Family, immigration, and culture

Issues: immigrant families, cross-cultural parenting;

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Family and immigration

The theoretical perspective:

Immigration as family event
Focus on intergenerational relationships

The studies:

- Family life space of immigrant couples
- Immigrant women in Lombardy
- Family relationships with grandparents, identity and personal well-being in second-generation adolescents
- Immigrant couples and encounters among cultures
1. Family life space of immigrant couples

**Aims:**
investigating the way immigrant couples can live their familial and social space after the immigration, unveiling the psychological and relational processes which are likely to enhance a positive or critical relation with own family culture and host culture

**Methods:**
- qualitative research (Interview + Couple Life Space)
- 100 immigrant couples from Morocco, Brasil, Philippines, Ghana.
2. Immigrant women in Lombardy

Aims:
investigating the living conditions of Arab and Pakistani women in Lombardy through an exploration of their migration projects, their family relationships, social ties and friendships; their representation of their rapport with the school and other social services.

Methods:
• qualitative research
• 100 women of first and second generation coming from Egypt, Morocco, Pakistan

3. Family relationships with grandparents, identity and personal well-being in second-generation adolescents

Aims:
investigating the influence of grandparents on second-generation adolescents’ identity and well-being

Methods:
• qualitative research
• 30 adolescents
4. Immigrant couples and encounters among cultures

Aims:
• Understand if and how immigrant couples are able to match their culture of origin with the culture of the hosting society
• Set up socio-clinical intervention instruments in order to support couples during the migration process

Methods:
• qualitative research (Interview + Couple Life Space)
• 40 immigrant couples, in Italy since at least 2 years and belonging to 3 different ethnic groups: Moroccans, Philippinos and Pakistani

Main results
1. Different processes of couple’s role and identity redefinition
2. The duty of guiding and support extended family back home
3. Mediation between two generational cultures: parents and children
4. Several ways of staying in host country: loss of origin, anticipation of return, synthesis
Cross-cultural parenting

The theoretical perspective:

There is a universal human need for autonomy, but the meaning and the specific domain in which an individual is expected to act autonomously varies across culture.

Consequently, some parental behaviors related to autonomy granting may be interpreted as positive or negative, according the cultural context.

The studies:

1. Cohesion and Enmeshment in two European countries (Manzi, Vignoles, Regalia & Sabini, 2006)

2. Intrusive parenting across countries (Manzi, Regalia, Fincham & Scabini, 2011)
Study 1

Is the impact of enmeshment on adolescents’ well-being moderated by culture? **YES**

FOR BRITISH: enmeshment had a **negative** impact on identity and thus on well-being

FOR ITALIANS: enmeshment had an indirect **positive** impact on identity and thus on well-being

Enmeshment operazionalized as lack of autonomy in the organization of time and space
Study 2

Is the impact of these four dimensions of parental intrusiveness on adolescents’ well-being moderated by culture? YES

FOR BELGIANS: separation had a positive impact on well-being

FOR ITALIANS: separation had a negative impact on well-being
References

- Brambilla M., Manzi C., Regalia C. (2010), Relazioni familiari e benessere nelle seconde generazioni dell’immigrazione: il ruolo dei nonni (Family relations and well-being in second generation adolescents: The role of grandparents) Rivista di Studi Familiari, 82-95
- Cigoli, V. e Gozzoli, C. (2003), Representar y vivir el espacio de vida familiar en familias migrantes: una confrontación intercultural, in Familia e interculturalidad, a cura di D. Borobbio, Salamanca, Ed. Università Pontificia di Salamanca, 433-461
- Gennari M.L. (2011), L’incontro con l’altro: migrazioni e culture familiari, Angeli, Milano
- Regalia C, Giuliani C. (in press), La transizione migratoria nei racconti delle donne arabe e pakistane, Angeli, Milano