

Special Issue of *Community, Work & Family*:

The Work and Family Researchers Network:

Agendas and Accomplishments

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This issue of *Community, Work & Family* features a selection of papers originally presented at the inaugural meetings of the Work and Family Researchers Network (New York City, June 2012). In addition to displaying the high quality of scholarship on display at the WFRN conference, the main theme of this issue is agenda setting. A number of the papers have a programmatic quality to them. My essay is designed to set the agenda for WFRN, both organizationally and substantively. The paper by Jody Heymann and her colleagues outlines an agenda for the collection of cross-national data on work and family issues that would facilitate the benchmarking of progress. The paper by Kathleen Christensen reviews the work and family program of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation since its inception in 1992. In addition to sketching the evolution of the program and its working assumptions, it is forward looking in that it offers an approach to the inter-relationship between research and social change. Ellen Galinsky and her colleagues discuss the model of change developed at the Families and Work Institute and the creation of the “When Work Works” initiative. The Sloan and FWI efforts were linked and complementary approaches to reform that emphasize the promotion of workplace flexibility in organizations in the private sector.

The last two papers exemplify two of the many approaches to work and family research that were presented at the WFRN meetings. Pia Shober’s paper exemplifies the cross-national research that represents an increasingly important current in work and family studies. Susan Case and Bonnie Richley’s study of post-doctoral fellows showcases the insights to be gained from in-depth qualitative research at a particular stage in the lives of scientists.

As this issue goes to press, plans are underway for the 2014 conference. We hope in coming years to document progress being made to resolving work and family mismatches in addition to understanding the barriers that remain.

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