

FAMILIES IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

Learning Activities

1. Lambert begins the chapter with questions about how readers think about family. How do you define the concept of family? What does Lambert mean when she argues that families are shaped by systems of power? According to Lambert, what concept of family has been normalized? How is the normalized family a system of power? How does it support other systems of power?
2. Lambert discusses the organization Family Story, whose mission is to “address and dismantle privilege in America . . . [and] create cutting-edge research to expose the ways family privilege causes harm and create cultural and political strategies to advance equity for all types of families” (familystoryproject.org). Working alone, with a partner, or in a small group, visit the [Family Story website](#). How does Family Story challenge myths about family structures? Choose at least one family myth that the organization challenges, and explain how Family Story does so. How do Family Story’s challenges to family myths also challenge structures of power?
3. How has the global COVID-19 pandemic challenged and/or changed family structures, according to Lambert?
4. How and why do US immigration policies negatively affect immigrant families, according to Lambert? What challenges do queer and trans migrants face?
5. Lambert discusses activist organizations that support and advocate for families, such as [The Family Equality Council](#) and [RAICES](#). Working alone, with a partner, or in a small group, review the website for one of these organizations. What kinds of activist work does the organization engage in? How does the organization’s activism challenge and/or uphold traditional definitions of family?
6. Working in a small group, add these terms to your glossary: inheritance, kinship, matrilineal, patrilineal, nuclear family, extended family, intergenerational family, transracial adoption, transnational adoption.