

SOU22032 — Gender, Work and Family 2

Module Information	
Module Code	SOU22032
Module Title	Gender, Work and Family 2
Department	Sociology
Year Group	Senior Freshman
Module Personnel	Dr Camille Portier
Academic Year	2026-2027
Credit Weighting	5 ECTS
Semester	Hilary Term
Contact Hours	2 lecture per week + 1 tutorial

Module Content	
Module Description	This module asks how gender shapes the distribution of paid and unpaid work within families and across the wider economy, and how those arrangements are changing. It introduces the key sociological theories and debates on gender and family life, beginning with the categories the field depends on. It shows how sex, gender, and "the family" are socially constructed rather than fixed facts, and how they operate as ongoing social processes. The module then follows gendered experience across the life course, from the work of mothering and fathering through partnering, separation, and ageing, asking how gendered patterns are made and remade at each stage. It examines the inequalities this produces, including the unequal division of unpaid care, the gender pay gap, occupational segregation, and labour-market discrimination, and engages with central debates on gender regimes and work-family balance. It draws on quantitative and qualitative research, asking not only what studies claim but how far the evidence supports them.
Learning Outcomes	- Introduce current sociological concepts and theories on gender and families; - Illustrate recent social changes around family-work and gender processes;

Module Content

	- Analyse the key life-course research on gender and family from birth to old age; - Examine critically the processes of gender inequality; - Analyse key debates about gender regimes and work-family balance; - Assess the validity of empirical quantitative and qualitative studies on gender and families
Indicative Reading / Resources	Ridgeway, C. L. (2008). Gender as an Organizing Force in Social Relations. Implications for the Future of Inequality. In F. D. Blau, M. C. Brinton, & D. Grusky (Eds.), <i>The Declining Significance of Gender?</i> (pp. 265-287). Russel Sage Sayer, L.C., Bianchi, S.M. and Robinson, J.P., (2004). Are parents investing less in children? Trends in mothers' and fathers' time with children. <i>American journal of sociology</i>, 110(1), pp.1-43. Cohen, P.N., (2018). The family: Diversity, inequality, and social change. WW Norton. Chapter 8. Bengtson, V. L. (2001). Beyond the Nuclear Family: The Increasing Importance of Multigenerational Bonds. <i>Journal of Marriage and Family</i>, 63, 1-16. Budig, M. J., Misra, J., & Boeckmann, I. (2012). The motherhood penalty in cross-national perspective: The importance of work-family policies and cultural attitudes. <i>Social Politics</i>, 19(2), 163-193. Kan, M.Y., Sullivan, O. and Gershuny, J., (2011). Gender convergence in domestic work: Discerning the effects of interactional and institutional barriers from large-scale data. <i>Sociology</i>, 45(2), pp.234-251. Charles, M., & Bradley, K. (2009). Indulging our gendered selves? Sex segregation by field of study in 44 countries. <i>American Journal of Sociology</i>, 114(4), 924-976. Goldin, C., & Rouse, C. (2000). Orchestrating Impartiality: The Impact of „Blind“ Auditions on Female Musicians. <i>The American Economic Review</i>, 90(4), 715-741



Assessment

Assessment Components

Coursework 1 (45%); Coursework 2 (45%); Participation (10%)