

Intermarriage throughout History
5-8 June 2013, Cluj-Napoca
Romania

Hosts:

- International Commission of Historical Demography
- Centre for Population Studies at "Babeş-Bolyai" University Cluj
- Center for Transylvanian Studies at Romanian Academy Cluj
- Romanian Society of Historical Demography
- CEPHn – Central Europe Population History network

Intermarriages (or mixed marriages) have taken place since the beginning of time. As people explored and traveled, both men and women would fall in love with natives and either stay or take the partners back home with them. The term mixed marriage also describe the marriage of a couple who has different cultural, ethnic, religious or national heritages or backgrounds.

The research of mixed marriages was inspired by the idea that diversity of customs and cultures has been, for centuries, one of the world's assets. The ethnic and religious tolerance and peaceful cohabitation have been, at least for the last decades, the guarantee for an open society and consideration for cultural diversity. On the other hand, there are many examples in Europe where the application of this generous principle was confronted with serious difficulties, such as the integration of migrants coming from areas culturally opposed to those of the host-country. It is also (as) true that in areas such as former Yugoslavia or Northern Ireland the high ratio of mixed marriages did not prevent civil wars.

Different cultures endure vastly diverse moral, ethical and value foundations that influence their perceptions of individual, family and societal lifestyle. Mixed marriages do not connect only two individuals, but also the groups to which they belong. Mixed marriages act as a connecting element within a society and their existence has the potential to reduce the probability of violent conflicts among different ethnic groups and to increase the social cohesion of the society. When among the members of different groups there are many marital relations, there are also other social contacts among them: children from different groups have the opportunity to meet each other in school, in the neighbourhood, in leisure activities.

Mixed marriages form a link between these groups and often connect the social networks of the two spouses, and new contacts and interpersonal relationships could appear, passing the group boundaries. It would be interesting and useful, in this context, to find an answer to the question whether intermarriage lowers the salience of cultural distinctions for new generations, and to find out if the descendents of such marriages identify themselves with only one group, or with both of them.

Another challenging question researchers are invited to answer is whether through mixed marriage people might lose their negative attitudes they have toward other groups. Although personal interactions can sometimes lead to conflicts, accentuating the economic and cultural differences, when the relationship is intimate, the interaction might give people the possibility to understand individual variety among members of a group, and, by doing this, they might reduce their prejudices and stereotypes.

Panels

The panels and the papers of the conference could take into consideration topics as follows, regarding various times and places:

- **The impact of various historical events on the evolution of mixed marriages**; This would cover the influences of the major ideologies on mixed marriages; Organizer: Prof. dr. Ioan Bolovan, bolovani@yahoo.com
- ***The elements concerning mixed marriages in the secular and religious laws.*** This would cover the laic and ecclesiastical legislation in historical perspective Organizer: Prof. dr. Ioan Chirilă
- ***The analysis of mixed marriage in the collective mentality*** (reflected in the newspapers, literature, memoirs and ethnographic sources) Organizers: Dr. Daniela Mârza and Dr. Marius Eppel, daniela_marza@yahoo.com; mariuseppel@yahoo.fr
- ***The quantitative dimension of the mixed marriages***; finding explanations for the different levels of the extent of mixed marriages. Organizers: Dr. Mihaela Hărăguș and Dr. Bogdan Crăciun, bogdanacademia@yahoo.com
- ***The explicative mechanisms of mixed marriages***; This would cover the different factors (social, economic, cultural, family background) involved in a mixed marriage and their balance. Organizer: Prof. dr. Traian Rotariu, trotariu@socasis.ubbcluj.ro
- **Mixed marriages and transcontinental migration: continuity and change**; Some researchers insist upon transcontinental emigrants' tendency to reproduce their regional, cultural and family marriage patterns and strategies by marrying a person of their own village or region at home or abroad and forming a separate community within the country of settlement. On the other hand, other researchers are eager to insist upon transcontinental emigrants' discontinuous marital practices and patterns as they often marry outside of their cultural boundaries in an attempt to integrate the new culture and country faster and experience a faster process of social mobility for them or their children. These two totally opposite approaches to the study of mixed marriage among transcontinental emigrants are conflicting as one justifies the prevalence of strong cultural communities overseas while the other explains the rather rapid disintegration of a community harmony and culture over time. Yet in recent years, the historiography has taken a more moderate stance and has been focusing on a new middle-of-the-way approach, largely insisting on the evolving transnational and transcultural nature of mixed marriages among transcontinental emigrants, whether they established in a nearby country in Europe or overseas (in America in particular). The purpose of this session is to address the question of continuity and change in transcontinental emigrants' marriage strategies. In what circumstances, why and how did or do transcontinental emigrants envision marriage abroad and with whom? It is clear that the study of endogamous or exogamous marriages and the nature of these marriage strategies abroad are indicators of a transcultural adaptation process which transcontinental emigrants experience through marriage. What is the nature of mixed marriages among transcontinental emigrants? What do these marriages tell about the transcultural evolution of individuals, families, and communities and their adaptation process? Do they really reflect the emergence, survival, or else gradual disappearance of cultural communities or quarters abroad? What do these marriages tell about the notion of identity within and outside of the community? Organizer: Marie-Pierre Arrizabalaga, Université de Cergy-Pontoise, Marie-Pierre.Arrizabalaga@u-cergy.fr
- ***The demographic behavior of mixed couples*** (prenuptial pregnancies, fertility, infant mortality). Do they follow the patterns of the father's group, of the mother's group or do they reflect a more individualistic lifestyle, precisely because the couple already has put itself outside group mechanisms? Organizer: Prof. dr. Jan Kok, j.kok@.let.ru.nl

