

“Being Young and Becoming a Parent”

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Aims

- To grasp the meanings that young people attach to parenthood and grasp the emergence of new parental relationships
- Parenthood is here analysed on the basis of two conditions:
 - (1) youth
 - (2) gender

transitions into parenthood

- The ***reversibility*** is characteristic for all the various aspects of the condition of young people
- Parenthood, in contrast to other transitional processes is distinguished by an indisputable ***irreversibility***:
- Thus, the link between reversibility (of life choices) and irreversibility (of parenthood) generates a great amount of ambivalence which young people in becoming parents have to cope with.

From Family to Families

- **Major trends of family forms in Italy:**
- the prolonged presence of young people within the family of origin
- the new representations of parenthood among young people
- the new work-life balance in the return to work of young parents after the birth of their first child
- conjugal instability
- the new role of grandparents

Typology:

<i>Duration of the pathway</i>	<i>Sequence of the acquisition of the markers</i>	
	Linear	Non - Linear
Fast	<i>Fast Trackers/ Early parenthood</i>	«Young mothers» and «Young fathers»
Slow	<i>Slow Trackers/ Late parenthood</i>	«Yoyo mothers and fathers»

Early parenthood - fast track parents

'And it is clear that for everyone it just happened, since the fact that we have wanted the baby is our business, it is not that the others have to know, not just because ... If it happens, they say 'Oh well, poor thing'. But if you look for it then there are those who begin to say 'eh, but you could wait'.

(Adri, 23 years old)

Late parenthood - slow track parents

'In reality I have noticed, before expecting Jacopo, that these working rhythms were significantly wearing out the relationship between us. [...] When I became pregnant, however, there was quite an injection of energy into our relationship. We just realized that we had neglected our relationship. Until then, this was not evident in some ways.'

(Cinzia, 35 years old)

Yoyo mothers and fathers

'we decided to use our savings to buy a house and not to get married, However, when you go to the bank and you are not married it is difficult. It is true that we are a young couple, and then I was a barman, so I had to look for another job: I became a clerk. We lived for a couple of months with my friend, and she only came home on weekends. Then I moved out from my friend's house [...] and then we went with my family. I went back home, for 3, 4 months, and in the meantime she was with her mother and in the eighth month she moved into my parents' house. The last month of pregnancy and the first two after the birth of Alessia we stayed there, also because it is our first experience. [...] And then my mom showed what to do, it's normal, she did teach her a bit. Apart from the fact that we did not know where to go [...] However, since she came to my parents' house, after 3 months we were in our own home.'

(Eros, 22 years old)

Young mothers and fathers

'well, first of all you have to know the respective parents, which is not a small thing, then you have to go and live together, which isn't small thing either, and then you have to prepare the home for the child ... Reallocate my work-position, as before I had to travel abroad, I changed my tasks for something that keeps me here in Milan and I can stay home every night.'

(Enrico, 31 years old)

Thanks for listening

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