



Call for papers
3/2023 issue

***Families with forced migration backgrounds:
policies, practices and belonging***

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In the political debate and in the reception system for refugees, the relevance of the family often remains in the background of intake practices, functionally linked to the more institutional areas of integration: work, housing and educational inclusion (Ager & Strang 2008). This obscuring of the role that the family plays in the welcoming and inclusion processes depends on an elaboration of the process of “taking in charge” that is legally and socially profiled on the individual migrant since his/her first registration in the territory. The entire process, despite all the rhetoric on inclusion processes, is built and evaluated in its effectiveness on the outcome of individual paths that, in a context strongly oriented by a neo-liberal approach to public policies, do not enhance the relational and family dimension (Rania, Pinna & Coppola, 2021). Along this line, processes of infantilisation and victimisation emerge that characterise the intervention towards many refugees with perverse effects on the inclusion process (Marchetti, 2009).

Moreover, the temporal scanning of the reception process does not facilitate an intervention based on an understanding of the multiple relationships, identities and affiliations that are developed within the family unit and along an articulated and complex journey. Yet, the family bond often proves to have a specific influence on individual processes of change, conditioning the functioning of both institutionalized practices of reception and protection and of the local welfare systems.

In particular, with regard to the declinations of the relationship between families with forced migration backgrounds and reception services, several analyses highlight two particularly significant elements: on the one hand, the gender issue in the different articulation of the experience of diasporic motherhood and fatherhood; and, on the other, the influence of family models in the countries of origin and transnational family ties on settlement experiences. Indeed, as Ambrosini (2007; 2019) points out, transnational families are characterized by the co-presence of members of the same households. Often, this co-presence is realized in the absence even of the prospect of a physical presence, especially through the support of the media, but also by re-signifying everyday practices and actions, and basic forms of family reproduction of a moral, emotional, material kind (Parreñas 2001).

Therefore, transnationalism, understood here as multi-site ties and interactions that connect people across borders, emerges as a particularly interesting category of analysis when

approaching the understanding of the dynamics and of processes affecting families with *forced migration backgrounds* (Vertotec, 2008). In spite of the fragmentation of forced migrants' paths and the typological heterogeneity of the families themselves, the transnational dimension can indeed represent a challenge both for the definition of individual and collective processes of families' social inclusion and for the practitioners who interact with them.

Adopting this perspective, the issue is interested in investigating on the one hand the forms of family re-composition that take place within families with *forced migration backgrounds*: changes in family relationships, rearticulations of parenting and of *doing family* (the strategies put in place to develop a family life) (Strasser, Kraler, Bonjour, Bilger 2009); on the other hand, the way in which the reception system interfaces with the family dimension, highlighting both projects and initiatives of inter-institutional collaboration, as well as informal ones put in place by social workers and mutual aid initiatives emplaced by migrants and their families.

In this sense, the call for papers hastens contributions of a multidisciplinary nature, both theoretical and empirical, mainly, but not exclusively, on the following topics:

- ✓ Adaptation and change processes of parenthood (motherhood and fatherhood) in forced migration, in comparison to family models in the countries of origin and the impact with the host system and the social inclusion process.
- ✓ The challenges and opportunities of *doing family* in Diaspora.
- ✓ Media and transnational families: practices of realizing co-parenting across borders.
- ✓ Analysis of institutionalized policies and practices in caring for families with forced migration backgrounds.
- ✓ Autonomy and informal practices in the experience of reception workers with the family dimension of refugees
- ✓ Transnationalism and models of educational inclusion: formal and informal experiences of hybridisation between the educational frameworks of countries of origin and host countries, which place the family dimension at the centre.
- ✓ Policies and services for families with forced migration backgrounds.
- ✓ New forms of family in the diasporic experience, with particular reference to the role of the voluntary guardians and family fostering.

Deadline

Essays must be submitted by **May 30, 2023**

How to submit contributions

Texts must be submitted via Mondì Migrants' page on Franco Angeli editor website: <http://www.francoangeli.it/riviste/sommario.asp?idRivista=149> ; you will have to follow the procedure shown after clicking on 'propose an article'. Each essay, including notes and bibliographical references, must not exceed **35,000 characters (including spaces)** and may be written in Italian, English, French or Spanish.

Only texts that comply with the editorial standards available at this address will be accepted: https://francoangeli.azureedge.net/fa-contenuti/riviste/nr/mm-norme_en.pdf

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