EUROFILE

The Little Peasant c.1918
Photo: Tate

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Art historian Griselda Pollock explains: "These were typically models hired for him by [Modigliani's art dealer] Zborowski. He didn't know them."

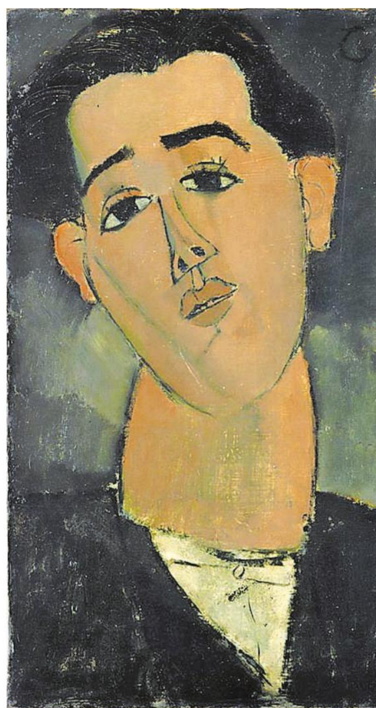
Modigliani achieved an enormous amount in his short life, but it is easy to assume that his legacy is limited to creating a stereotype that we're all familiar with – the drinker with an easel, the egotist, one of the men who inspired the *Titanic* line 'Draw me like one of your French girls'.

However, this retrospective reminds us that Modigliani's work from the past can have a significant effect on the way we interpret the present, and predict the future.

He felt like an outsider, and he found a home in a brand new country. In order to protect his creative legacy and invest in our own, we need to remember the importance of movement in art.

■ Daisy Buchanan is an award-winning journalist and author

■ Modigliani runs at Tate Modern from November 23 to April 2, 2018



Juan Gris 1915
Photo: Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER – EUROPE'S ANCIENT ID CODE

What's in a name? Every corner of Europe has its own distinctive form of patronymic. **PETER TRUDGILL** gives us a tour through them

Gaelic names like MacDonald and McAdam are patronymics – surnames derived from a boy's father's given name: *mac* is the Scottish and Irish Gaelic word for 'son'. It also means 'son' in the Gaelic of the Isle of Man. But in typical Manx names, *mac* has been abbreviated to *'c*, so Clague is derived from MacLiaigh, and Kermode from MacDermod. The corresponding Welsh word is *mab*, and this too has been abbreviated in patronymics to *ab* or *ap*: Bevan was originally ab-Evan, and Pritchard ap-Richard.

Surnames are a relatively new phenomenon in many parts of Europe, and the practice of passing family names down through the generations has still not been adopted in Iceland. Icelanders have a second name derived from the name of one of their parents, traditionally the father. A man whose name is Jón Sigurdsson is so called because his father's name is Sigurdur. His sisters have the second name Sigurdsdóttir, while any children he has himself will be called Jónsson or Jónssdóttir.

This system was traditionally used elsewhere in Scandinavia, and hereditary family names only became compulsory in Denmark in the 1850s; in Sweden around 1900; and in Norway in the 1920s. Often Norwegians then took their new surname from the place where they lived, so that many people in a particular village might now share the same name even though they were unrelated.

But patronymics such as Danish Hansen and Swedish Andersson also continued to be used in Scandinavia, with the innovation that they became hereditary, so the first element no longer changed from one generation to the next. Crucially, women now also had surnames ending in *-son* rather than *-dottir*.

In England, patronymic names stopped being genuinely patronymic many centuries earlier than that. Someone called Mary Johnson is obviously not anyone's son; and Fred Johnson is named, not after his father, but after some distant ancestor's father. All surnames had became fossilised in this way in most parts of England by the 1400s: from then on, it was understood that someone called Taylor was not necessarily a tailor but the son, grandson, great-grandson etc. of a tailor; and that someone called Short might actually be quite tall.

Patronymics are found in many other European languages. German surnames like Jakobsohn and Friedrichsohn are cases in point. Slovenian, Croatian, Bosnian and Serbian surnames are very often patronymics derived from a male given name plus the suffic *-ic*, such as Petrovic, Pavlovic and Tomic.

The surnames of 21 out of the 26 players in the current Serbian men's football squad end in *-ic*. This ending is a diminutive, so the original meaning of Petrovic was 'little one of Peter'.

The same method of forming patronymic family names can be found in Greece. Cretan family names typically end in the diminutive *-akis*, so Theodorakis originally meant 'the little one (i.e. the child) of Theodore'. Some Greek families who originally came to Greece as refugees from Asia Minor have surnames derived from the Turkish word *ogul* meaning 'son', like Kostoglou, 'son of Kostas'. In Cyprus, surnames are frequently grammatically possessive forms: Pavlou is the genitive of Pavlos, so '(child) of Paul'.

Spanish names such as Sanchez and Rodriguez – and the Portugese equivalents Sanches and Rodrigues – are also possessive patronymics, meaning 'of Sancho' and 'of Rodrigo' – with the possessive *-ez/-es* endings coming from the Germanic language of the Visigothic 5th-8th century overlords of Iberia.

British and Irish surnames starting with *Fitz* – like Fitzgerald and Fitzwilliam – are also patronymics. They derive from the Anglo-Norman word *fiz* 'son', which is the same word as French *fils*: Anglo-Norman French was the language of the aristocracy of England, and parts of Scotland and Ireland, from the 11th to the 14th centuries.

Fitzhugh, McHugh, Kew, Pugh and Hewson are all versions, from different parts of the British Isles, of the same patronymic family name, 'son of Hugh'.

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MATRONYMICS

English has scores of patronymics like Wilson and Richardson, but we have matronymics as well. Margetson and Megson come from Margaret and its pet form Meg. Ibbotson is from a nickname for Isabelle; Marrison and Merrison are from Mary, Annison from Annie, and Allison from Alice. There was once also a Sheriff of London called Simon Fitzmary.