



Families and households

Demography

- Declining family size
- The ageing population
- Causes and consequences of immigration
- Causes and consequences of changes to the birth rate
- Causes and consequences of changes to the declining death rate

Social policies

- Overview of the major policies
- Perspectives applied to different policies
- How do policies affect different aspects of family life?
 - The family itself!
 - Equality between men and women
 - Children and Childhood
- Family size
- Family diversity

Childhood

- Is childhood disappearing?
- Is childhood improving? (march of progress view vs conflict perspectives)
- To what extent is childhood 'socially constructed?'
- How and why has childhood changed over the last century?

Changing gender roles. Issues of Power and equality in relationships

- Domestic Labour - who does the housework?
- Do men and women have equal power in relationships?
 - Finances/ control of money
 - Domestic violence
- Perspectives on changing gender roles

Marriage, divorce and cohabitation

- Reasons for changes in marriage
- Reasons for changes in divorce
- Perspectives on decreasing marriage and increasing cohabitation and divorce
- Life course analysis

Increasing Family diversity - the decline of the nuclear family?

- The rise of single parent households
- The rise of single person households
- Changes to patterns of childbearing and child rearing
- Reasons for increasing 'structural' diversity
- Variations in family life by ethnicity, social class and sexuality
- Is the nuclear family really in decline?

Perspectives on the nuclear family, relationships and 'the life course'

- Intro - modernity, postmodernity and the changing family
- Functionalism
 - Murdoch/ parsons
 - Effects of industrialisation on the family
- Marxism
 - Engels/ zaretsky
 - The effects of capitalism on the family
- Feminisms
 - The effects of consumerism and globalisation on the family
- Postmodernism
 - Weeks/ stacey
- Late modernism
 - Giddens/ beck/ bauman
 - The effects of risk and uncertainty on relationships
- Personal Life Perspective
 - Life course analysis
- The new right
- Family practices (choices)