

20 years of AFIN: Families, Childhoods, and Relationships



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The origins of AFIN: a day on 2 October 2004

Twenty years ago, on Saturday 2 October 2004, we held the conference *La Adopción y el Acogimiento: un estado de la cuestión* at the Parc Científic of the Universitat de Barcelona, under the auspices and with the support of their Departament de Antropologia Social e Historia de Am rica y  frica. This event marked the closing of part of the European project *Public Understanding of Genetics*, financed by the European Union, in which seven research teams from different universities (Manchester, Barcelona, Oslo, Paris, Budapest, Rome and Vilnius) participated. These teams devoted three years to interdisciplinary and international research on the public understanding of genetics, covering topics such as genetic modification of food and assisted reproduction, especially in relation to adoption and medically assisted reproductive techniques. The team from the Universitat de Barcelona, under the coordination of Professor Joan Bestard, analysed the development of these forms of family construction in Spain and Catalonia since the 1990s.

The congress aimed to present the preliminary results of the project in relation to one family creation option in particular: adoption, especially international adoption. In that year, Spain ranked first in Europe and second in the world in international adoptions, behind only the United States. This boom was due, among other reasons, to the difficulties in carrying out

national adoptions: in communities such as Madrid and Catalonia, with a high demand for adoptions, no new applications had been processed for years. In the mid-1990s, Spain had one of the lowest fertility rates in the world (1.16 births per woman), a situation that persists to this day.

Diana Marre was responsible for organising the event, where the links and networks that would lead to the creation of the AFIN Group were consolidated. That is why 2 October 2004 has been symbolically chosen as the group's founding date.

Ten years earlier, in 1995, Catalan public television (TV3) had broadcast, during prime time, the documentary *The dying rooms*, directed by Kate Blewett and Brian Woods, about the life - and death - of many girls in orphanages in China due to the precariousness of the care received and the one-child policy which resulted in the prioritisation of boys in families. The screening of this documentary, together with the low fertility rate and the restrictions on national adoption, caused a collapse in the telephone switchboards of the administrations of Catalonia, with numerous calls from families interested in adopting.

The research team from the Universitat de Barcelona, together with that of the University of Oslo, which had also participated in the European project on understandings of genetics, comparatively analysed the high

demand for international adoptions in Norway since the 1970s and in Spain since the mid-1990s. Their work showed how Spain had gone from being a sender of children for adoption until the 1980s to becoming a European and world leader as a recipient country for intercountry adoption in 2004, the very year in which the AFIN Group was founded. In addition, it highlighted the various aspects and multiple entities involved in the management of these adoptions, together with the particularities that differentiated the process in Spain from other European contexts.

The 2004 congress was pioneering in bringing together not only academics presenting research results, but also professionals from different sectors linked to adoption and assisted reproduction, including civil society associations and user groups. This integration of social agents has been a constant in the AFIN group ever since. Notable participants from academia included Claudia Fonseca, from the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, an expert on intercountry adoptions from the perspective of sending countries; Signe Howell, from the University of Oslo, an authority on intercountry adoptions from the perspective of Norway; Anne Cadoret, researcher at the CNRS in Paris and expert in family diversity; Joan Bestard, professor at the Universitat de Barcelona and specialist in kinship studies; and Inés Brancós, researcher in demography at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, who at the time was working on her doctorate with one of the first theses on intercountry adoption from a demographic perspective.

Relevant figures from the administration and associations also participated, such as Rosa Beltran, then director of the Institut Català de l'Adopció i l'Acol·liment (ICAA); Cristina Núñez Bruguera, representative of the Entidades Colaboradoras en Adopción Internacional (ECAI); Cristina Negre, representative of the Instituciones Colaboradoras de Integración Familiar (ICIF); Gemma Cánova, psychologist and coordinator of pre- and post-adoption groups at the Associació en Defensa del Dret de la Infància a la Família (ADDIF); and María Teresa Bella Prieto, lecturer and consultant for the Higher University Study Programmes of the Instituto de Neurociencias y Salud Mental in Barcelona. From the family sphere, activists such as Roberto Pili, coordinator of the Asociación de Familias Adoptivas en China (AFAC), and the journalist and adoptive mother Puri Biniés, coordinator of the ADDIF Association and author of the book *Tú, nuestro sueño: Crónica de una adopción internacional*





took part.