- **Jews and Christians – marital exchanges and anti-Semitism in 19th century Europe.**
Organizer: Prof. dr. Peter Teibenbacher, peter.teibenbacher@uni-graz.at
- ***Mixed families without marriage.*** This would cover "families" of servants (when not able to marry or not even allowed for legal reasons) and families of slaves under colonial regimes, and also of couples in a union which is not recognized by the state (or the official Church) or the community. This topic is related to "illegitimacy" and has consequences on family transmission system, since children born in these unions have to face a lot of problems.
Organizer: Prof. dr. Antoinette Fauve Chamoux, achamoux@yahoo.com
- ***Identification and sociability in ethnically mixed families.*** One of the situations that are challenging in terms of ethnic and national identification is that of members of ethnically mixed families, a phenomenon which is frequent in culturally diverse settings. Papers in our panel will discuss theoretically and empirically, using both qualitative and quantitative methods, issues like ethnic and national identification, language use, sociability, psychological or social adjustment of people in mixed families.
Organizer: Adrian Hatos, Florica Stefanescu University of Oradea, florica.stefanescu@gmail.com
- ***Inside mixed marriages. The problems of children.*** The state, the Churches and the families had different approaches concerning childrens born inside mixed marriages. This panel aims to analyze the lives of these children, the mixture of elements coming from outside family and their impact on the children's life.
Organizer: Luminita Dumănescu, luminita_dumanaescu@yahoo.com

Any other topic you might consider appropriate will be welcomed. We welcome proposals for papers and panels coming from young and established scholars working in history, sociology, anthropology, political science, psychology, law or religious studies. You are also invited to propose panels on such topics.

Paper proposals should include the title of the presentation, a brief abstract of up to 500 words, a short c.v., and the contact information of the presenter. Please send your proposal both to the panel organizers and at the csp_cluj@yahoo.com.

The official language of the conference will be English.

Organisers

Scientific Committee

Prof. dr. Kees Mandemakers (The Netherlands)
Prof. dr. Antoinette Fauve-Chamoux (France)
Prof. dr. Ioan Bolovan (Romania)
Prof. dr. Mary Louise Nagata (USA)
Prof. dr. Marie-Pierre Arrizabalaga (France)
Prof. dr. Claudia Contente (Spain)
Prof. dr. Futoshi Kinoshita (Japan)
Prof. dr. Ofelia Rey Castelao (Spain)
Prof. dr. Peter Teibenbacher (Austria)
Dr. Mikolaj Szoltysek (Germany)
Dr. Mohamed Saleh (USA)
Prof. dr. Ravindran Gopinath (India)
Prof. dr. Jan Kok (The Netherlands)

Organising Committee

Prof. dr. Ioan Aurel Pop	Rector of the „Babes-Bolyai” University
Prof. dr. Ioan Chirilă	President of the Senate of the „Babes-Bolyai” University
Prof. dr. Traian Rotariu	Director of the Center for Population Studies of the „Babes-Bolyai” University
Prof. dr. Ioan Bolovan	Vice-rector of the „Babes-Bolyai” University
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Dr. Bogdan Crăciun	bogdanacademia@yahoo.com

Dates and deadlines

1 May 2012	Start of panel proposals submission
30 June 2012	Deadline for panel proposals submission
15 July 2012	Notification of panels acceptance
20 July 2012	Start of paper proposals submission
30 November 2012	Deadline for paper proposals submission
31 December 2012	Notification of paper acceptance
30 April 2013	Deadline for early registration

Registration

Registration fees:

- early registration, 01.01.2013-30.04.2013, 175 euro
- standard registration, payment at location, 200 euro

The registration fee includes:

- participation to the Welcome Reception
- cocktail
- conference materials
- refreshments during the conference (coffee breaks)
- 2 lunches
- excursion

Accommodation

The organisers will negotiate special rates for this event. Select your hotel and make your booking on-line. Please note that your booking will be sent DIRECTLY to the hotel of your choice. In fact, this way you make your booking directly with the hotel.

Grants

10 grants will be available for Ph.D. students or/and young researchers - for more information contact Ioan Bolovan (bolovani@yahoo.com) and/or Luminița Dumănescu (luminita_dumanescu@yahoo.com)

For further information please visit the conference website:

<http://hiphi.ubbcluj.ro/interethnicmarriages/Organisation.html>

Conference schedule

5 June

12,00 – 19,00 registration
19,00 – 20,00 Opening ceremony
20,00 – 21,30 Welcome reception

6 June

9,00 – 11,00 Panels
11,00 – 11,30 coffee break
11,30 – 13,30 Panels
13, 30 – 14,45 Lunch
15,00 – 17,00 Panels
17,00 – 17,30 coffee break
17,30 – 19,30 Panels
20,00 – 22,00 Cocktail

7 June

9,00 – 11,00 Panels
11,00 – 11,30 coffee break
11,30 – 13,30 Panels
13, 30 – 14,45 Lunch
15,00 – 17,00 Panels
17,00 – 17,30 coffee break
17,30 – 19,30 Panels

8 June

10,00 – 18,00 Trip to the Apuseni Mountains (including wine taste)