relevant to all.
9. If you know of people who (might) want to join the Network, ask them to contact Helena.

Beyond this, we also talked about possible focus for the next annual meeting, and suggested the latter half of October as a good time to hold that meeting. Among suggestions regarding contents/focus were: Updates on what is going on at various universities and units/departments; project presentations with discussion and feedback; writers’ workshops on texts-in-progress; a “roundtable” discussion (as we did now with the “research concepts”) on “my research dilemma”; discussion about method/methodology (and ethics?).

/That’s all for now!

All best, Helena.