

AFIN

AFIN n° 112
2019 - Special Issue



XI International AFIN Conference - 4-6 September, 2019, Granada, Spain Towards Reproductive (In)Justice?: Mobilities, Technologies, Jobs & Decisions

For this conference, we invite researchers, professionals and end-users to think about reproduction in terms of stratifications, hierarchies and reproductive justice. We believe reproductive justice to be an increasingly necessary perspective in a world of growing inequalities and threatened solidarities.

On August 22, 2018, the prestigious publication *Nature* published an article by a group of authors led by Viviane Slon of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany. The article presented the genome of Denny, a 13-year-

old girl found in the Denisova cave (Russia) who was the daughter of two different, extinct human groups: a Denisovan father, from Eastern Eurasia, and a Neanderthal mother, from Western Eurasia. The news confirmed that the groups moved throughout Europe and Asia 120,000 years ago, and that although they did not live together permanently nor have many opportunities to meet, when they did, their sexual encounters would have been habitual, to the point of yielding reproductive results.

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ISSN: 2013-2956



AFIN

Research Group

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Supported by:



As noted by Faye Ginsburg and Rayna Rapp (1991), “reproduction” is a slippery concept with diverse connotations. It is used to refer to childbirth as well as to the maintenance of domestic groups, the constitution of labor forces and the ideologies that sustain social systems. Therefore, the XI AFIN International Conference will focus on various aspects related to reproductive justice today. We live in a time when, unlike Denny’s epoch, the meaning of biology is increasingly indeterminate (Franklin, 2013). Reproduction is becoming more and more biomedicalized and it involves transnational relations, finance, commerce, organization and social hierarchies, human relations, moral and experiential life, and even the industrialization of human life itself (Thompson, 2011).

In an increasingly neoliberal world (Briggs, 2017; Inhorn, 2018), growing hierarchies stratify reproduction between social groups (Colen, 1995), some of which enjoy diverse social supports for their reproduction while others have little to none. The Spanish case is a good example of these tendencies, as shown in AFIN Research Group’s work since 2004 (Marre & Briggs, 2009; Fonseca, Marre

& San Román, 2015; Frekko, Leinaweaver & Marre 2015; Leinaweaver, Marre & Frekko, 2017; Marre, San Román & Guerra, 2018, among others). In the 1970s, Spain had one of the highest fertility rates in the world, attracting adoptive families from throughout Europe and the rest of world. In contrast, since the mid-1990s Spain has had one of the world’s lowest birth rates, was second in the world in the number of transnational adoptions in 2014, the number-one country in Europe and third in the world in using assisted reproductive cycles since 2016, as well as the top European provider of female oocytes. These changes in recent decades have transformed Spain into a global hub for reproductive travels from around the world.

Thus, it seems urgent, as proposed by studies in the field of reproductive justice (Luna & Luker 2013, Ros & Solinger 2017; see also Smietana, Thompson & Twine, 2018; Marre & Briggs, 2009; Franklin, 2011) to ask ourselves the basic question inherent to reproductive justice: Who has the right – including the proper conditions and support – to take their own decision about reproduction, including to have

XI CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL AFIN

¿HACIA LA (IN)JUSTICIA REPRODUCTIVA? MOVILIDADES, TECNOLOGÍAS, TRABAJOS, DECISIONES

GRANADA, 4, 5 Y 6 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2019

Facultad de Filosofía y Letras (Universidad de Granada)
Campus La Cartuja, c/ Prof. Claveras, s/n, 18011 (Granada, España)

La asistencia a este Congreso puede completarse con la participación en la jornada "Ser familias diversas hoy", el día 7 de septiembre, en la que se trabajará de manera dialéctica los temas abordados en el mismo.

Con la colaboración de:

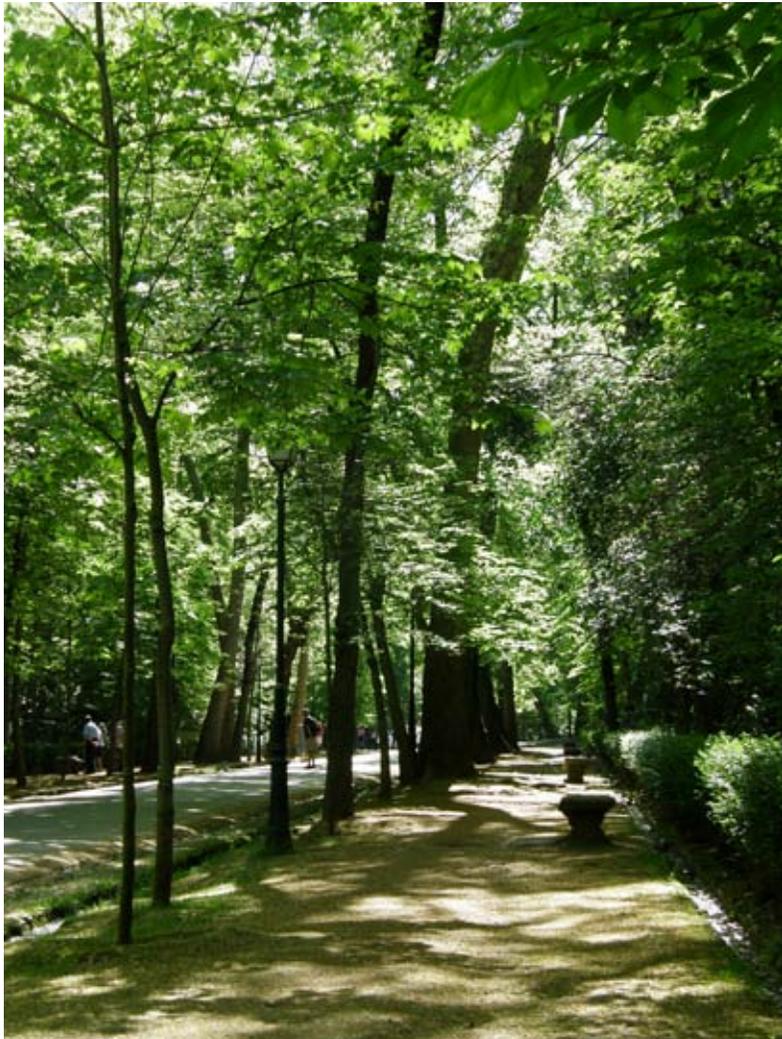
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or not to have children, and raise them in a safe environment? As evidenced by studies on reproductive justice, reproductive rights and decisions are conditioned



or influenced by social structures, given that some people have more rights and decision-making ability than others, depending on the groups to which they belong. Reproduction in some populations or groups is more supported than in others, and the burden of reproductive work falls on some women, groups and populations in a disproportionate way (De Zordo & Marchesi, 2014 [2012]; Rudrappa, 2015; Twine, 2015; Puar, 2007).

In many Western jurisdictions with low fertility levels, higher fertility rates among some immigrant populations are perceived and depicted as a “threat” by conservative politicians, who use them to fuel nationalistic and xenophobic discourses on what has been defined as the “demographic suicide” of European or American Christian nations and to criminalize abortion as well (Krause & Marchesi, 2007; Marchesi, 2012). Many countries, not only in Europe and America but also for example in China (Wahlberg, 2018), have undergone, over the last two decades, important demographic changes, in particular a dramatic decrease in fertility rates to non-replacement levels, which have also triggered anti-reproduc-

tive rights backlash (for Eastern Europe and Russia see Mishtal, 2015; Rivkin-Fish, 2010). In some countries with very low fertility rates, anti-abortion groups have become very active in recent years and have extended their political influence and advocacy work trans-nationally (for Latin America see Morgan, 2017). Such a political environment has produced policies that tend to reward white, heterosexual families, while neglecting or undermining the family-making processes and reproductive rights particularly of migrants and of non-heterosexual people. Non-heterosexual and single people are often left with the option of travelling across borders to have access to adoption or ARTs that are locally forbidden to non-heterosexual, non-married couples. Heterosexual women and couples also travel across borders, not only to seek access to ARTs, but also to seek access to abortion care. In fact, women face a number of barriers to Access legal abortion not only in countries with very restrictive abortion laws, but also in countries with relatively liberal abortion laws, such as gestational age limits, mandatory waiting time/counselling, conscientious refusal of care, and

abortion stigma (Berer 2008; De Zordo, Mishtal and Anton, 2017; Gerdtts et al., 2016; Unnithan and De Zordo, 2018). All these barriers can lead women to travel far from their area of residence, including abroad, to seek abortion care –if only their economic and other circumstances allow them for such travel.