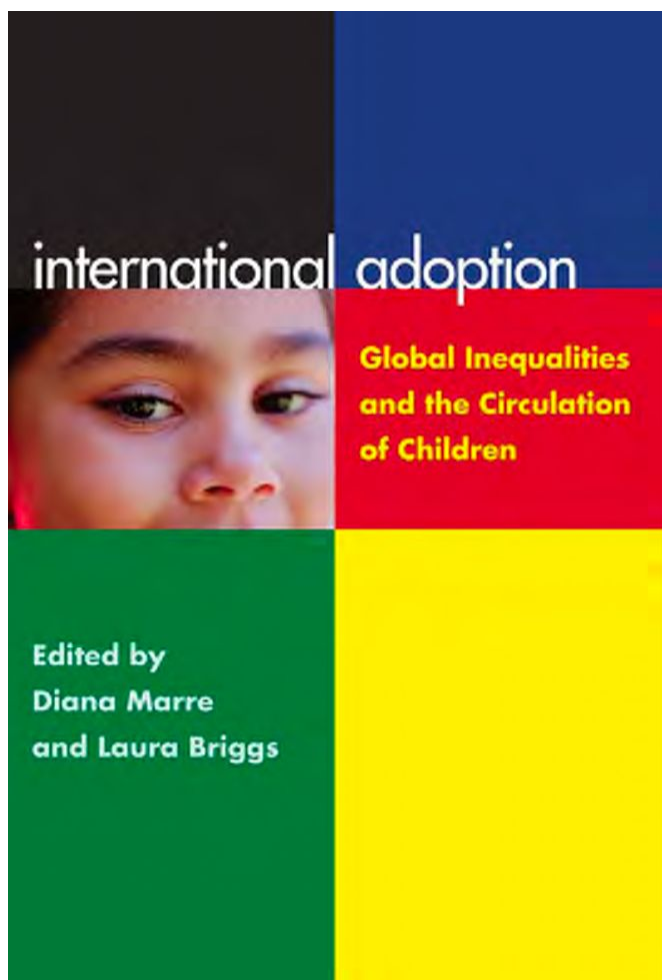
The event, which was closed by anthropologist Verena Stolcke, professor at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, was attended by more than 120 people. Two months later, the Universitat de Barcelona published *La adopción y el acogimiento: presente y perspectivas*, the first book in Spain on international adoption from a social science perspective, co-edited by Diana Marre and Joan Bestard, with contributions from the speakers at the conference and other authors such as Professor Núria Fuentes, Professors Pere Amorós and Carles Salazar and psychologist and psychoanalyst Juan Ramón Ubieto.

The expansion and consolidation of AFIN Group

Two years after the founding congress, between 29 September and 3 October 2006, the AFIN Group organised its second international congress, *De Filias y Fobias: del parentesco biológico al cultural. La adopción, la homoparentalidad y otras formas de construcción de familias diversas*. This event, coordinated from its then-headquarters at the Instituto de Infancia y Mundo Urbano in Barcelona by Diana Marre, Beatriz San Román, Joan Bestard, Carmen López Matheu, Esther Grau and Rosa Mora, was held at the Universitat de Barcelona and included interdisciplinary participation from the academic, professional and social spheres. The event brought together leading national and international academic figures in the field of adoption and family diversity, as well as entities and professionals from the field of practice and representatives from the world of associations.

Following the model of the 2004 conference, this second event led to the publication of a new book. New York University Press published *International Adoption: Global Inequalities and the Circulation of Children*, edited by Diana Marre and Laura Briggs. This book, which included contributions from many of the conference speakers, brought together researchers from around the world and established itself as a world reference in international adoption studies, remaining to this day a widely cited text in the field.

At the end of 2006, the AFIN Group, led by Diana Marre, obtained one of the highest



associations of adoptive families from all over Spain.

Following the 2004 and 2006 congresses, the AFIN Group continued to organise annual events in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2021, 2022 and 2023, as well as countless seminars, conferences and workshops. All these meetings have maintained the interdisciplinary, inter-institutional and international approach, fostering dialogue between research, professional practice and civil society organisations.

In addition to numerous academic publications, the AFIN Group has sought from the outset to disseminate its research to a wider public. In 2009, a year after moving to the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona under the guidance of Professor Diana Marre, who joined the group with a research contract from the prestigious Ramón y Cajal Programme, the group launched the *AFIN Publication*. This journal, aimed at disseminating the results of its research to the general public, with this issue dedicated to 20 years of AFIN will also celebrate the publication of 150 issues, until 2021 with 10 annual editions, and from then on with 6 bimonthly issues. Open access and available in Spanish, Catalan and English, the *AFIN Publication* has reached an audience of 23,000 subscribers and has registered 147,132 queries and 128,416 downloads through the Digital Document Repository (DDD) of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

levels of funding from the Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia in Spain for a research project in the social sciences. With these funds, between 2007 and 2009, the project *Adopción internacional: la integración familiar y social de los menores adoptados internacionalmente. Perspectivas interdisciplinarias y comparativas*, with the participation of researchers from the Universities of Barcelona, Autònoma de Barcelona, Rovira i Virgili, Lleida, Girona and Pontificia de Comillas, together with professionals from organisations and associations such as the Instituto de Trabajo Social y Servicios Sociales (INTRESS) and the Centre de Recursos per a la Infància i l'Adopció (CRIA) as well as the Coordinadora de Asociaciones en Defensa de la Adopción y el Acogimiento (CORA) which brought together

