



REVISTA LATINOAMERICANA DE CIENCIAS SOCIALES, NIÑEZ Y JUVENTUD

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Call for submissions to the monographic issue titled:

Parentalities, children, youth and care in Latin America and the Caribbean: regulations, practices and relationships.

The Latin American Journal of Social Sciences, Children and Youth, in conjunction with the Latin American Network of Social Studies in Parentalities, is requesting submissions for its monographic issue titled *Parentalities, children, youth and care in Latin America and the Caribbean: regulations, practices and relationships*. This issue aims to publish articles that contribute to the emerging field of debate on parentalities and its connections with the conceptualizations of research on care, childhood and youth from the perspective of Latin American and the Caribbean.

Presentation of the proposal

Since the second half of the last century, significant transformations have taken place in the field of parentalities and care. Far from being over, these transformations have continued to become more complex and diversified. Parentalities, as a social space that involves constant transformation, tension and dispute, are a permanently fertile ground for the regulation of the population, especially children, through different powers, knowledge and institutions. The changes produced in terms of people's rights -especially those of women - have been accompanied by possibilities that were unimaginable decades ago, produced through different processes and factors such as scientific advances and the development of global communication networks. Various countries in South America have also experienced numerous historical transformations in their sociodemographic, cultural, legislative, educational, labor, and public policy aspects, among others. These changes have not always been clearly defined, generating debates between social sectors that perceive the transformations as a deterioration of conventional conditions of parenthood and those that see them as necessary or favorable.

At a demographic level, since the 1980s there have been structural changes in Latin America and the Caribbean, including some national differences and clear regional trends. In general, the fertility rate has decreased and people now become parents at a later age, along with the diversification and de-institutionalization of the prototypical model of the two-parent, heteronormative nuclear family, which is decreasing dramatically. Subsequently, the percentage of single-parent families, civil partnerships, childless couples and children born to unmarried parents has increased. In disadvantaged social sectors, forms of motherhood persist that distribute the responsibility for the care and formation of children within complex and multi-generational domestic units. One of the consequences of these processes is the dissolution at an empirical and conceptual level of the strict association between cohabitation, legal marriage and parentality, as well as the association between conjugal and parental couples.



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Specifically during the last decade, the diversification and massification of migratory processes shows that Latin American families are part of global social mobility strategies that have been strongly affected by gender roles. These migratory movements between countries in the region and to the Global North have facilitated the questioning of various "natural" relationships, to the extent that numerous couple and parental relationships are maintained despite the fact that participants live very far from each other. As a result, researchers are insisting on thinking of families and the relationships between parents and children more as a process and as specific and contextualized practices instead of structural concepts that tend to predefine the scenarios in which these relationships can occur (González and Acosta 2015). In turn, the socio-state administration of the vulnerabilities of migrant families represents an updating of generalized and ethnicized forms of social inequality, increasing the moral governance of migrant parents based on their care practices, as highlighted in the article by Calquín et al.

In the area of labor, we face a growing precarity in the daily lives of different sectors of the population due to the expansion of neoliberal policies and the process of increasing globalization. This has contributed to many individuals and families experiencing contexts involving increased deregulation and structural instability, accompanied by long working days and significant commuting between home and work for those living in large cities. New demands and tensions have been generated between the representations, values and practices in romantic relationships, the 'double shift' worked by women due to the slow incorporation of men into care tasks and a growing demand for increased parental involvement in the upbringing and care of children (Hays 1998; Faircloth 2014). This demand for involvement has made parents responsible for everything that happens to their children, both now and in the future, a form of "parental determinism" (Furedi 2002) that is extremely difficult for them to manage. In highly precarious and unstable conditions, families must become responsible for providing material and emotional care to their children in almost exclusive and solitary modalities as part of what has been called the "crisis" and extreme privatization of care (Comas D'Argemir 2014). The provision of this care involves different actors, institutions and types of relationships (Esquivel 2011) while unfolding in territorialities and spatialities that interact and determine the possibilities of this care. The spatial dimension of parentalities and the relationship between family spaces and daily life and care are discussed in the article by Janer et al.

Transformations in age, generational and gender relations are occurring in different social spaces. For children and young people there has been an expansion of spaces where their competence and participation as subjects is considered necessary and legitimate. These spaces coexist with fears regarding the consequences of their increased participation. Parents are generally disoriented about this issue, to the extent that they receive contradictory demands to raise autonomous, self-affirmative and independent subjects while at the same time they are required to increase control over their children and expect obedience. This takes place in the context of an environment perceived as threatening and plagued with risks such as academic and labor exclusion, violence, drug consumption, delinquency and others (Chávez and Vergara 2017). The incorporation of new communication and information technologies in daily life creates new spaces for play and sociability, but at the same time facilitates doubts and fears regarding the potential effects that media consumption can generate in



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their children. The limits between the private and public spheres in terms of children and parenthood have become more diffuse, with some practices considered abuse or negligence despite the fact that they were widely accepted in previous decades. Negotiations between parents and their children has a relevant role and parents often feel that their authority is threatened, fluctuating between horizontal parenting moments and other more restrictive approaches.

Although co-responsibility is invoked in the relationship between parentalities, gender and care (Aguayo, Barker and Kimelman 2016), the truth is that a relative continuity persists in terms of gender inequalities related to domestic and care work (Valdés, Castelain-Meunier and Palacios 2008). Contributions from feminism have shown that this is invisible work and historically has been carried out essentially by women, either mothers or other relatives, or has been externalized through the hiring of someone else to do it. This has relevant consequences for gender inequality as many women are forced to exclude themselves from the labor market or face greater difficulties compared to men in order to find productive and ongoing work (Batthyány, Genta, and Perrotta 2014). In addition, cultural ambivalence prevails regarding the incorporation of women in paid work, which is perceived as both a possibility for personal fulfillment and at the same time a threat to the care and raising of their children.

In these scenarios, parentalities primarily depend on the social construction of childhood, adulthood, care and roles for both parents and children. The way in which the relationships between parenthood and care are manifested, and the way in which society visualizes them, differ depending on class, gender, and ethnic structures, among other factors, as well as the way in which these aspects intersect and generate diverse and sometimes unpredictable results. Meanings regarding the appropriate care of children are linked to the cultural, normative and moral transformations that were catalyzed thirty years ago by the International Convention on the Rights of the Child but have since greatly exceeded it. The maternalization of women and the privatization of childhood (Zelizer 1984) are processes that occurred throughout the 20th century and are the foundation of social protection systems (Gordon 2008), as well as the production of gender and age hierarchies. Subsequently, the exploration of the meanings and emotionalities involved in the transformations of the private sphere as a space for childhood, as well as the tensions between different types of legitimate or invisible maternal and child needs, configure relevant entry points for exploring contemporary modes of "family" while at the same time illuminating the tensions involved in the management of crises. Although these socio-historical, cultural and subjective processes are undoubtedly also present in the countries in the global North, they acquire a specific nature in our continent characterized by extreme inequality and social inequity, evidenced by large populations living in poverty and the accumulation of wealth in other sectors. This situation is also characterized by the judicialization of the poverty of certain families and children through mass welfare and correction systems, by the strong presence of informal and invisible economies and cultural regimes, and by the presence of densely populated cities that are socioeconomically segregated, have deregulated growth and experience high levels of daily violence caused by an absence of effective social policies. This is why this monographic issue constitutes a relevant contribution to highlight and disseminate current studies on parenting and care in a dynamic interrelationship between global, regional and local contexts.



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