

Students doing Family - The Effects of the Lockdown on the Family Situation of Students

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After the outbreak of the corona pandemic, in May 2020, exit restrictions, contact-limits and restrictions on leisure-activities in the fight against the virus were imposed, which brought about drastic changes for families. While current research is particularly focused on the parent-and-child situation and the effects of lockdown on depression, domestic violence and the unequal distribution of domestic tasks and duties, the question of the effects of lockdown on the family situation of students remains so far unexplained. The aim of this study is therefore to investigate the ways in which students maintain contact with their families and shape their familial life during the lockdown. Family is interpreted here as a network of individual actors that is actively established through meaningful and successive actions as they are 'doing family'. Actors are seen as the constructors of their family life who, on the one hand, practice balance management and sometimes combine opposing interests and needs in a common, family lifestyle, but on the other hand also have to take part in the numerous rituals that constitute everyday family life.

It is assumed here that the lockdown forces families to reorganize, which can affect the quality of relationships. The reasons for this include the fact that familial rituals change, the family structure in general may be altered due to lockdown, or the number of family conflicts rise due to an increased frequency of interactions.

Using guideline-based interviews with enlisted students and visualising them with network maps, the aim of this study is to investigate the effects of lockdown on the structure of family life and the quality of relationships between students and their families.