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Islands and Family:

the making of a Family survey in a Small Island State





(1) Context

Sociology of the family has focussed for a long time



on couples with children on one-parent or step-families,

i.e. on family groups formed by *co-residence*

Census data describe the family within the household

 Nevertheless, families spread over a larger territory and a variety of relationships are entertained between households



(2) Context

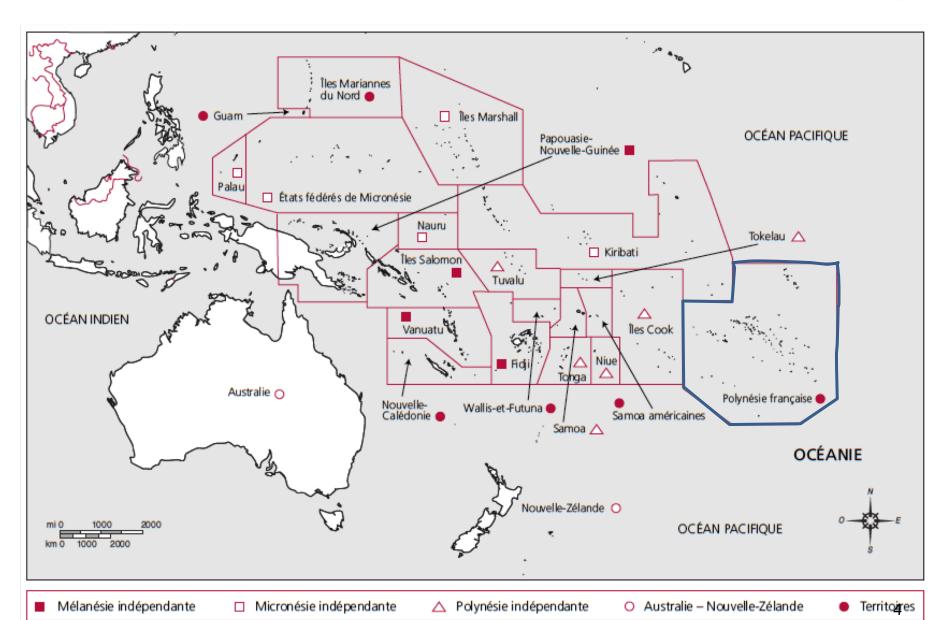
The interest in family solidarities has reappeared in the context of ageing societies and the wider debate around public *versus* private support



In a specific geographical context

- a region featuring widely scattered islands,
- with declining fertility and increasing life expectancy
- where the organization of education and health implies long distance and long term mobility





French Polynesia

- 118 islands (76 inhabited)
- Pop 276 000 (2017)
- 17 100 km from Paris (France)
- 3 900 km from Auckland, New Zealand
- 75% of population on Tahiti & Moorea
- Growth rate0.6% per annumbetween2012-2017
- Net migration
 -4/1000 b. 2012-2017

Elected Assembly and a President assisted by a Ministers cabinet. A high



commissioner appointed by French government is in charge of education, defense, foreign relations, and justice.



A collaborative project



between



A National Research Institute

funded by both

 The President of French Polynesia and the High Commissioner



Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques



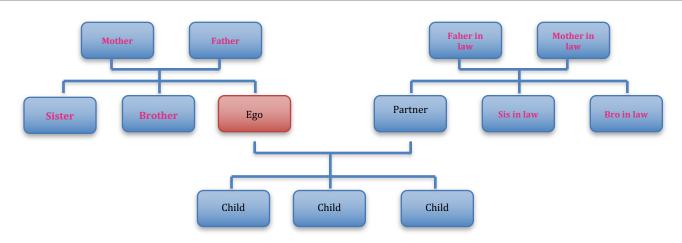
Objectives of *Feti'i e fenua**



- Describe the territory of polynesian families through the residential locations of all family members along 3 generations
- Explore these geographic layouts of settlements in connection with traditionnal rights of access to land, schooling facilities health ressources and work opportunities
- Question the organization of family solidarities
- Document residential mobilities of young Polynesians

Which family universe?





- Ego (= respondant)
 - → father and mother

→ partner's parents

→ brothers and sisters

- → partner's siblings
- → their children
- → friends and elective kin
- The survey *feti'i e fenua* collects information among 40 to 59 years old residents. Those who can describe the family 3 generations from their ageing parents to their children, some of whom having reached adulthood.

The survey



October-December 2019



January-March 2020

The survey questionnaire (1)



- Module Ego and Partner
 - → Educational pathway and mobility,
 - → Overseas (outside Polynesia) mobility
 - → Occupation(s)
 - → Current conjugal relationship & its initial location
- Household and Housing description
 - → Location of nearby kins'household(s)
 - → both partners' locations where they have inherited right of access
- Household and Housing description

The survey questionnaire (2)



- For all other family members are recorded
 - Where do they live and with whom? What do they do there? How often do they interact?
 - → their location and company
 - → their occupation(s)
- Concerning their parents
 - → old age dependency and health
- Concerning their children
 - → school attendance, financial support, living abroad.