We invite the conference participants to consider the following questions and/or build on them in examining stratified reproduction and reproductive justice:

- Who can decide whether, when and how have children? Including women, men, transgender and non-binary people; fertile and infertile people; homosexual, bisexual or heterosexual people; able-bodied or disabled people; single people, nuclear families or co-parenting groups; citizens and migrants; economically privileged or excluded people; people of some races, ethnic groups or origins and not others; human being or non-human animals...
- Can/should some people travel to conceive or adopt children, or to become parents, or to prevent or terminate unwanted pregnancies?
- Do donors and surrogates have access to information about the health effects of donation and gestation in the short and the long run?
- (How) can birth families of adopted children, and the children themselves, be in contact with each other and have access to the information that allows them to do so?
- (How) can donor-conceived individuals and the gamete donors who helped in their conception have access to identifying information about each other and maintain mutual relationships?
- Is work-family life balance possible and if so, can we widen the scope of those who have access to it?
- Are people able to actively participate in decision-making about their reproductive life, including contraception, pregnancy, abortion, child-birth and adoption, as well as to choose their own approach to parenthood?
- What new partnerships, collectives and other changes can we imagine to promote a version of reproductive justice in which everyone involved



has the same right to participate in reproductive processes in the way they prefer, to have children and to raise them in a safe and beneficial environment, as well as the right not to have them?

- Whose reproductive health and decision-making is disadvantaged by structural exclusions and circumstances, and in what ways?

Many of these questions, except for the ones surrounding the biomedicalization of reproduction, were raised in the

case of Denny, mentioned earlier. The news of her Discovery did not highlight the fact that she was found in the Denisova cave where the father's group lived. But this is a finding that raises more questions about the discovery, much like



the ones we are dealing with today in the context of reproductive justice. For example:

- Had her mother decided to move to live with her father after the birth of Denny, perhaps to provide reproductive "services" to the paternal group, or at some prior moment, to access some new technology that her own group lacked?
- Had Denny's father taken care of her on his own during her 13 years alive?
- If that were the case, would her mother have agreed or was Denny 'appropriated' by her father or adopted by another family in her group?
- If so, had Denny known before dying at 13 years old who her mother was, and when had she learnt about her origins?

These and other critical topics in the study of reproductive justice are changing, as they have in the past, the characteristics of our societies. In order to analyse these urgent questions, we invite research and practice professionals, activists, and end-users to participate in the XI Congreso Internacional AFIN, to be held in Granada on 4, 5 and 6 September 2019.

We trust that this congress will serve, as it has in the past, as a crucial international encounter for researchers, professionals and activists working on these topics, as well as for families. To that end, we also invite submissions from those who have not as yet focused their work on reproductive justice or stratified reproduction, but who have been working in the field of reproduction and believe they can provide unique insights to the participants of this congress.

Individual communications will be organized in the following seven topic areas, which will be programmed along with plenary sessions given by invited keynote speakers:

1. Origins, Revelation, Anonymity, Secrets
2. (In)mobilities and Borders
3. Justice, Stratification and Intersections
4. Queer Kinships, Solidarities and Affinities
5. Environments, Populations, Species, Ecologies
6. Labors, Intimacies, Care
7. Health, Medicine, Science, Technology

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CONFIRMED SPEAKERS



LAURA BRIGGS

Professor of the University of Massachusetts Amherst (Estados Unidos). She is author of *How All Politics Became Reproductive Politics: From Welfare Reform to Foreclosure to Trump* (2016), where she analyses how neoliberal economic, labouring, military and social politics in the

United States constrain reproductive options. In her presentation she will talk about how neoliberal politics affect in reproductive decisions.



KRISTEN CHENEY

Lecturer and Childhood and Youth Studies in the International Institute of Social Studies in the Erasmus University Rotterdam (The Netherlands). Her researches evolve around the survival strategies of children in adverse circumstance and humanitarian intervention politics in the East and South of Africa. She

is author of *Crying for Our Elders: African Orphanhood in the Age of HIV/AIDS* (2017). Her presentation will deal with the linkage of children markets with global inequalities through the commodification of care and reproduction in surrogacy processes.



ANINDITA MAJUMDAR

Lecturer of the Department of Arts of the Indian Institute of Technology (Hyderabad, India). Recently, she has published her work *Transnational Commercial Surrogacy and the (Un)Making of Kin in India* (2017), result from her PhD Dissertation on surrogacy in India. Currently, she

is undertaking a research project about the meaning of "age" in assisted reproduction, funded by Wellcome Trust UK, and at this Conference she will present its preliminary results.



