

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>Map</i>	xi
1 Intergenerational solidarity and family support networks in cross-cultural perspective	1
1.1 The graying of the Western world and intergenerational solidarity	1
1.2 Intergenerational solidarity in the ancient world	4
1.3 Definitions	17
1.4 Sources	20
1.5 The Roman Egyptian census	21
1.6 Overview of the chapters	28
2 Household structures, marriage patterns, and inheritance strategies	31
2.1 Regional diversity of historic household forms	31
2.2 Definition of the household	33
2.3 Household forms in antiquity	34
2.4 Household structures from inscriptions	35
2.5 Household structures from census returns	38
2.6 Physical layout of the house in Roman Egypt	39
2.7 Demographic regime and household formation	42
2.8 Household life cycles	47
2.9 Marriage patterns in Roman Egypt	48
2.10 Landholding and inheritance patterns	50
2.11 Reasons for and timing of fission of multiple family households	53
3 Balancing benefits and obligations: parental love and filial piety over the life course	58
3.1 Fertility in Roman Egypt	58
3.2 Downward or upward wealth flows?	59
3.3 Parents and children in Roman Egypt	65

3.4	Balancing benefits and obligations: parents	66
3.5	Balancing benefits and obligations: children	80
4	Widowhood, remarriage, and residence patterns	92
4.1	The chaste widow in cross-cultural perspective	92
4.2	Widowhood and remarriage in Graeco-Roman society	93
4.3	Widowhood and remarriage in Roman Egypt	94
4.4	Remarriage in the census returns	97
5	Growing old in the household	107
5.1	The household as main provider of care and support in cross-cultural perspective	107
5.2	Household and old age in Roman Egypt	109
5.3	The elderly in simple and extended family households	111
5.4	The elderly in multiple family households	112
5.5	Solitary residence of the elderly	113
5.6	Widowers and widows and marriage propensity of children	114
5.7	Contact with children living far away	118
5.8	Authority, retirement and household hierarchies	122
5.9	Female heads of household	130
5.10	Property transmission during lifetime	131
5.11	Retirement contracts	134
5.12	Conclusions	139
6	The patriarchal household and the incoming daughter-in-law	141
6.1	The "mother-in-law belt"	141
6.2	The daughter-in-law in Roman Egypt	144
6.3	Sisters-in-law	150
6.4	Tensions between husband and wife	151
6.5	The daughter-in-law and care in old age	154
6.6	Consanguineous marriages	155
7	Childless old age: the worst of all fates?	162
7.1	Growing old without children	162
7.2	Reasons for childlessness	163
7.3	De facto childlessness	165
7.4	The living situation of the childless elderly	167
7.5	Emotional consequences of childlessness	168
7.6	Alternatives to care by children: the spouse as principal source of assistance	169
7.7	Support by other kin in the household	171
7.8	Care by slaves and freedmen	172

Contents

vii

7.9	Support networks beyond the household walls	174
7.10	Adoption	175
7.11	Uxorilocal marriages and the adoption of the son-in-law	187
7.12	Fostering	197
7.13	Charity	198
Chapter 8 Conclusions		199
<i>Bibliography</i>		214
<i>Index of sources</i>		250
<i>Index</i>		257