

The members of Department of Family Studies and Social Pathology are currently conducting research on the following topics:

In general:

(BST) studies are realized by department members who undertake current and socially relevant research topics. They present sociological considerations that relate to processes occurring in social life that also affect personal and family life. They convey a) changes in terms of marriage and family life (A. Kwak); b) personal life from an intimate relationships point of view, everyday practices, body image concerns, and new intimacy technologies in connection with gender and sexuality (M. Bieńko); c) they investigate ageing on individual and social levels in terms of third age activities, intergenerational relations as well as caregiving for frail older adults. These topics update familiar concepts: they have been modernized accordingly to reflect the changing times. They also point out various phenomena that occur in everyday family life but are nonetheless rarely noticed. (M. Rosochacka-Gmitrzak)

Detailed descriptions of topics:

Mariola Bieńko - *Intimate practices of everyday life*

My research examines the connections between the private and public sphere and intimate life, paying particular attention to places of everyday practice in gender identities, intimate relationships, and bodily practices of dress and sexuality. The main findings exhibit a repertoire of the practices of “everyday life doing intimacy” in their social, cultural and personal dimensions. I focus on cultural representations of love, desire and friendship, and the ethics and politics of erotics. I examine new technologies of intimacy and discuss their implications in the realms of gender and sexuality. The Research project also deals with the culinary practices in contemporary culinary and festive customs.

Anna Kwak - *Family in the process of transformation*

Conducted sociological analyses of changes which the family undergoes allows the researcher to broaden knowledge about the subject. This includes new trends (especially cohabitation, LAT, voluntary childlessness in marriage) and their development. Such analyses also help clarify the role marriage and family currently play; tracking generational trends and changes that concern “marital and family life and the development of alternative forms of realizing personal life. Changes in social life have an impact on the attitudes of individuals towards marriage and family but also refer to their acceptance by society. Is such acceptance unconditional? Does a permanent base of principles and values” concerning marriage/family exist, despite social changes?

Magdalena Rosochacka-Gmitrzak - *Older adults in family and society*

This research investigates caregiving for frail older adult women provided by their husbands/life partners. The research has been derived from previous own analyses determining older adults functioning in families and society. Foreign literature on the subject defines caregiving men as „hidden and forgotten”. Social reality reveals a growing demand for men caregiving for their wife/life partners in older adulthood as – in spite of women living longer – they do not remain in good health for as long as men do.

Therefore the risk of becoming a wife’s or partner’s caregiver increases sharply after the age of 75. The research enables scrutinizing the problem that is to a certain extent hidden in current sociological reflections on ageing.