

## 2002 Timeline of the Work-Family Area of Study

Summarized by

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### Introduction

The project team of the Sloan Work and Family Research Network was interested in examining the evolution of the work-family area of study. In particular, we wanted to identify some of the individuals and publications that have helped to shape key work-family constructs and that have contributed to our knowledge base. Recognizing that this endeavor was a daunting task, we decide to gather information about the development of the work-family area of study, using four different methodologies:

1. Chandra Mason, a doctoral candidate at CUNY, who had analyzed the contents of the Social Sciences Citation Index to identify the 100 social science work-family research articles most frequently cited, shared the results of her analysis with us. These 100 articles were included on the Timeline. The list of these articles is posted in the Library of Papers, Presentations, and Reports on the website of the Sloan Work and Family Research Network, at [http://www.bc.edu/bc\\_org/avp/wfnetwork/lopapr/index.html - top100](http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/wfnetwork/lopapr/index.html - top100)
2. Articles nominated for the 1999 and 2000 Kanter Awards, given for excellence in work-family research articles, were included.
3. In November 2001, the Sloan Work and Family Research Network invited Network affiliates and other academics interested in work-family scholarship to respond to an electronic survey. The survey questions were particularly relevant to academics who either conduct research or teach courses relevant to the work and family area of study. It was sent via listserv to approximately 750 affiliates of the Work and Family Network. In addition to the academics who have affiliated with the Work and Family Network, this listserv includes students, practitioners, as well as others interested in work-family research.

A total of 66 individuals took the time to respond to the questions, which asked people to reflect on the past, present, and future of the work-family area of study. These individuals identified work-family research leaders, important publications, and listed some of their own work.

The responses to the following two questions were incorporated into the *2002 Work-Family Timeline*:

- Starting with the decade (when you became interested in the work-family area of study), could you please list any presentations you made or papers/publications you wrote which reflect important contributions you have made to the work-family area?
- Beginning with the decade you (when you became interested in the work-family area of study), identify up to 5 publications per decade or up to 5 individuals who influenced your understanding of work-family issues, at that time. Please be sure to identify influential publications or individuals for each decade after the decade you first became involved with work-family issues.

4. Library databases, including the Work-Family Literature Database which is a core component of the website for the Sloan Work and Family Research Network, were consulted to identify additional publications of individuals recognized by the survey respondents as key leaders in the work-family area of study.

### **Structure of the Timeline**

The information gathered was organized into the *2002 Work-Family Timeline*, starting with the 1960s.

The focus of the timeline was placed on notable benchmarks in the world of work-family: events, experiences, and publications. This work-family timeline was then contextualized in a few selected demographic, social, economic, and political markers of the decades of the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s.

### **How to Use the 2002 Work-Family Timeline**

We have posted the *2002 Work-Family Timeline* for two purposes:

- We hope that the current content may be of use to people interested in the work-family area of study. Beyond the descriptive elements, we anticipate that the timeline could stimulate discussions about possible new directions for the work-family area of study (Please see the paper, "[Stones Unturned: Responses to the 2001 Online Survey of the Work and Family Area of Study](#)," which discusses the respondents' suggestions about work-family topics that have not yet been sufficiently studied or addressed.)
- As noted below, we strongly encourage you to review the contents so that you can add to this timeline. The timeline will become a "living resource" if the contents are periodically expanded.

### **Limitations of the 2002 Work and Family Timeline**

We consider the *2002 Work-Family Timeline* to be a "work in progress."

We regret that time constraints limited our ability to conduct a more extensive scan of the work-family research literature. The processes we used to identify some of the key events publications were neither exhaustive nor as methodologically rigorous as we would have liked. As a consequence, many important events and publications are not yet included.

Furthermore, there is a regrettable US-bias in the information contained on the timeline. In part, this reflects the extent to which the US data was more accessible to us when it was time for us to assemble the *2002 Work-Family Timeline* for display at the February 2002 work-family research conference, "Persons, Processes, and Places" sponsored by the Business and Professional Women's Association Foundation, Purdue University, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

In an effort to address these limitations, we are requesting that people who use the Sloan Work and Family Research Network website to improve the 2002 Timeline by contributing content.

### **Suggestions or Additions?**

Please e-mail suggestions and corrections to: Marcie Pitt-Catsoupes at [pittcats@bc.edu](mailto:pittcats@bc.edu) or Teri Ann Lilly at [lillyt@bc.edu](mailto:lillyt@bc.edu)