

Program

The Domestic Sphere in Europe 16th to 19th Century

International Conference,
Schloss Schadau, Thun

7–9 September 2017



THE DOMESTIC SPHERE IN EUROPE, 16TH TO 19TH CENTURY

The conference brings together renowned experts in the historiography of the house, home and family. It chiefly takes a praxeological perspective and focuses on aspects of *doing the domestic*. Also covered will be aspects of terminology, social space, gender and representations. How did women and men from different social milieus perform and understand the domestic in their daily lives?

How were the house, home and family entangled in their social environments? And how did all this change from the early modern to the modern period?

The conference is organized by the committee of the SNSF-Sinergia-project *Doing House and Family*, based at the Universities of Bern, Basel, Lausanne and Lucerne.

THURSDAY, 7. SEPT. 2017

9:00-9:30	Welcome and Introduction	Joachim Eibach: What Is and What Configurates the Domestic Sphere?
9:30-10:50	Session 1	Jon Mathieu: House, Family, Kinship: Exploration of Domestic Terminologies in Europe from the 16th Century Margareth Lanzinger: The Domestic Sphere as Legal Sphere
Coffee Break		
11:20-12:40	Session 2	Francisco Garcia González / Margarita Birriel Salcedo: The Domestic Sphere in Rural Society Raffaella Sarti: Domestic Hierarchies in Early Modern Europe
Lunch		
14:00-15:20	Session 3	Maria Ågren: The History of the Home Office Jane Whittle: The Household Economy, Gender and Consumption
Coffee Break		
15:50-17:10	Session 4	Joachim Eibach: Social Openness vs. Privacy: A History of Increasing Closure? Elisabeth Joris: Gender: The Emergence of Separate Spheres?
17:20-18:40	Poster Session	Poster Session of the Projects with Junior Researchers (with Coffee and Water Served)
19:30	Conference Dinner	

FRIDAY, 8. SEPT. 2017

9:00-10:20	Session 5	Frank Hatje: Domestic Sociability Catherine Richardson: Reading, Writing and Leisure
Coffee Break		
10:50-12:10	Session 6	Irene Galandra Cooper: Cose di Casa: The Domestic Sphere as a Religious Space in Early Modern Naples Tine Van Osselaer: The Domestic Sphere as a Religious Space in the 19th Century
Lunch		
13:30-14:50	Session 7	Claudia Opitz-Belakhal: The Domestic Sphere as a Space of Emotions Sandro Guzzi-Heeb: Sexuality and Intimacy
Coffee Break		
15:10-16:30	Session 8	Inken Schmidt-Voges: Regulating Domestic Conflicts – Negotiating Domestic Relations Julie Hardwick: Intimate Partners, Sexual Violence and Household Formation
17:00	Departure for a Mountain Walk in the Heiligenschwendi Region with Jon Mathieu Including a Public Speech: The Mountain Family in History	
	Light Meal in an Alpine Hut	

9:00-10:20 **Session 9**

Sandra Cavallo: Domestic Culture of Health in Early Modern Europe
 Daniela Hammer-Tugendhat: The Significance of the 17th Century Dutch Interior-Painting for the Formation of Bourgeois Identity

Coffee Break

10:50-12:10 **Session 10**

Philip Hahn: Does the Paterfamilias Literature in Early Modern Europe Have an Entangled History?
 Monika Szczepaniak: The National House in the Polish Literature of the Long 19th Century

12:10-
 approx.
 12:40 **Wrap-up Discussion**



Castle Schadau with the Stockhorn Mountain Chain in the Background, Water Color of Albrecht Kauw, 1672 (Bernisches Historisches Museum, Bern)

Maria Ågren (Univ. of Uppsala)
The History of the Home Office

This paper will discuss the early modern 'home office' and argue that it was a practical and material reality of great importance to early modern society. The home office, in turn, has implications for our understanding of gender relations, the domestic sphere, the distinction between public and private, and the relationship between state and society. Theoretically, the paper will draw on the concept of 'the open house' (das offene Haus). Empirically, the paper will discuss the doings of Swedish and German lower state servants – customs officials, postmasters and others – as well as those of their wives. The paper will be based on work by Maria Ågren 2017, Heiko Droste 2011 and Ulrike Ludwig 2015.

