Catholic University of Milan, Italy
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Aalborg Centre for Family Studies and Research

ABSTRACTS

Families in Transition and Family Transitions

ESFR 2010

5th Congress of the European Society
4. Family in Transition during Early Interactions: The Role of the Context in the

Ecosystem Perspective (2004)

Reorientation of Parental and Childern

Parental and Childern

The context in which interactions occur is crucial in understanding the dynamics of family transitions. The ecosystem perspective highlights the influence of environmental factors, such as social networks, economic conditions, and cultural norms, on family functioning. During early interactions, the role of the context becomes prominent, shaping how family members interpret and respond to one another.

In the context of family reorientation, the family system is viewed as a dynamic entity influenced by both internal and external factors. The family's reorganization, whether planned or unplanned, is a process that involves adapting to new circumstances. During this process, the family's ability to maintain cohesion and adapt to change is crucial. The context, in this regard, provides the framework within which these adaptations occur.

The ecosystem perspective emphasizes the interconnectedness of different levels of the family system, including the micro-level (family interactions), meso-level (community influences), and macro-level (societal norms and policies). Understanding these levels helps in appreciating how various factors contribute to the family's reorientation.

The role of professionals, such as therapists, educators, and social workers, is to recognize the importance of the context in family transitions. By acknowledging the impact of the environment, these professionals can better support families in navigating through challenging times. This approach involves assessing the family's strengths and resources, as well as identifying any external supports that might be necessary.

Overall, the ecosystem perspective offers a holistic view of family transitions, highlighting the importance of considering the context in which these processes unfold. By doing so, professionals and family members can work together to create a supportive environment that facilitates positive outcomes.