

## **Kinship networks and familial practices in an Industrial Italian Districts Area**

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Central-Northern Italy is the region of *industrial districts*, where the latter term outlines a territorial industrial unit as an interlocking system of both productive and human relationships, particularly parental ones. Central-Northern Italy is also indicated as the core of the *stem family* (Micheli, 2000). This is characterized by strong familial ties and, according to common opinion, it is founded upon two coordinates (Todd 1983): a) the degree of patrilocalism in the residence at marriage; b) the rule of inheritance according to which “designated heirs inherited the bulk of family property on the conditions they would continue to coreside” (Reher, 1998).

Some empirical works show that neither patrilocalism nor inheritance practices are determinative of a familial model: they represent “strategies pursued to solve some of the problem faced by families” (Brettell, 1991, about inheritance rules). Nevertheless, through the transmission of property and localistic strategies “people make powerful statements about the meaning of parenthood and childhood, of maleness and femaleness, and of kinship and alliance” (Brettell, 1991, about inheritance rules). In other terms, social practices are crystallized in inertial anthropological structures (norms and values), which in turn embed the current social transformations into different patterns of social practices. Thus, the question could be: how succession and localism have been reformulated in the stem-family?

To answer this question, we analyse 100 structured interviews from a 2003 ad-hoc survey (SFIDA, Stem Family in Industrial Districts Area). Respondents are entrepreneurs of a northern Italian district. Our aim is to ascertain the typology of networks kin ties in enterprises. We are also interested in the way succession and choices on location of houses are carried out in a stem-family region. To delineate familial practices by SFIDA data, we make use of a multivariate exploratory analysis.