Sandra Cavallo
 (Royal Holloway Univ. of London)
The Domestic Culture of Health in Early Modern Europe

In the last twenty years the attention of early modern medical historians has shifted from institutional spaces to the domestic environment. Their research initially identified the home as the primary place where healthcare was provided and women were the main carers and medical experts in the household. In recent studies the household as a whole is explored as medical agent. Moreover, its medical role now appears much more complex than simply tending to the sick, it is seen to extend to the production of medical and natural knowledge through study, observation, experimentation and recording. Such 'domestic turn' has considerably changed the study of medical

practice, leading scholars to pay new attention, for example, to the home spaces where these activities took place and to the technologies employed. The focus on the home has also led to acknowledgement of the wide array of practices in which people engaged to prevent, rather than treat sickness, and to therefore explore daily routines such as drinking, eating, sleeping and cleansing for the medicinal value they were seen to carry. Moreover, while domestic health-related activities were originally associated with the lay practice of medicine, recent scholarship has revealed that professional practice, too, was grounded in domestic culture. A focus on the way in which the study of the medical household has evolved in the last two decades therefore offers fresh insights into gender roles and the dichotomies public/private, domestic/commercial and professional/lay that have informed many assumptions about the early modern household.

Joachim Eibach (Univ. of Berne)
Social Openness vs. Privacy: A History of Increasing Closure?

A central issue in the history of the modern family is the fundamental change from an early modern open and socially heterogeneous 'household-family', to a modern closed and homogeneous 'nuclear family'. This paper will address this issue by looking at self-narratives from the period of transformation. The central focus will be on the diary, kept from 1771 to 1789, of Henriette Stettler-Herport, the wife of a Bernese bailiff. Her diary is based on pietistic self-reflection and directed by the wish to 'better' her dissatisfactory daily life. With regard to the guiding question of social openness vs. privacy, the outcome of the study will be brie-

fly compared with two diaries from the early 19th century. The results are likely to shed new light on overarching aspects of the history of the domestic sphere, such as the questions of co-presence, of increasing privacy and of female domesticity.

Irene Galandra Cooper
(Univ. of Cambridge)

Cose di Casa: The Domestic Sphere as a Religious Space in Early Modern Naples

In Naples, as elsewhere, drawn in for questioning, witnesses reported to the Inquisitor's vicar stories of distorted devotion performed by their family members and neighbours, and evidence of domestic religious objects, such as paintings of the Crucifix and of the Virgin are often mentioned in the court's trials. A reading of such trials, however, not only reveals which objects existed in more lowly sixteenth-century Neapolitan homes, but it also allows us to gain an insight into how the sacred shaped the domestic sphere, so often omitted from written historical records. By analysing trials, inventories and extant objects, this paper investigates the domestic sphere of the sixteenth-century Neapolitan home as a site that reveals how ordinary men and women lived their everyday Catholic faith when away from Church.

Francisco García González
(Univ. of Castilla La Mancha) / Margarita Birriel Salcedo (Univ. of Granada)
The Domestic Sphere in Rural Society

For those of us who study history in Spain, when thinking about home and family there is an unmissable landmark on the horizon; the thirtieth anniversary of the publication of La

familia en la España mediterránea [Family in Mediterranean Spain], *Crítica*, 1987, the authors of which are still considered obligatory reading on the matter. This work was a watershed in the study of the history of the family in Spain, which is why we are going to use it as the chronological starting point in our historiographic reflection. One of the virtues of this work was that it tackled aspects of three main categories: house, home & family, that are still revealing themselves to be unstable and complex in 2017. Also remarkable are some of the subjects that it does not cover, such as women's history, which would still take some years to intersect with the main current; or the scant importance that was still being given to work, or the material worth of the house at that time. Thus, the aim of this work is to take stock of these last thirty years of research, examining the subjects mentioned, while also evaluating problems and achievements, and bringing to light research proposals.

