Giddens (1992): Choice & Equality

Couples can define their own relationships based upon romantic love due to the increase in contraception and independence for women.

Stacey (1998): Divorce-Extended Family

Women are more likely to maintain relationships with ex-in-laws due to access to children – however divorced women are more likely to have fictive extended families to help support them.

Rapoport & Rapoport (1982): Five Types of Family Diversity

1. Organisational Diversity
2. Cultural Diversity
3. Social Class Diversity
4. Life-stage Diversity
5. Generational Diversity

Therefore even in the nuclear family there is greater diversity between families that first suggested.


More conditions based upon relationships because of uncertainty and need for romantic love rather than financial arrangements.

Jeffrey Weeks (1999): Growth in ‘Fictive families’

People are beginning to redefine what is meant by family and this can include friends, co-workers and even pets.

‘Post-Modernism’ assumes that traditional structures have broken down and that society is much more ‘Fluid’ & is characterised by choice, variety and diversity.

AO3 Evaluation

Chester (1984) Neo-conventional family is the most common type. This is essentially the nuclear family redefined and therefore less diversity than thought.

Chester (1984) Due the life-cycle many people will be part of a nuclear family – single parents and reconstituted families are formed from nuclear families.

Post-modernism can be seen as a fragmented approach.