ABSTRACT

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Julia BRANNEN, University of London, United Kingdom

STUDYING FAMILIES AND FAMILY LIFE: SOME METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES AND APPROACHES

The paper will consider some of the key methodological issues and approaches in the study of families and multi-generation families. In particular, it will address three sets of issues. The first concerns how to study aspects of family life that are habitual and quotidian and bring them into the reflective engagement of family members. The second concerns situating and making sense of family lives in relation to the historical and contextual aspects of time and space and the methods we may deploy in this endeavour. The third concerns the forms in which people narrate their family lives and how to understand and make sense of narrative accounts and memories.