

Joint International Family Sciences Conference 2026
FACES - Families And Challenges in Evolving Societies
in the D-A-CH Region and beyond

26–27 February, 2026

at the German Youth Institute (DJI), Munich, Germany

It is our pleasure to announce the first-ever joint international conference, launched by the **Family Sociology Section of the German Sociological Association (DGS)**, the **Family Research Working Group of the Austrian Sociological Association (ÖGS)**, the **Life Course research committee of the Swiss Sociological Association (SSA)** and the **Swiss Research Center LIVES**, in collaboration with the **German Youth Institute (DJI)**.

Families today are facing a wide range of significant societal changes. Shifting labor markets, conflicting social norms, demographic shifts like aging populations and declining birth rates, multiple crises and international conflicts, and the ongoing digital transformation of work and daily life are fundamentally reshaping family structures, daily routines, resources, and stressors. At the same time, political and societal debates on gender equality, caregiving, parenting and family policies are gaining momentum — sometimes accompanied by a backlash against previously made progress.

These changes bring new challenges for parents, children, and families as a whole, and raise important questions for family research. How do families and individuals deal with and adjust to changing conditions and shifts in society? What meaning do demographic changes and multiple crises have for families and what impact do they have on family structures, support between generations, caregiving, attitudes, and values? How do digitalization and socio-ecological challenges affect family life and individual well-being? How do existing social inequalities affect families' ability to respond to these challenges, and what new forms of inequalities emerge as a result?

The conference invites scholars to explore these and related questions from a variety of theoretical, methodological, and disciplinary viewpoints. We invite contributions from all fields and perspectives that address contemporary issues affecting families, recent developments in family research, or emerging societal dynamics influencing family life and related questions. Submissions can have the form of empirical research (qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods) or conceptual work, with a strong preference for proposals that challenge established themes or cross disciplinary boundaries.

Call for Paper and Submission

Please submit an abstract of no more than 300 words (excluding author details and references) by 30 October 2025, to: ayhan.adams@uni-osnabrueck.de and juliaelsa.sauter@unil.ch

When submitting, please use the **subject line: "Family Sciences Conference 2026 - Abstract Submission"**. In addition to oral presentations, the two-day program will

include a poster session. When submitting your abstract, please let us know if you are open to both formats (giving a talk or presenting a poster). You will receive notification regarding the acceptance of your abstract by December 1.

Call for PhD Workshop

Additionally, we invite doctoral candidates to present their doctoral project or a sub-project (paper) at the **PhD Workshop of the DGS- and ÖGS-Sections for Family Sociology**, hosted by Bettina Hünteler and Eva-Maria Schmidt. This event will take place on February 25, leading up to the conference. Participants will share their work in small groups, which will then be discussed by an experienced researcher and their fellow PhD peers. We are also inviting an established family researcher to give a lecture on tips and tricks for mastering the PhD journey (more information to follow). The PhD workshop offers a low-barrier entry point for early career researchers to present (early-stage) work, network and join the family research community. We strongly encourage attendees to also participate in and/or submit an abstract to the main conference. Send your presentation proposals for the PhD workshop by 30 October, 2025, to bhuenteler@diw.de and eva-maria.schmidt@univie.ac.at, with a maximum of one page, and use the subject line **"Family Sciences Conference 2026 - Abstract Submission PhD Workshop"**.

Travel Planning

The conference will take place on 26–27 February 2026, at the German Youth Institute (DJI) in Munich, Germany (Nockherstraße 2, 81541 München), starting Thursday morning and ending in the early Friday afternoon. A get-together is planned for the evening of February 25 (self-paid basis), following the PhD workshop for early-career researchers held earlier that day at the same venue. Given the high accommodation costs in Munich, we recommend early and cancellable hotel bookings in advance.

We look forward to your contributions and engaging discussions about the challenges families and family research face today.

Organizing committee:

Ayhan Adams (University of Osnabrück)

Laura Bernardi (University of Lausanne/LIVES)

Laura Castiglioni (German Youth Institute, DJI)

Bettina Hünteler (German Institute for Economic Research, DIW Berlin)

Anne-Kristin Kuhnt (University of Rostock)

Bernhard Riederer (Austrian Academy of Sciences)

Julia Sauter (University of Lausanne/LIVES)

Eva-Maria Schmidt (University of Vienna/OIF)

Claudia Zerle-Elsässer (German Youth Institute, DJI)

Gundula Zoch (Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg)