



Hochschule Osnabrück
University of Applied Sciences

FamiLy – Family Health in the life course

(Familiengesundheit im Lebensverlauf)

Joint Research Program of the University of Applied Sciences
Osnabrück and Witten/Herdecke University (UW/H)

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Summary

FamiLy:

- investigates the significance of families in health and illness
- gives 12 PhD students and 2 Post-Docs a structured qualification
- originates out of existing collaborations
- has the potential for institutionalising the collaboration
- addresses important topics for students in study programs for nursing, public health and midwifery

The Framework for Qualification and Supervision

- Colloquia every three months
- Tracking progress of PhD research every six months
- International conferences and lecture series
- Integration into teaching and working contexts in Osnabrück and Witten
- Options for participating in continuing education
- Options for studying and researching abroad
- PhD supervision in tandem by both universities
- Mentoring by Post-Docs

Institutional Collaboration

- Coordinators at both places
 - Organisation, financial management, conference management
- Joint call for application and selection of candidates
- Quality assurance
 - Promoting publication activities
 - Integration into existing networks such as the group doing midwifery research or the German Network for Quality Development in Nursing

Research Topics

- Health and health behavior of young families during the family formation phase
- How young families cope with illness
- How families cope over time with the need for long-term care
- Elderly people in the context of long-term care and the end-of-life phase of individual family members
- Critical events during the life course
- Social determinants of health
- The meaning and significance of new family forms/doing family
- Patterns and the role of the family in the utilization of available services

Methodological Approaches

- Reconstruction of the role of family in the context of health, illness and long-term care (e.g. biographical, trajectories)
- Longitudinal instead of cross-sectional studies
- Theoretical and practical implications and resulting interventions
- Development of tools and instruments

Post-Doc-Level

- For the PhD students
 - Post-docs as role models
 - Closer supervision
- For the program as a whole
 - Synthesis of results and approaches
 - Preparing applications for grants
- For the Post-docs themselves
 - Qualification for pursuing an academic career
 - Developing their own field of research
 - Gaining experience in supervision work
 - Developing competence in science and research management

Potentials/Perspectives for the Future

- Influencing the new PhD program at Witten/Herdecke University
- Developing options for granting Universities of Applied Sciences the right to develop PhD programs
- Second phase of funding after three years
- Further research grants
- Establishing and maintaining international contacts
- Promotion of young researchers and scientists in the still quite young field of nursing and midwifery science