

## FAMILY AND MARRIAGE RELATIONS IN AFRICA

*The article attempts to compare the marriage and family relations in North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa. The rich unique diversity of typologies and family forms, in particular in Tropical Africa, results from the preservation of ancient socio-economic structures up to present and their interpenetration with the modern ones. Universalism in the development of social systems in North Africa is due to the rather developed economic basis of North African societies and states. The educational level of women has the most direct impact on the age of marriage, fertility rates, the degree of influence on the household decisions and family planning issues, etc. However, the women's movement of the continent still faces a huge number of unresolved tasks of the struggle for gender equality both in family and in society. With the changes that are inevitable in the continuous evolution of marriage and family, individual hybrid forms of archaism will remain in African societies for an indefinitely long-term historical perspective.*

**Keywords:** Africa, family, typology of marriages, diversity of economic structures, sociodemographic transformation, evolution of family-marriage relations

**Author Info:** Rybalkina, Inna G. — Ph.D. in History, Senior Researcher, Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow, Russia). E-mail: [i.rybalkina@inafr.ru](mailto:i.rybalkina@inafr.ru)

**For citation:** Rybalkina, I. G. 2022. Family and Marriage Relations in Africa. *Herald of Anthropology (Vestnik Antropologii)*. 3: 244–261.

### References

- Addi, H. 1999. *Les mutations de la société algérienne. Famille et lien social dans l'Algérie contemporaine*. Paris: La Découverte.
- African Families in a Global Context*. 2006. Uppsala: Nordiska Afrikainstitutet.
- Alami M'Chichi, H. *Le féminisme d'État au Maroc. Jeux et enjeux politiques*. Paris: L'Harmattan.
- Al-Nagar, S., L. Tønnesen 2018. Family law reform in Sudan: A never ending story? *Bergen. CMI Brief*. June 2018. 8: 1.
- Antoine, Ph., R. 2014. Marcoux Pluralité des formes et des modèles matrimoniaux en Afrique: un état des lieux. In *Le mariage en Afrique. Pluralité des formes et des modèles matrimoniaux* / Eds: R. Marcoux, Ph. Antoine. Presses de l'Université du Québec. Pp. 1–18.
- Assaad, R., S. Ghazouani, C. Krafft 2017. *Marriage, Fertility and Women's Agency in Tunisia. Economic Research Forum Working Paper Series. Working Paper 1157*. Giza. Egypt, November 2017.
- Assaad, R., C. Krafft 2014. *Youth Transitions in Egypt: School, Work and Family Formation in an Era of Changing Opportunities*. University of Minnesota.
- Belarbi, A. 1993. *Le salaire de Madame*. Casablanca: Édition Le Fennec.
- Bongaarts, J. 2008. Fertility transitions in developing countries: progress or stagnation? *Studies in Family planning*. 39 (2, June): 105–110.