Sandro Guzzi-Heeb
(Univ. of Lausanne)

Sexuality and Intimacy

The study of sexuality and intimacy in 18th and 19th century Europe was heavily influenced by general interpretations of historical change and of modernisation, often coupled with ideological judgements. A key text in this respect was Antony Giddens' book "The transformation of intimacy", with its idea of a democratization of intimate relationships. My contribution aims at questioning such linear interpretations, highlighting the fundamental differences we can observe between different classes, social groups and milieus. In this sense, the general evolution in the period under study reflects a rather fundamental diversification of sexual cultures and practices, linked with specific social, political and religious identities, than a homogeneous tendency.

Philip Hahn (Univ. of Tübingen)
Does the Paterfamilias Literature in Early Modern Europe Have an Entangled History?

Literature of advice for family life and household work can be found in most literate societies in the early modern world. The role of these texts in the propagation of Christian family morals and notions of work ethic and thrift in Europe has been studied by historians for decades. Only fairly recently, though, scholars have begun to look at the so-called paterfamilias literature, which is characterised by a remarkable diversity of topics, formats, and addressees, from the perspective of the history of knowledge. Quite a number of works of this genre, which shared a background in classical antiquity, were translated into several European languages and were adapted to different needs. In the course of European colonizing and missionary activity, some of these texts, and with them, the concepts of the family and household they propagated, were carried overseas. At the same time, knowledge and specimens of extra-European animals and plants, as well as their use as food or medicine, travelled to Europe and found their way into writing for the household on the continent. This paper focuses on these processes of exchange and amalgamation within Europe and beyond, arguing that the knowledge aimed at offering precepts for, and solving the problems of everyday life, also has an entangled history in the early modern period.

Daniela Hammer-Tugendhat
(Univ. of Vienna)

The Significance of 17th Century Dutch Interieur-Painting for the Formation of Bourgeois Identity

My thesis is as follows: The issues of Seventeenth-Century Dutch interieur-painting remain relevant until the end of the 19th cen-

tury, even for other countries such as France, Germany and England. Pictures of Pieter de Hooch, Jan Vermeer, Jacobus Vrel, Nicolaes Maes and Gerard Ter Borch shall serve as examples for the complexity of relations between space and human relations, privacy and the public, and the hierarchy of social relations in the domestic sphere. I would like to demonstrate the interrelation of interior settings and the inwardness of human figures, the emergence of a new form of emotionality, so significant for the upraising bourgeois culture. But further, we shall also question who and what is not the object of representation. This investigation will reveal the imaginative character of Dutch painting, which seems so mimetic, but indeed contributed to modeling human relations in real social life.

Julie Hardwick
(Univ. of Texas at Austin)

Intimate Partners, Sexual Violence, and Household Formation in Early Modern France

This paper explores how young people in consensual relationships in early modern France framed the transition from what we might describe (in an old fashioned way) as courtships. These relationships included plenty of physical intimacy without intercourse, to commitments to marry that included shifts to premarital intercourse. It draws on a distinctive set of litigation records in which all the plaintiffs and many of the witnesses were women. The most striking aspects of the transition for us are the centrality of sexual violence in ongoing consensual relationships, and shifting spaces of intimacy as key markers of a new phase. The narratives that surround this transition are enmeshed in our larger debates about the formation of marriage, the history of sexuality, the role of legal processes, and domestic space. Women's narratives were punctuated by shifting spaces and the control of them. The inti-

macy of courtship took place in public places whereas the shift to intercourse was accompanied by a movement to interior spaces where male control and use of force included locking doors as well as physical violence. Interior domestic space framed desire and danger at a pivotal moment in household formation.

Frank Hatje (Univ. Hamburg) **Domestic Sociability**

With regard to the sociability of the middling classes, German historiography has focused either on enlightenment associations or on the host of clubs and societies ('Vereine'), which emerged alongside with the rise of the 'Bürgertum'. This included the assumption that, in contrast to the early modern period, domestic sociability was reduced to limited circles of family and friends gathering around the nuclear family. Ego-documents of that period, however, suggest that associations, clubs, and societies did not replace, but rather added new spaces to a multifarious domestic sociability between the middle of the 18th and the middle of the 19th centuries. As this paper will demonstrate, the domestic sphere hosted anything from the more intimate communications among household members and close friends to 'tea-tables' or 'salons', dinners and balls, which were open to almost anybody who qualified for it according to the social qualifications and cultural codes of the 'genteel'. Moreover, traditional family gatherings co-existed with festivities like weddings and baptisms, which had been shifted from the early modern public to the domestic sphere, or the celebrations of birthday anniversaries and Christmas, which reflected the high esteem of the individual and of childhood respectively. Unlike domestic sociability in England and formal 'public' clubs and societies in Germany, women often were at the core and to the fore of the sociable arrangements and communication in the domestic sphere during this

period of time. Although a craving for privacy was voiced distinctively, it took until mid-19th century to still it.

