

**CoSMo | Comparative Studies in Modernism, Summer 2018 issue: "Family Matters 2.0: Literary and Cultural Representations of the American and European Family in Transition."
Edited by Andrea Carosso and Eva-Sabine Zehelein**

Deadline for submission of 500 words abstract (or, if possible, full papers): October 1, 2017

Notification of acceptance: October 15, 2017

Final deadline for submission of full paper: January 10, 2018

CFP:

Literature has been exploring since biblical times the complex making, undoing and transformation of the family, a multilayered signifier eliciting a biological definition as well as a socio-historical/cultural context, an imagined community and/or a community of belonging, part of a socio-legal construct, a larger collective network, and a body politic. Film, the visual arts and TV serial dramas have also contributed to cultural debates about norms, traditions, lived realities, complexities as well as hypotheses over the future of family, a lived reality that has never been a monolithic stable entity, but always in flux, adaptable to changing circumstances.

The stereotype of the traditional nuclear family, consisting of a white man called "father", a white woman called "mother" and their mutual genetic offspring called "children" who all perform preconceived gendered role models has stuck like scotch-tape, in spite of the fact that it has represented an exceedingly short-lived phenomenon of the mid-20th century. Over the last decades, this "nuclear family" has been challenged, the term has been cracked open, redefined, broadened and adapted to the contexts and ways in which people are living and loving today - patchwork, same sex parentage, single mothers and fathers, children with parents who are not genetically related, all these and more constellations are omnipresent lived realities.

This thematic issues of CoSMo is seeking contributions, especially from the fields of literary and cultural studies, addressing representations of those ongoing transformations. We invite articles exploring the past, but primarily the present of "family" in a Euro-American perspective on the basis of a very broad understanding of the term „text“ – including, and thus not limited to, literary texts, Hollywood film, documentary and TV series, podcasts and blogs.

Of particular interest for this publication are analyses of representations and their modes addressing following "family matters":

- discourses about the creation, cementation, and iconoclasm of narratives of the nuclear family
- narratives of race and ethnicity as well as class and gender in the context of the American family
- cultural, social, political and legal challenges to family heteronormativity through same sex marriage / same sex parentage
- (recent) public debates about single mothers by choice, fatherlessness, rights of single fathers and/or the "mommy wars"
- changing conceptions of "mother", "father" and "child" in times of assisted reproductive technologies (ART) and global cross-border reproductive tourism as well as adoptions (key issues might be social freezing, in vitro, NIPD, egg and sperm donation and surrogacy)
- political, legal and ethical ramifications of "motherhood" and "fatherhood"
- political / presidential rhetoric of the American nation as family as "tight knit community."

Please address queries and submissions by October 1, 2017 to andrea.carosso@unito.it and zehelein@em.uni-frankfurt.de .