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Nomination Letter for Anne H. Gauthier



Selection Committee
IUSSP- Mattei Dogan Foundation
Award for Comparative Research in
Demography
attn. Mary Ellen Zuppan
IUSSP Executive Director
3-5 rue Nicolas
75980 Paris Cedex 20, France

The Hague, March 1, 2017

Dear Sir, Madam,

With this letter, we want to nominate Anne H. Gauthier for the IUSSP-Mattei Dogan Foundation Award for Comparative Research in Demography. In our opinion, Anne Gauthier constitutes an excellent candidate for this Award as she has made major contributions to our understanding of cross-national differences in family demography. Her work in this field is outstanding in a number of ways. First, she has made contributions regarding a range of demographically relevant topics, such as family policies, fertility, the transition to adulthood, parenting, balancing work-family roles and ageing. Second, she has the rare talent to have made important contributions both to theory development and to the empirical testing of theoretical ideas. Third, she has used a wide variety of methodological approaches, including macro-level quantitative studies, micro-level quantitative studies and qualitative, in-depth studies, thus showing her methodological versatility. In addition, she has shown her dedication to the cause of comparative research (and her willingness to serve the discipline) by directing the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), the major comparative demographic data infrastructure programme for research in family demography.

Her theoretical contributions to comparative family demography started in the mid-1990s. Her book on *the State and the Family* (published in 1996 by Clarendon Press) was the first book that provided an overview of the development of family policies in Western societies. Moreover, in it, she developed a classification of major types of family policies that has had a profound impact on the field. Since, she has regularly revisited the issue, both summarizing the existing empirical research on the role of family policies in fertility and family formation, and making new contributions herself. A major strength of her work is the very balanced assessment she provides of different approaches to understanding the role of policies. On the one hand, she pushes herself and others to be specific about the types of policies that matter (and to test hypotheses about these policies rigorously). On the other hand, she emphasizes that specific policy measures always operate within a broader policy environment and that this broader environment should be taken into account as well.



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Her interest in cross-national comparative research is wide-ranging. A constant interest in her work has been cross-national differences in fertility levels and an early study with Hatzius (in *Population Studies*, 1997) was exemplary a number of ways. It showed how econometric macro-level analysis could be used to test hypotheses about the relationship between cash benefits and fertility. It also showed Anne Gauthier's exactness in drawing conclusions; she found that family allowances were positively related to fertility in 22 countries between 1970 and 1990, but also concluded that the magnitude of the impact was relatively limited. This shows a constant in her work: always pay attention to both statistical and substantive significance of results. Next to fertility, Anne Gauthier has also made major contributions to comparative studies on the transition to adulthood. She was Chair of the IUSSP panel on the Transition to Adulthood in Developed Countries (2003-2206) and responsible for a very successful special issue of the *European Journal of Population* on that issue. She worked with Smeeding and Furstenberg on comparative time use data that increased our understanding about cross-national differences in parenting behaviors, the transition to adulthood, and activity patterns of older adults. In addition, she also performed a study on middle-class families in Canada and the US, focusing on the strains that middle-class families experience in making ends meet and balancing work and family obligations.

Since 2013, Anne Gauthier has been coordinating the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), a research infrastructure to collect and disseminate demographically relevant cross-national data both to the scientific and the policy community. The GGP has more than 3,800 users and more than 350 peer-reviewed publications has been produced with it. Anne Gauthier's leadership has led to a revitalization of the GGP, that has recently received a multi-million grant from the European Union, and plans a new wave of panel data studies across Europe from 2019 onwards.

Given her outstanding theoretical and empirical contributions to the cross-national study of family demography, and given her service to this community of cross-national researchers, we feel that Anne H. Gauthier would be a worthy recipient of the fourth IUSSP-Mattei Dogan Foundation Award for Comparative Research in Demography.

Yours sincerely,

Aart Liefbroer, Teresa Castro-Martín, Ann Evans, Frank Furstenberg, Vitalia Gaucaite Wittich, Thomas Hansen, Letizia Mencarini, Clara Mulder and Karel Neels



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