- Chandrakirana, K. 2009. Women's Place and Displacement in the Muslim Family: Realities from the Twenty-first Century In *Wanted: Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family* / Ed. Z. Anwar. Malaysia: Musawah.
- Edossa, W. et al. 2021. Ideal age at first marriage is still below the legal age of marriage — the case of adolescent girls in West Hararge zone, Eastern Ethiopia. *The Ethiopian Journal of Reproductive Health*. 13 (2): 19–26.
- El Harras, M. 2006. Les mutations de la famille au Maroc. In *50 ans de développement humain et perspectives 2025*. P. 110. URL: <http://www.rdh50.ma/fr/pdf/contributions/GT2-4.pdf>
- Enquête nationale sur le niveau de vie des ménages 1998–1999*. 2000. Rabat.
- Global Gender Gap Report 2020*. 2019. Geneva: World Economic Forum.
- Hertrish, V., J. B. Casterline, J. Bongaarts 2017. Trends in Age at Marriage and the Onset of Fertility Transition in sub-Saharan Africa. *Population and Development Review*, The Population Council, Inc. 43 (May): 112–137.
- Hoodfar, H. 1997. *Between Marriage and the Market. Intimate Politics and Survival in Cairo*. Berkeley. Los Angeles. Oxford: University of California Press.
- John, B. M., V. Adjiwanou 2021. Fertility decline in sub-Saharan Africa: Does remarriage matter? *Population Studies*, 15 June.
- Joseph, S. 2008. Familism and Critical Arab Family Studies. In *Family Ties and Ideational Change in the Middle East* / Ed. R. Young, H. Rashad. N.-Y.: Routledge.
- Kilbride, P. L., J. Kilbride 1990. *Changing Family Life in East Africa: Women and Children at Risk*. Pennsylvania State University Press. PA.
- Kobishchanov, Yu. M. 1982. *Melkonatural'noye proizvodstvo v obshchinno-kastovyykh sistemakh Afriki* [Small-scale production in communal-caste systems in Africa]. M.: Nauka.
- Krafft, C., R. Assaad 2017. Employment's Role in Enabling and Constraining Marriage in the Middle East and North Africa. *Economic Research Forum. Working Paper Series*. № 1080. Cairo. Egypt.
- Kudo, Y. 2021. Does Criminalizing Discriminatory Cultural Practices Improve Women's Welfare? A Simple Model of Levirate Marriage in Africa. *Economics Letters*. Vol. 199.
- Kumekpor, T. 1972. Marriage and Family in a Changing Society. *Legon Family Research Papers*. Legon: Institute of African Studies. № 3.
- Lacoste-Dujardin C. 1996. *Des mères contre les femmes. Maternité et patriarcat au Maghreb*. P.: La Découverte.
- Lagdaf, S., Y. H. Zoubir 2018. The Struggle of the Women's Movements in Neo-patriarchal Libya. *Oriente Moderno*. 98 (2).
- Lesthaeghe, R. 2014. The Fertility Transition in Sub-Saharan Africa into the 21st Century. *PSC Research Report*. No 14–823.
- Mannergren Selimovic, J., D. K. Larsson 2014. *Gender and Transition in Libya. Mapping women's participation in post-conflict reconstruction*. Swedish Institute of International Affairs. 7: 9.
- Moufid, K. 2011. Family for Social and Economic Security in Morocco. *The Pen*. 25.XI.2011. URL: [www.thepenmagazine.net](http://www.thepenmagazine.net)
- “Now drugs in Libya are much cheaper than food”: A qualitative study on substance use among young Libians in post-revolution Tripoli, Libya 2018. *International Journal of Drug Policy*. V. 53 (March).
- Ocholla-Ayayo, A. B. C. 1988. *Marriage patterns in Kenya and their inter-relations with fertility*. African Population Conference. Dakar. UAPS. Belgium: IUSSP.
- Ocholla-Ayayo, A. B. C. 1990. The State of childlessness in African marriage: A Deterring force against family planning efforts. In *Kenya Marriage in Transition* / Ed. E. H. O. Ayiemba. Population Studies and Research Institute (PSRI). University of Nairobi.
- Ouadah-Bedidi, Z. 2009. Le Mariage au cœur du rapport individu-famille-société. In *Du Genre et de l'Afrique. Hommage à Thérèse Locoh*. Paris: INED.

- Parsons, J. et al. 2015. Economic Impacts of Child Marriage: A Review of the Literature. *The Review of Faith & International Affairs*. 13 (3).
- Pilon, M. 2000. *Ménages et familles en Afrique Sub-Saharienne: Du village à la capitale, entre permanence et changement. L'exemple de la société moba-gurma du Togo*. Paris.
- Pilon, M., K. Vignikin 2000. Stratégies face à la crise et changements dans les structure familiales. In *Crise et population en Afrique*. Paris. P. 473.
- Pitshandenge, S. N. A. 1996. La polyandrie chez les bashilele du Kasai Occidental (Zaïre): fonctionnement et rôles. *Les dossiers du CEPED*. № 42. Paris: CEPED.
- Savineau, D. 2001. La famille en A.O.F. et la condition de la femme. *Dossiers et recherches de l'INED*. P.: INED. № 102.
- Sinitsyna, I. Ye. 1989. *Chelovek i sem'ya v Afrike (Po materialam obychnogo prava)* [Man and family in Africa (Based on customary law)]. Moskva: Nauka.
- Shreeve, J. 2010. The evolutionary road. *National Geographic*. Wash., D.C. 218 (1, July): 35–45.
- Vasil'yev, A. M. 2000. *Yegipet i yegiptyane* [Egypt and the Egyptians]. Moskva: Classics plus.
- Vidyasova, M. F. 2012. *Dzhikhad bez voyny* [Jihad without war]. Moskva: Institut stran Azii I Afriki Moskovskogo Gosudarstvennogo Universiteta, IV RAS. Vol. II. Book 2.
- Women's Need for Family Planning in Arab Countries. 2012. UNFPA Arab States Regional Office. July.