Preliminary results

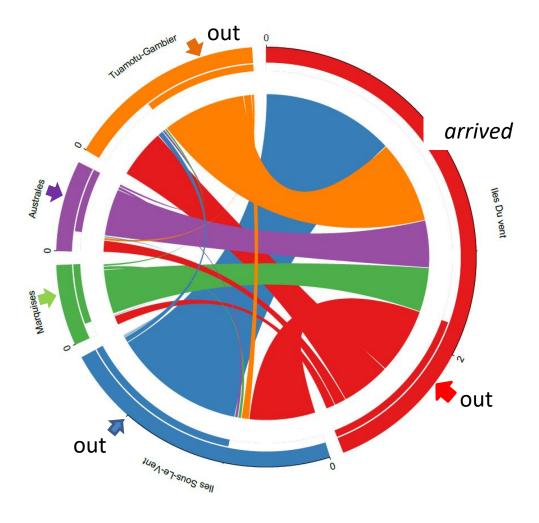
Mobility in French Polynesia Fa'a'amuraa

Inter-archipelagoes mobility flows:



The attraction of the Windward Islands (Tahiti & Moorea)

Between the birth place and the residence place (30 years old +, 2012 census)



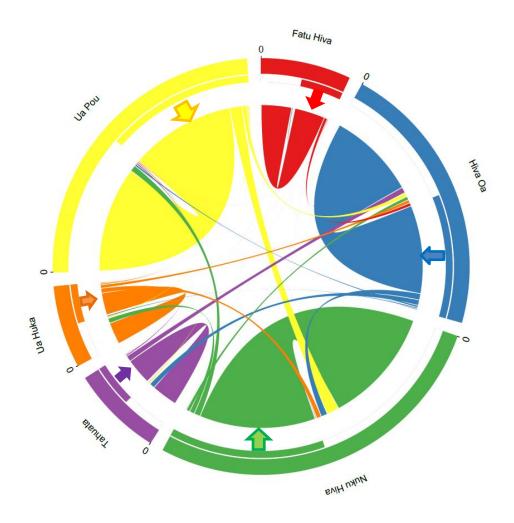
- Windward Islands
- Leeward Islands
- 3. Tuamotu-Gambier
- 4. Australes
- 5. Marquisas

Inter-islands mobility flows in the Marquesas:



No polarization and sedentarity

between the birth place and the residence place (30 years old +, 2012 census)

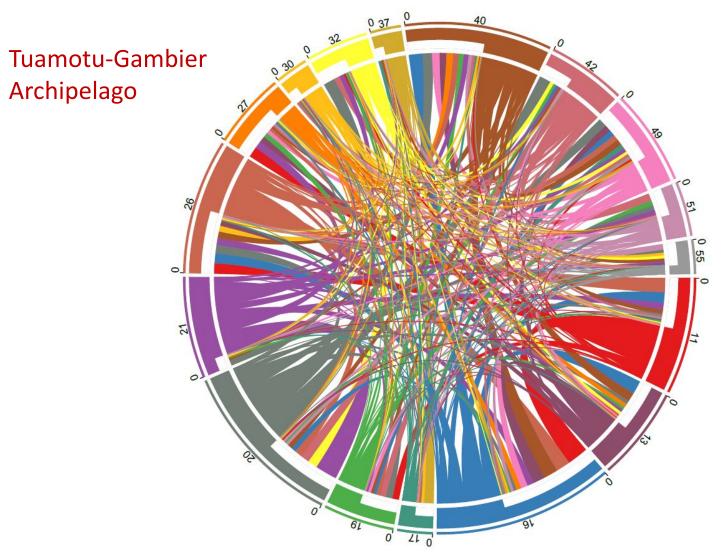


Inter-islands mobility flows in the Marquesas:



No polarization and intense mobility

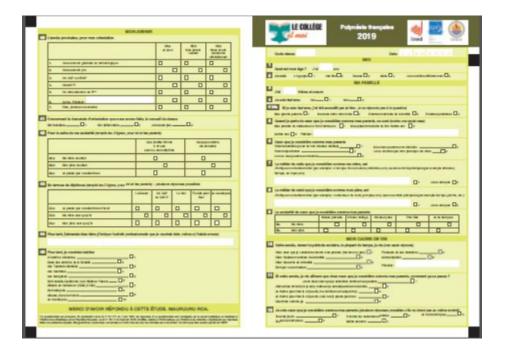
between the birth place and the residence place (30 years old +, 2012 census)



Schooling attendance and mobility



In May 2019, a survey of all students (3.900) in State and confessionnal middle schools in French Polynesia in the last form (year 9) before High School.



4 pages selfadministered questionnaire

Schooling attendance and mobility



Schooling mobility: where the children lived before school age, attended primary school and started middle school

	Same archipelago	Changed archipelago in primary school	Changed archipelago for secundary school	Changed archipelago and moved back	Moved outside of Polynesia	Total
Windward (Islands	80,7	4,5	3,6	2,1	9,1	100%
Leeward Islands	61,4	14,9	9,6	1,8	12,3	100%
Tuamotu- Gambier	55,1	27,6	12,2	3,9	1,2	100%
Australes	55,9 (29,4	5,9	1,5	7,3	100%
Marquesas (78,3	15,2	2,2	4,4	-	100%

Understanding family exchanges and solidarities: *the fa'a'amura'a*



(1)

The traditional practice of the fa'a'amura'a (Polynesian 'adoption') is found throughout Polynesian society

The Polynesian censuses have two questions about it (among all women aged 14 years old plus)

- Have you ever shared *fa'a'amu* one of your children?
- > Do you bring up any fa'a'amu child nowadays?



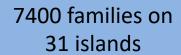
- 11 % of women aged more than 35 have ever confided a child *fa'a'amu*
- A traditional practice more frequent in the archipelagoes distant from Tahiti
- A more frequent practice for less qualified women
- Confide a child ... yes, but seldom more than one
- 20% of women aged more than 55 have brought up fa'a'amu children
- The recipient fa'a'amu mothers either have had no children or many

Feti'i e fenua will provide more detailled information

The survey



October-December 2019



January-March 2020