Elisabeth Joris (Univ. of Zurich) **Gender: The Emergence of Separate Spheres?**

The introduction of the French Code civil in Europe marks the start of a century long debate on the legal codification of the separation of the private and the public along gender-specific attributions. Since the end of the eighteenth century, the ideas of separate spheres for women and men were reflected as much in literature and painting as in socio-theoretical discourses and educational institutions. At the same time, in the different spheres of law, art, philosophy and economics a mutually reinforcing dynamism was unfolding, at which every sphere had a different impact depending on the social class and region. In the 19th century, the idea of the separate spheres increasingly shaped the everyday life of bourgeois circles in large parts of Europe. But only much later did it replace traditional patriarchy as the normative reference framework also in more rural and commercial environments as well as in the working-class milieu. When we speak of "emergence of the separate spheres", it is thus necessary to distinguish between different discursive levels, as well as between different social milieus and different economic implications.

Margareth Lanzinger (Univ. of Vienna) **The Domestic Sphere as Legal Sphere**

The domestic sphere as legal sphere is approached here in light of two (at times entangled) aspects that make particularly clear just how powerful the effects of legal conditions could be. The first of these consists in legally defined

categories of wealth in the context of marriage and inheritance, wealth that represented both a significant component of domestic economies and an expression of social status. Above all, such categories included those things that women brought into their marriages as part of their trousseau (or Aussteuer or Ausstattung). The second aspect is that of domestic conflicts – conflicts that could end in compromise but frequently also led to separation and divorce proceedings. Paradigmatic cases for these two approaches are the bed and the table – which were in equal measure both basic furniture and also symbols of marital and familial union. They embodied both legal claims and notions of order, thus functioning as focal points on which conflicts centred – both conceptually, and in terms of actual practice.

Jon Mathieu (Univ. of Lucerne) **House, Family, Kinship: Exploration of Domestic Terminologies in Europe from the 16th Century**

This paper gives an outline of domestic terminologies in Europe from about 1500 focusing on the trajectories of a few central notions: 'house' and 'household', 'family' with various family specifications (stem f., bourgeois f., nuclear f.), and 'kinship'. The exploration considers six major European languages. The coverage, however, is not homogeneous but selective and problem-oriented. Issues connected to the encompassing field of family history are privileged. The paper starts with a survey of previous research in the field. Then it looks at translations of domestic terms during the long 16th century, and proceeds from the house-variants via family-terms to kinship-designations. The investigation offers quantitative evidence for language shifts based on word-frequency search and links them to social and political context by providing texts. One question, taken up in the conclusion,

concerns the relationship between domestic terminology and social structure: Is the adoption of 'family' in Europe always a watershed in domestic history, for instance, or does it just reflect linguistic change?

Claudia Opitz-Belakhal (Univ. of Basel) **The Domestic Sphere as a Space of Emotions**

The domestic sphere seems to be the very space of emotionality and intimacy. Still, historians have put into question this somehow ahistorical notion which is closely bound to a modern bourgeois type of family life. As early as 1960, French Annales-historian Philippe Ariès published a book on the making of the modern family with its emotionalized inner relationships and a new concept of childhood closely linked to it. Other researchers – for example Edward Shorter or Jürgen Habermas followed this line and stressed the fact that the private sphere with its intimacy and the close knit family net was an effect of a long term process of modernization and structural change – not only of the family, but even of the public sphere. In the meantime, emotional history has become an important new field of research – and emotions within the family and the „private sphere“ have become again a vividly discussed field of interest within emotional history. In my talk, I will briefly discuss arguments and results of older and new research on the history of emotions within the house and between family members: firstly, marriage and emotions in early modern Europe; secondly, the debate on the „myth of motherhood“ and love; thirdly, the question of inner-house relationships (siblings, servants, other relatives etc.). One of the main purposes of my talk will be the argument that early modern social relations are based on „public“ rules and discourses of as well as on (more or less) „private“ and subjective practices of emotions and emotionality.

