



# **Decolonising Families and Relationships webinar series 2020-21**

Organized by the BSA Families and Relationships Study Group

Three webinars to be held: one in the autumn, spring and summer.

As part of a wider initiative around decolonising Family and Relationship Studies, the FAR study group is proposing a series of three online lunch-time webinars across the course of the 20/21 academic year. These events invite scholars working on families and relationships to share experiences, promote mutual learning and encourage development in the decolonialisation of our subject area.

The study of 'the' family has long been critiqued for its heteronormativity, whiteness and reproduction of specific, privileged family forms. In recent decades, families and relationship scholarship has expanded and adapted to these challenges, attending to an increasingly diverse range of relationships and non-normative households. However, progress has been slow, and overall, research remains predominantly white in its focus, and citation practices indicate the privileging of male scholars from the global north. As Gurminder Bhambra (2008) points out, sociological imaginations are limited when they are premised on Eurocentric assumptions. As part of the endeavour for 'connected sociologies', and particularly in light of the recent *Black Lives Matter* movement, this event will explore new ways of thinking about and understanding families and relationships by drawing on global and minoritized knowledge and examining the forces which have shaped our scholarship. In doing so, we will explore new avenues which challenge expectations of what families are and what they do, drawing on marginal experiences and voices, in ways which situate 'British sociology' within the international milieu.

We seek contributions which expand sociological imaginations by: presenting research findings which complicate the white, heteronormative, nuclear understanding of families; methodological and theoretical approaches that contribute to the decolonising of families and relationships research; sharing knowledge of scholarship from beyond the global north; or by (re)visiting and challenging the Euro-American dominance of our research area.

Participants will be invited to record their presentations in advance, to be discussed on the day by a senior scholar in the field, alongside a real-time audience Q and A. We anticipate producing an edited volume, special journal issue or teaching resource from the workshop – we welcome ideas from participants to this end.

**To submit a paper:**

Please submit abstracts of no more than 250 words along with a bio of 150 words (as a single word document) to Dr Julie Walsh at [j.c.walsh@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:j.c.walsh@sheffield.ac.uk) by **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September**. Successful presenters will be grouped thematically into three short events, to be hosted in Autumn (November 2020), Spring (March 2021) and Summer (June 2021).