DIANA MARRE

Lecturer of the Department of Anthropology (UAB, Barcelona) and Director of AFIN Research Group and Outreaching AFIN (Spain). Her researches focus on Anthropology of Childhood and Assistance of Reproduction, linked to different reproductive forms such as adoption, assisted reproduction, surrogacy, and sexual reproduction.

Currently, she is undertaking a research links intimate mobilities with local/global reproductive options and decisions. In her presentation, she will analyse how Spanish reproductive politics impinge on global reproductive options and decisions.



JOANNA MISHTAL

Lecturer of Medical Anthropology of University of Central Florida (United States), specialist in reproductive politics and rights in post-socialist Poland. Her studies analyse the influence of Catholic religion in reproductive politics and governance. She is co-author, together with Silvia de Zordo and Lorena Anton, of *A Fragmented*

Landscape: Abortion Governance and Associated Protest Logics in Postwar Europe (2016). In her presentation, she will give a speech on the governance of abortion in Europe.



PETRA NORDQVIST

Researcher in Sociology at the Morgan Centre for Research into Everyday Lives of the University of Manchester (United Kingdom). Her researches analyse how reproductive technologies and, specifically, the use of gamete donors influences on personal and family life. She is Principal Investigator in the project "Curious Connections: The Impact of Donating Egg and Sperm on Donors' Everyday Life and Relationships", exploring the

impact of donating egg of sperm on donors in a UK context", funded by ESRC.



MARCIN SMIETANA

Research at the University of Cambridge (United Kingdom) and member of AFIN Research Group, specialized in surrogacy in gay men. He is author, together with Charis Thompson, of "Making Families: Transnational Surrogacy, Queer Kinship, and Reproductive Justice". Special Issue of *Reproductive Biomedicine & Society Online*, Vol. 7, Nov. 2018. In his presentation, he will talk about the construction of queer kinship.



FRANCE WINDDANCE TWINE

Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara (United States) and documentary filmmaker. Her studies analyse the intersections among race, gender and social class. One of the contributions is the concept "racial literacy", understood as how race, racism and antiracism is conceptualized. She is the author of *Outsourcing the Womb: Race, Class and Gestational Surrogacy in a Global Market* (2015). In her presentation, she will talk about the intersectionalities between class and race in processes of surrogacy.



SILVIA DE ZORDO

She is Ramon y Cajal Researcher in University of Barcelona (Spain). She has undertaken researches on contraception, abortion and conscientious objection in Latin America and Europe. She is co-author, together with Joanna Mishtal and Lorena Anton, of *A Fragmented Landscape: Abortion Governance and Associated Protest Logics in Postwar Europe* (2016). Currently, she

leads the project "Women travelling to seek abortion care in Europe: the impact of barriers to legal abortion on women living in countries with ostensibly liberal abortion laws", and she will show the preliminary results, funded by ERC.

Round Table 1:

Queer Kinships and LGBTQ Reproduction in a stratified world: options for reproductive justice?

SILVIA POSOCCO

Lecturer of Birkbeck University of London (United Kingdom), specialized in researches on gender, sexuality and violence.

LUCAS PLATERO

Postdoctoral Researcher Juan de la Cierva in AFIN Research Group and specialist in studies on family experience of trans* people.

IGNACIO PICHARDO

Professor of Universidad Complutense de Madrid (España), co-director of the group Diversidad e Integración [Diversity and Integration], specialist in education in sexual diversity, lesbian women, human rights and LGTB families.

Round Table 2:

Movements Against Sexual and Reproductive Rights: Strategies in Europe and beyond

NEIL DATTA

Secretary of the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development.

IRENE MAFFI

Lecturer in Cultural Anthropology in University of Lausanne (Switzerland), with researches on reproductive health, medical technologies, abortion, contraception, doctor-patient relations and gender and class inequalities.

CLAUDIA MATTALUCCI

Researcher in Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca (Italy), expert in technologies of abortion.