Tine Van Osselaer (Univ. of Antwerp)
The Domestic Sphere as a Religious Space in the 19th Century

Scholars working on religion and the family have often linked the cult of domesticity of the nineteenth century to the privatization of religion and the idealization of the motherly ideal of the 'angel in the house'. In this presentation I argue that the situation was far more complex and while Christian teachings supported also patriarchal domesticity, the boundaries between Christian homes and society were often blurred. Christian homes could function as a bulwark against modern and secular influences, a physical place decorated with religious objects, as an idea worth fighting for and in need of (men's) political protection.

Catherine Richardson (Univ. of Kent)
Reading, Writing and Leisure

This paper explores the way domestic space shapes the events of everyday life, and vice versa, in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century England. It is intended to extend some recent arguments about 'located reading and writing', by considering the ways in which the performance of different kinds of texts might intersect with the specific material features of domestic spaces, some of which have their own narrative qualities. Its broader questions are, therefore, how did early modern subjects (in this case those of the broad middling sort) engage with narrative in space? What type of evidence, and how configured, might enable us to answer such questions? The evidence offered enables investigation of the ways in which the household presented a performative space for reading and writing, and the impact that our understanding of these facilitations might have on our conception of categories of action that might be labelled 'domestic performance', the firmness of the connections between action and space and, as a result, the connections

between 'public' and 'private' action.

Raffaella Sarti (Univ. of Urbino)
Domestic Hierarchies in Early Modern Europe

In this contribution I will first of all illustrate the more common concepts of the family proposed by early modern authors. The family was generally seen as a hierarchic community, structured according to three types of relationships, different but all hierarchical: that between husband and wife; that between parents and children; and that between master and servant. The head of the family was at the top of this hierarchy. Representations of this hierarchy were shared by authors whose ideas were otherwise highly different, and affected both the way in which many laws were conceived and, in part, people's expectations and behaviour. Yet representations of this kind were idealised and ideological; actual families might be very different in their composition and/or in the balance of power among their members. In a sense, families could be seen as an arena of negotiations and conflicts. This contribution will illustrate this complex articulation of hierarchies, powers and negotiations, with particular (but not exclusive) attention to the master/servant relationship.

Inken Schmidt-Voges (Philipps-Univ. of Marburg)
Regulating Domestic Conflicts - Negotiating Domestic Relations

This paper suggests the reading of domestic conflicts and their management as communicative processes to negotiate domestic relations in moments of change or fundamental crisis. Household members consistently had to readjust their relationships due to age, disease, new household members, economic changes, war and other instances. Such ch-

anges often caused tensions between formal positions and roles and their perception in the actual day-to-day practice, which often gave rise to violent arguments. In reading court documents the paper will show firstly that in staging the conflict before the local courts people entered a communicative process to negotiate their domestic relations and to find a more suitable way of „doing house“ in the future. Secondly, this process is identified in the significant use of formulations like „peace“, „being peaceful“ etc. which were presented as core competences in conflict management rather than an empty or powerless phrase of early modern normativity. Drawing on rich court material from the German city of Osnabrück the main aspects are compared to findings elsewhere in Europe.

