

**KENT STATE UNIVERSITY/UNIVERSITY OF AKRON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**  
**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION IN**  
**Family**  
**Spring 2009**

**CORE QUESTIONS – ANSWER BOTH 1 AND 2**

1. What do you regard as the two major methodological advances that have occurred in family research in the last several decades? Please support your argument by describing two substantive areas in which these methodological advances have been particularly significant and/or important. Be sure to reference scholars associated with each substantive area and discuss the specific ways in which you feel their work constitutes an advance.
  
2. Handbooks are intended to provide summaries of the state-of-the-art of a given field. In your readings both of handbooks and the field more generally, what have you learned about the state of the sociology of families? In your answer, please describe the following:
  - a. The three or four key areas that have been the focus of the discipline in the last two decades. What have we learned about these aspects of family life? What contributions have advances in the field made to sociology, more generally?
  - b. Are there any absences or silences ? What do you perceive as new directions that might address these absences?