XI AFIN CONFERENCE: CALL FOR PAPERS

Track 1:

Origins, Revelations, Anonymity, Secrets

Convenors: Chandra Kala Clemente Martínez (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), Aranzazu Gallego Molinero (Universidad de Granada), Irene Salvo Agoglia (Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Chile)

In most countries, 'third-party reproduction' (Marre, Guerra and San Román, 2018) -adoption, assisted reproduction with gamete or embryo 'donation' or surrogacy-, are surrounded by silences, secrets and anonymities, raising both biotechnological and subjectivity challenges and ethical and juridical issues. In the case of adoptions, which historically have involved separating children their birth families, in many cases erasing the relationship between them, such secrecy precluded many adoptees from seeking information of their 'origins' (Howell, 2009; Marre, 2009). However, a new trend of openness in adoption and support for searches for origins is emerging (Howell, 2009; Yngvesson, 2003), as adoptees are claiming their right to know one's origins.

[Read more](#)

Track 2:

(In)mobilities and Borders

Convenors: Silvia De Zordo & Giulia Zanini (Universitat de Barcelona)

Reproductive trajectories have historically involved border crossing (Sethna and Davis, 2019). In the last decades, people have been moving across local and national borders to attain reproductive projects which cannot be achieved locally due to the unavailability of medical services or supportive policies (Gürtin and Inhorn, 2011), to enter specific reproductive arrangements, or to offer their reproductive services (Krolokke, 2015). At the same time, people also travel to terminate a pregnancy, including within and from countries with relatively liberal abortion laws (Gerdt et al., 2016) or to access embryo or foetal reduction.

Cross-border reproductive trajectories emerge from the mobility of people who travel in order to seek reproductive care far from where they live.

[Read more](#)

Track 3:

Justice, Stratifications and Intersections

Convenors: Bruna Alvarez (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), Giulia Colavolpe Severi (EHESS, París), Lynne McIntyre & Alicia Paramita Rebuelta Cho (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

Reproductive work has always been meant to have a woman's face, to go unrecognised, to be done in the name of love, altruistically; moreover, it is stratified according to class and race (Colen, 1986). The concept of reproductive justice, first articulated in 1994 at a national pro-choice conference for the Black Women's Caucus in Chicago, embraces an intersectional framework that links reproductive rights with social justice. Thus we see that within this frame, the politics of reproduction (Ginsburg and Rapp, 1991) and reproductive governance (Morgan and Roberts, 2012) can provoke inequalities worldwide.

This reality conditions the experiences of reproductive life events, as well as producing reproductive chains of transnational care (Hochschild, 2001), depending on the particularities of each cultural context.

[Read more](#)

Track 4:

Queer Kinships, Solidarities and Affinities

Convenors: Lucas Platero (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), Marcin Smietana (Reproductive Sociology Research Group, University of Cambridge)

Within this conference stream, we welcome abstracts for presentations on LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer...) reproduction or non-reproduction as well as queer kinships, affinities and solidarities – the analysis of which may also reveal broader processes of stratified reproduction (Colen, 1995), to which this AFIN conference pays particular attention. We are interested in exploring the narratives and situations of LGBTQ people with regard to making families – as much as the narratives and situations of those who help LGBTQ people make families: birth families in adoption, gamete donors and providers, surrogate mothers, friends and (ex-)partners, professionals...

LGBTQ people in some locations may have developed a new kind of 'procreative consciousness' (Berkowitz, 2007; Golombok, 2015; Pralat, 2018) whereby homosexual orientation is seen as compatible with reproductive orientation...

[Read more](#)

Track 5:

Environments, Populations, Species, Ecologies

Convenors: Marta Mayoral (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), Marcin Smietana, (Reproductive Sociology Research Group, University of Cambridge), Giulia Zanini (Universitat de Barcelona)

Recent scholarship has shown a growing importance of the intersection between reproduction and the environment (Dow, 2016). Scholars asked how contemporary feminisms may encounter and embrace environmental concerns; how different forms of reproduction impact on the planet; what (eco-)feminisms should look like in relation to sciences and technologies; and how kinship can or should expand across species (Bashford, 2014; Clarke and Haraway, 2018; Dow, 2016; Franklin, 2007; Friese, 2013; Merleau-Ponty, 2018; Murphy, 2017; Tsing, 2015).

Human and non-human reproduction and relationships have long inspired discussions about how to manage and frame not only existence but also reciprocal ontologies and common cosmologies (Descola, 2005; Viveiros de Castro, 1998).

