Uncovering the Kinship Matrix:
A New Study of Solidarity and
Transmission in European Families
(KINMATRIX)

What people regard as their family is usually a large network: children, parents, grandparents, siblings, cousins, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, stepparents and stepsiblings. Current data and research are limited to a small segment of this network – often only the 'nuclear family' of parents and children. This project will extend the nuclear view to map out the family network in unprecedented scope and detail. Thomas Leopold and his team will collect new multi-actor survey data on 10,000 families in five European countries, combined with large-scale data from genealogical sources and national registers. These data will show the family not as a nuclear unit but as a kinship matrix – a large, diverse and multigenerational web of relationships. Based on this view, the project will study how the family matters: as a private safety net insuring against health risks and financial hardship, as a social network protecting from isolation and loneliness, and as a source of capital promoting education and careers.

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Duration: 5 years
Funding: 1,5 million EUR
PI: Thomas Leopold
HI: Institute of Sociology and Social Psychology, University of Cologne
Contact: kinmatrix@wiso.uni-koeln.de

Vacancies:

2 PhD students (48 months) and 1 postdoctoral researcher (36 months)