



Southon, E. & Davies, E. 2010. 'Introduction: The Family', *Rosetta* 8: iii.
<http://rosetta.bham.ac.uk/issue8/introduction/>

Introduction: The Family

While status and gender have been long acknowledged as important facets of an individual's societal experience, a person's age and family role have only recently become incorporated into the study of human history and culture. Family and life course studies have gathered a huge momentum in historical disciplines over the past two decades. In November 2009, in excess of 100 academics, researchers and postgraduates from three continents gathered at the University of Gothenburg for the Fifth Arachne conference '*Oikos-Familia: The Family in Greco-Roman Society: Framing the Discipline in the 21st Century*'.¹ Attendees representing fields such as Theology, Archaeology and Classics and historians of Greece from the Bronze Age to the Roman era, Rome, Byzantium, Late Antiquity, the Early Medieval West, Hellenistic Egypt and many more, reflected the diversity and dynamism of the discipline today. We were proud to be a part this wonderful event, and even more so to launch our fledgling Network for Postgraduate Researchers in Family and Life Course Studies, with two highly successful events. We are equally proud to introduce this themed issue of *Rosetta*, the first of what we hope will be many, in association with our Network and featuring two speakers from the Arachne conference (Eve Davies and Emily Varto). We would like to thank the organisers of the Arachne conference and all the attendees for their support, and the *Rosetta* editorial board for allowing us to briefly take over their journal.

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The Network for Postgraduate Researchers in Family and Life Course Studies can be found at <http://lifecourseproject.wordpress.com> and contacted at lifecoursepg@gmail.com

¹ <http://www.iaa.bham.ac.uk/news/conferences/oikosfamilia/index.shtml>