

ifb-Forschungskolloquium

Datum/Ort	Dienstag, 4. Juli 2017, 10:00 – 12:00 Uhr ifb, Heinrichsdamm 4, 96047 Bamberg
ReferentIn	Prof. Dr. Marie Evertsson, Stockholm University, Sweden
Thema	The transition to parenthood and division of parental leave in opposite-sex and female same-sex couples in Sweden
Abstract	<p>Research on changes in paid and unpaid work at the transition to parenthood has seldom been able to separate the social construction of gender and motherhood/fatherhood identities from labour market and financial factors. By bringing female same-sex couples (SSC) into the study and comparing how the transition to parenthood influences parents' division of parental leave (PL) in SSC and opposite-sex couples (OSC), we study the importance of physiological factors, the social construction of gender, identity formation and financially rational decision making for divisions of work and care. Analysing Swedish register data for couples who had a child in 2003-2011, results show that birth mother's in SSC take a shorter PL than mothers in OSC, that (birth) mother's leave uptake is higher than the partner's uptake in both SSC and OSC, and that the (birth) mother's PL share is negatively related to her income and positively related to her partner's income. These results suggest that gender norms influence the division of PL in OSC and that motherhood identity formation and norms linked to the child's need of its (birth) mother influence the division of PL in both groups. Results, not least for OSC, also partly support specialization theory.</p>