

Family tree...

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But when it works, it can provide a support system of sorts. I have seen the nieces, nephews — even the dogs — of one marriage welcomed as guests into another. There are all sorts of relationships that survive the marital ones, though there are no names for these kinfolk, no nomenclature for this extending family.

Not long ago, when living together first became a common pattern, people couldn't figure out what to call each other. It was impossible to introduce the man you lived with as a

"spouse equivalent." It was harder to refer to the woman your son lived with as his lover, mistress or housemate.

It's equally difficult to describe the peculiar membership of this new lineage.

Our reality is more flexible and our relationships more supportive than our language. But for the moment, my 10-year-old researcher is right. However accidentally, however uneasily, "We are in the same family."

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CAREER PLANNING and PLACEMENT Fall Semester Orientation (REQUIRED)

For students who plan to utilize
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this semester, a series of meetings
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Tues., Aug. 30 - 3:30 & 7:00

Wed., Aug. 31 - 3:30

Thurs., Sept. 1 - 9:30 & 3:30

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