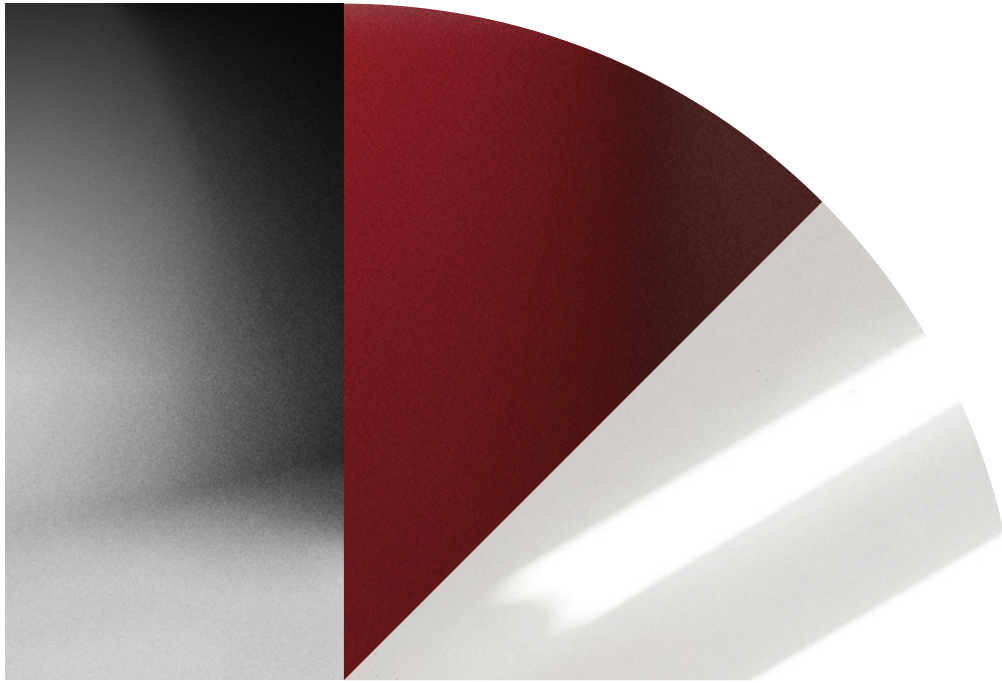
Monika Szczepaniak (Kazimierz Wielki Univ. of Bydgoszcz)
The National House and Home in the Polish Literature of the Long 19th Century

The subject of this analysis is the national house discourse in Polish literature under the conditions of foreign domination in the long 19th century. For the stateless nation, the house, and especially the noble country house, is a Polish space of everyday culture. It is not only a material asset, but also has a strong symbolic, emotional and religious dimension. After 1863 this „fortress“ of national culture increasingly becomes an area of repression and opposition. The representatives of the partitioning powers enter the privacy of the house and try to occupy, to attack and to destroy this „sacred microcosm“. The First World War marks the end of the Polish landed gentry and leads to a dramatic narrative of loss, which is told by humans, houses and things. On the basis of some representative literary texts, the paper investigates the construction of the national house as a cultural and patriotic center,

the role of material objects and emotionally charged atmospheres, as well as the discourse of loss with its symbolic images of the „suffering“ and „dying“ house.

Jane Whittle (Univ. of Exeter)
The Household Economy, Gender and Consumption

This chapter explores the process of consumption as part of the household economy, how it changed over time between 1500 and 1800, and how it was gendered. It begins by looking at documented changes in domestic material culture, clothing and diet in early modern Europe, and then in the second section examines what these changes imply about the growth of trade and commerce, and the integration of household economies into the market. The third section looks in more detail at ideas about the household and the market. These range from modern ideas of the home as a refuge from the market, to Chayanov's idea of the household as a self-contained economy, with the idea of the 'family economy' whereby market-orientated work is undertaken within the family household lying somewhere in between. The final section uses new data on work tasks from England to look in detail at gendering and market orientation of consumption work within the household economy, and what this meant for men's and women's involvement in the market.



Poster Session

(in alphabetical order)

Dunja Bulinsky (Univ. of Lucerne)
The Scholarly Household of Johann
Jakob Scheuchzer (1672-1733)

Eric Häusler (Univ. of Berne)
Going Bankrupt: Household
Consumption and Finance in
Bern (1750-1900)


Arno Haldemann (Univ. of Berne)
Precarious Marriage Aspirations in
Bern: The 'Fabrication' of Marriage
Between the Eidgenossenschaft
and the Swiss Confederation

Lucas Rappo (Univ. of Lausanne)
Kinship and Neighbourhood in
Corsier-sur-Vevey (Switzerland)
c. 1750-1840

Sophie Ruppel (Univ. of Basel)
Nature in the House: Early Popular
Botany and Bourgeois Home
Horticulture in the 18th and Early
19th Centuries

Anne Schillig (Univ. of Lucerne)
House Histories. Material Culture
and Domestic Relations in Switzer-
land (18th and 19th Centuries)

Elise Voerkel (Univ. of Basel)
The Realm of Childhood: Children
in Bourgeois Households in
German-speaking Switzerland
(1750-1830)



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