

Domestic strategies offers a new reading of the historical sources in order to understand the social relations and strategies of labouring families towards the organization of productive processes and institutional arrangements in early modern Europe. In contrast to many other works, the essays in Domestic strategies place labouring families as the actors on the historical scene, utilizing existing opportunities, rather than as passive recipients of historical changes. Conceptual insights derived from both anthropology (e.g. from Sahlins and Geertz) and sociology (e.g. from Bourdieu, Elias and Mary Douglas) are applied to individual case-studies of social groups from north-central Italy and the French Alps, and the whole offers an important new perspective on the working lives of European families during the early modern period and beyond.





Studies in modern capitalism

Domestic strategies: work and family in France and Italy 1600-1800



Studies in modern capitalism. Etudes sur le capitalisme moderne

Editorial board. Comité de rédaction Maurice Aymard, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris Jacques Revel, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris Immanuel Wallerstein, Fernand Braudel Center for the Study of Economies, Historical Systems, and Civilizations, Binghamton, New York

This series is devoted to an attempt to comprehend capitalism as a world-system. It will include monographs, collections of essays and colloquia around specific themes, written by historians and social scientists united by a common concern for the study of large-scale, long-term social structure and social change.

The series is a joint enterprise of the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme in Paris and the Fernand Braudel Center for the Study of Economies, Historical Systems, and Civilizations at the State University of New York at Binghamton.

This book is published as part of the joint publishing agreement established in 1977 between the Fondation de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme and the Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge. Titles published under this arrangement may appear in any European language or, in the case of volumes of collected essays, in several languages.

New books will appear either as individual titles or in one of the series which the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme and the Cambridge University Press have jointly agreed to publish. All books published jointly by the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme and the Cambridge University Press will be distributed by the Press throughout the world.

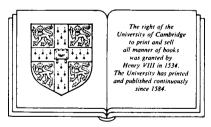
For other titles in the series please see end of book



# Domestic strategies: work and family in France and Italy 1600–1800

EDITED BY STUART WOOLF

Professor of History, European University Institute and University of Essex



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge New York Port Chester Melbourne Sydney

EDITIONS DE LA MAISON DES SCIENCES DE L'HOMME Paris



### CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521391641

© Maison des Sciences de l'Homme and Cambridge University Press 1991

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1991

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication Data

Domestic strategies: work and family in France and Italy, 1600–1800/
edited by Stuart Woolf.

p. cm. – (Studies in modern capitalism = Etudes sur le capitalisme moderne)

ISBN 0 521-39164 4

1. Work and family – France – History. 2. Work and family – Italy – History. 3. Guilds – Italy – History. I. Woolf, S. J. (Stuart Joseph) II. Series: Studies in modern capitalism. HD4904.25.D66 1990 306.3'6–dc20 89-13997 CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-39164-1 Hardback ISBN 978-0-521-89233-9 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate. Information regarding prices, travel timetables, and other factual information given in this work is correct at the time of first printing but Cambridge University Press does not guarantee the accuracy of such information thereafter.



# Contents

	List of contributors	page ix
	Acknowledgements	Х
1	Stuart Woolf: Introduction	l
2	Osvaldo Raggio: Social relations and control of	
	resources in an area of transit: eastern Liguria, six-	
	teenth to seventeenth centuries	20
	Transit of goods and interpersonal relations	22
	Oil production and trade	24
	Transit, oil merchants and middlemen	27
	Contraband of oil	29
	Wheat transit and middlemen	32
	Kin, friendship and transit	35
3	Laurence Fontaine: Family cycles, peddling and society in upper Alpine valleys in the eighteenth	
	century	43
	Introduction	43
	Family cycles and the transmission of property	48
	Specific features of trading families	58
	Family cycle, land and credit	60
4	Carlo Poni: Local market rules and practices. Three	
	guilds in the same line of production in early modern	
	Bologna	69
	Transactions between tanners and shoemakers	72
	Transactions between butchers and tanners	82
	Rules and practices	86
	Selling by quota	91



### viii Contents

5	Simona Cerutti: Group strategies and trade	
	strategies: the Turin tailors' guild in the late seven-	
	teenth and early eighteenth centuries	103
	Introduction	103
	The tailor population	101
	Apprentices and journeymen	115
	Choice of neighbourhood and alliances	118
	The guild elite	123
	Economic activity and social identity	127
	Tailors, merchants and dealers	130
	Spheres of economic and political government within the city	133
	Attacks on the guild and its transformation	139
6	Sandra Cavallo: Conceptions of poverty and poor-	
	relief in Turin in the second half of the eighteenth	
	century	148
	Introduction	148
	The Turin Ospedale di Carità and the suppression of	
	begging	151
	Patterns of poverty and patterns of relief	167
	Differences in status and in access to poor-relief	180
	New definitions of poverty in the late eighteenth century	189
	Index	201



## Contributors

Sandra Cavallo is a Fellow of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine in London

Simona Cerutti is Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence

Laurence Fontaine is at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris

Carlo Poni is Professor of Economic History at the University of Bologna

Osvaldo Raggio is at the European University Institute in Florence

Stuart Woolf is Professor of History at the European University Institute and the University of Essex



# Acknowledgements

The essays in this volume come out of a research project on 'Work and Family in Pre-Industrial Europe' funded by the European University Institute between 1984 and 1987. The project was deliberately exploratory and open-ended, dependent on regular meetings of a small group and conferences on specific themes involving broader participation. The directors, Stuart Woolf and Carlo Poni, are extremely grateful to the EUI for its generous support. They hope that, besides the present volume, the project has justified itself for the successive cohorts of research students in the Department of History and Civilization who followed and participated in the conferences and discussions.

Their thanks also go to Maurice Aymard and Jacques Revel, whose interest in the project led them to accept this volume for publication in the series Studies in Modern Capitalism.