

Marzia Grassi (ICS-ULisboa) | *Family and Kinship in contemporary mobile world*

The aim to capture the effects of mobility on family relationships and processes in a non-ethnocentric and holistic posture, takes into account family cultures, and the migration history of the individuals involved in this process.

Moving beyond the current migration and family literature, this paper combines the contributions of different disciplines within the social sciences and different perspectives –migration, family, transnationalism, globalization, culture, gender, life course – to examine social change in mobile contexts where family is conceptualized as a “mobile institution” embedded in multiple family cultures, multiple locations and places and multiple types of mobility (national and transnational, both past and present).

The principal impact of such an approach is to consider family as a global phenomenon, seeking to understand how the construction of each member's role is reformulated when some of them are living geographically separated.

This approach requires multidisciplinary tools for knowledge validation, and innovative data collection methods able to understand the new forms of family and kinship amongst individuals living in different countries or in different regions of the same country.

The theoretical reflections are grounded in original data collected in several projects under my coordination in Angola, Cape-Verde, and Portugal as well as in my participation in an academic consortium on gender, citizenship, and migration between Europe, Africa, and Latin America.