



It takes a village. Or does it take a post-nuclear sense of shattering, to raise non-nuclear families? And what are families, ultimately? Communities? Kinships? Chosen bonds among two or more people? Or, cages so many of us spend most our lives escaping? This issue of de genere explores the very definition of “family”, delving into the question of what words we choose, and the maps of meaning we are immersed in. Crucially, the issue sets to ask what is the discourse on and around the things that make us who we are, and make us make sense of old, new, accepted, or unrecognized kinships. The popular and normative notion of family is here put under erasure, in order to see and hear the village voices, the stories in the news, and most of all the new stories. The kids are alright.

We are happy to launch with this issue the miscellaneous section “Grafts”.

A very moving characteristic of grafting is that it involves “the wounding of two growths and the arranging of them so that they heal together” (Time-Life Encyclopaedia of Gardening, 1978). We are not entirely sure healing is our aim here, but by inserting – or better, grafting – a miscellaneous section into the main body, or, botanically speaking, into the rootstock of de genere, we wish to let compounds and interventions happen. Grafts is a space not independent from but also not fused with the coherent space of the monothematic issues already in place. It is a miscellaneous space for hosting and breeding encounters and departures, with articles on topics nearby or far off from each issue’s topic.

Marta Cariello and Serena Guarracino