[Read more](#)

Track 6:

Labors, Intimacies, Care

Convenors: Victòria Badia Giménez (Universitat de Barcelona), María Del Rosario Esteinou (CIESAS, México), Silvina Monteros Obelar (Universidad de Granada), María José Rodríguez Jaume (Universidad de Alicante)

Family formation through the use of assisted reproductive technologies and other means reveals a complex process of building kinship and procreation in contemporary societies. This complexity implies not only a diversification of norms, values and experiences by which individuals, couples, and families build close relationships (Esteinou, 2014), but also the creation of new inequalities and hierarchies or the reinforcement of old ones. This phenomenon has been recently addressed from different perspectives, one of which has focused on the externalization/commodification of some crucial tasks for childcare and human reproduction (Constable, 2016), such as gamete donation, adoption, surrogacy, or the employment of people to perform childcare work.

The development of new concepts in this field of research reveals important problems which deserve more attention.

[Read more](#)

Track 7:

Health, Medicine, Science, Technology

Convenors: Sofia Gaggiotti-Marre (Hospital Universitario Dexeus), Paola Galbany (Universitat de Vic – Universitat Central de Catalunya), Diana Guerra (IVI Barcelona), Beatriz San Román (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

Artificial reproductive technologies (ART) have rapidly evolved over the past decades in order to improve the reproductive outcomes of infertile couples. The birth of Louise Brown in 1978, the first woman in the world to be born through In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) is acknowledged as a milestone in the history of reproductive medicine. It opened a new horizon of hope to millions of childless couples throughout the world, as well as new horizons for research and ethical debates. Four decades later, major improvements have been made in the field of the cryopreservation process (Rienzi et al., 2017) preimplantation genetic testing (Coates et al., 2017), prenatal testing, mitochondrial replacement, and genetic enhancement. Together with globalization, internet and the opportunity to travel to other countries, everyday more people claim their chance to access these new technologies in order to have desired offspring.

[Read more](#)

XI AFIN Conference

Abstract submission deadline:
April 22nd, 2019.

Please send a 300-words abstract and a biosketch with the track you would like your paper to be in to c.afin@uab.cat.

Abstract admission responses:
May 13th, 2019

Early bird registration (130 euros):
May 14th to July 14th

General registration (150 euros):
July 15th - 31st

General registration (150 euros):
July 15th - 31st

Languages:

The conference languages are Spanish and English. There will be simultaneous translation service at key notes and round tables.

Further information:

- **Families and practitioners workshop**
(Saturday, September 7th)
- **Lodging**
- **Conference website**

AGENDA









Col·labora per el programa Erasmus+ de la Unió Europea

Famílies LGTB+:

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EL APERITIVO DEL JUEVES EN LOS SEMINARIOS AFIN*

CENTRO AFIN

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Horario: 14:00 a 16:00



* Los seminarios, abiertos y gratuitos, se organizan con el apoyo de MINECO/FEDER, EU a través del proyecto I+D: "Del control de la natalidad a la ansiedad demográfica: comuanicación, secreto y anonimato en las tecnologías reproductivas del siglo XXI" (CSO2015-64551-C3-1-R-1). También con el apoyo de: Ajuts per a l'Organització d'Activitats en el marc de la Facultat de Filosofia i Lletres

14 de febrero 2019

**The neutralisation of adoption critiques.
Transnational adoption reforms in Denmark
2012-18**

Lene Myong, Universidad de Stavanger (Noruega)

28 de febrero 2019

**(Re) visitando a la madre (des) naturalizada:
narrativas de búsquedas y contactos entre
personas que fueron adoptadas en Chile con
sus madres de origen**

Irene Salvo Agoglia (Fondecyt, Chile)

14 de marzo 2019

**Acoso y ciberacoso escolar: un análisis
antropológico de las políticas públicas en
Catalunya**

Marta Mayoral Roca (AFIN-UAB)

Victòria Badia (AFIN-UAB)

3 de abril 2019 - de 18h a 19.30h

**El trabajo social y la suspensión de la patria
potestad de los padres "peligrosos" en
España en la primera parte del siglo XX**

Peter Anderson University of Leeds (UK)

11 de abril 2019

**Pensar la dis/capacidad desde una
perspectiva crítica: el capacitismo bajo el
foco**

Laura Sanmiquel (UAB)

9 de mayo 2019

La construcción de la sexualidad en la infancia
Estel Malgosa (AFIN-UAB)

23 de mayo 2019

**Parentalidad y autonomía adolescente en
México**

Rosario Esteinou, CIESAS (México)

13 de junio 2019

**Hacia la salud emocional en las relaciones
íntimas**

Giazú Enciso (Graduate Center New York)