

# CHP. 13: Globalization, Families, + Social Change

## The Sociology of the Family

- nuclear family as a bounded unit of intimate characterized by mother - father + child - parent relations
- function of family is two-fold: socialization of children into society + the stabilization of adult personalities
- access to economic resources is inequitable; women generally contribute large portion of income to household budget + spend less on themselves than male counterparts

## The Transformation of Intimacy

- pure relationship: based on trust, intimacy, + egalitarianism rather than on obligation and duty previously
  - rise of therapy is linked w/ emergence of such relationship
  - sought only for symbiosis + reciprocity + terminated at will if no longer mutually serving

## The Meaning of 'Family'

- Family Practices: being concerned w/ diversity of families + now they're created through everyday interactions by social actors - being part of family isn't only about blood ties
- families aren't static but created through everyday interaction by social actors
- more developed societies have greater variety of family forms

<b>United Kingdom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- cohabitation: trial b4 marriage, long term alt. to marriage             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cohabitation as an alt. doesn't signify lack of lifelong commitment in partnership</li> <li>• signifies a weakened sense of added value to marriage; marriage wouldn't make a difference to their relationship</li> </ul> </li> <li>- marriage symbolic standing has never been higher; undergone a process of deinstitutionalization + now an individual choice</li> <li>- marriage is now rarer; become marker of quality of a relationship + form of social bragging</li> </ul>
<b>New Fatherhood</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ideas / culture about fatherhood have changed, actual practices have not</li> </ul>
<b>Japan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- increase in # of single women, rise in avg. age of marriage, low fertility rate</li> <li>- nurturing fatherhood can only be reality 4 privileged few</li> </ul>
<b>Globalization and Intimacy</b> [Technology as Facilitator of Global Intimacy]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- communication tech., facilitates emotional closeness b/w family members over distance</li> <li>- transnational families use communication tech. can facilitate increased closeness + intimacy but also become burdensome bc it creates new responsibilities + obligations to kin</li> <li>- sex tourism; Marxist + postcolonial approaches argue the demand 4 sex tourism in Caribbean can primarily be explained bc it gives men opportunity to indulge in racialized sexual fantasies + access the gendered power lacking in the west</li> </ul>

## The Commodification of Intimacy

commodification: the way goods, services, + relationships are turned into commodities to be bought or sold in marketplace

- analyses of internet dating suggests that romantic encounters are being turned into economic transactions - writing dating profile on website is marketing oneself to potential partners