

Az MTA Társadalomtudományi Kutatóközpont Szociológiai Intézete
tisztelettel meghívja harmincadik *Jour fixe* rendezvényére:

Csurgó Bernadett – Kristóf Luca:

Conflicting family norms and elite life course

Gender inequalities and couple coordination between elite spouses

Akadémiai szimpózium



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Absztrakt:

Why are women seriously underrepresented in the elite? We contribute to answering this question by a qualitative content analysis (Atlas.ti) of 34 individual interviews (17 couples) among Hungary's political, economic and cultural elite (defined by participation in decision-making processes that influence the whole society). Our focus is on narratives about career and partnership, couple coordination and family roles and norms. Narratives are classified and linked to the following personal characteristics: male/female, elite member/partner, dual career couple/not dual career couple.

The subordinative narrative, mostly used by (non-elite) female partners of elite members implies traditional family values and an image of hierarchical coordination. The egocentric narrative, typically used by male elite members consists of career and status oriented views as well as an image of hierarchical coordination. The cooperative narrative, which is mainly held by power couples, is associated with modern family values and an image of egalitarian coordination. We find that egoistic and subordinative narratives strengthen gender inequalities.

One of the main results of the analysis is that egalitarian couple coordination is discussed in every narratives and appears in most cases as a norm but attitudes and actual behaviour are different. Elite membership is characterised by both helping and blocking factors for egalitarian partnership. Elite lifestyle (financial safety, domestic helps, independency etc.) contributes to egalitarian partnership. While elite career challenges (very high work commitment, external and internal expectations) contradict it. Our cases also demonstrate significant blocking effects of general social norms like gendered family roles and a traditional view of motherhood. Egalitarian coordination is realized only in rare cases.

Kulcsszavak: elite, gender, family, work-life balance

A szimpózium nyelve a magyar.

Helyszíne: MTA Társadalomtudományi Kutatóközpont Szociológiai Intézet, Hegedüs terem

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