Pérdidas gestacionales tempranas: entre lo invisible, lo inesperado y lo innombrable



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New research projects, new research themes

After the first R&D project funded by the Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia (today Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades) in Spain, the AFIN Group has developed four other projects from the same call (2010-2012, 2013-2015, 2016-2019, 2021-2025) dedicated to topics such as international adoption, assisted reproduction and its related mobilities.

These projects have broadened the original focus, giving rise to research on family building, reproduction and parenthood from a global perspective.

In addition, the group has led or participated in several national and international interdisciplinary thematic networks (2008-2009, 2010-2011, 2018-2019, 2021-2024) that have integrated perspectives from medicine and social anthropology on gestation, pregnancy and childbirth. It has also carried out projects funded by the Fundació “la Caixa” (2015-2016, 2022-2024, 2022-2025) focusing on male caregivers, reproductive loss and extreme prematurity, as well as on the development of artificial placenta as a tool to improve foetal maturation.

At the European level, the AFIN Group has participated in projects funded by the European Union, including two Erasmus+ (2017-2019 and 2019-2023) and three Marie Skłodowska-Curie grants in 2023, aimed at the study of adoption, reproduction and disability, and female gamete donation in assisted reproduction. At the local level, since 2017, the Barcelona City Council has supported numerous AFIN Group projects aimed at transferring research results on sexuality and childhood (SexAFIN), in collaboration with the city's schools, as well as exploring the relationship between pregnancy and climate change in Barcelona.

The Instituto de la Mujer has also supported various research projects of the AFIN Group (two in 2022-2023, one in 2023-2024 and two in 2024-2025) focused on sexual and reproductive education, as well as on female pathologies such as endometriosis and early reproductive losses. For its part, the Fundació Autònoma Solidària has supported various studies (2019-2025) on sexualities and childhood in Ciudad Juárez

(Mexico), Rio de Janeiro and Manaus (Brazil), as well as on early motherhood in Nicaragua.

In recent years, the Generalitat de Catalunya (2022, 2023-2025) and the Ministerio de la Presidencia, Relaciones con las Cortes y Memoria Democrática (2022-2024) in Spain have funded projects focused on researching opaque adoptions from the end of the Spanish Civil War to the mid-1990s, a line that addresses recent history and children's rights in the Spanish context. All these projects have maintained the principles of interdisciplinarity and internationalisation that have characterised the AFIN Group since its first project.

After establishing itself at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, the AFIN Group was recognised as a Research Group in 2012 by this university and in 2014 as an Emerging Research Group by the Agency for the Management of University and Research Grants (AGAUR) of the Generalitat de Catalunya. In 2017 and 2021, the group was recognised as a Consolidated Research Group by the same agency, a designation it maintains to this day.

New headquarters, horizons and projects

Since its foundation on 2 October 2004, the AFIN Group has strengthened its interdisciplinary approach by integrating researchers from different departments and disciplines, such as the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and the Department of Nursing at the Universitat de Barcelona, alongside those from the Department of Social

Psychology at the UAB. In addition, academics from European and Latin American universities have joined the group, contributing to its diversity and enriching research perspectives.

The AFIN Group continues to receive students interested in carrying out their final master's degree work, professional internships, doctoral theses or accessing grants and contracts such as FPU, FI or Joan Oró. Likewise, and following the proposal to attract and retain talent proposed by the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, the Group's headquarters, AFIN has sought and managed to attract scientific talent through postdoctoral contracts, such as: Juan de la Cierva, Beatriu de Pinós, Margarita Salas, María Zambrano, Marie Skłodowska-Curie, among other national and



European calls. It has also contributed to the retention of talent, with the consolidation of the positions of associate professorships of Dr. Beatriz San Román in the Department of Social Psychology and Dr. Bruna Alvarez in the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, of Dr. Paola Galbany in the Department of Fundamental and Clinical Nursing of the Facultat d'Infermeria at the Universitat de Barcelona, and of Professor Diana Marre in the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

In 2016, at the same time as the AFIN Group moved into its current headquarters at the AFIN Barcelona Centre in Edifici B13 of the Facultat de Filosofia i Lletres of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona on the Bellaterra campus, it founded the Personal Services Laboratory, recognised by this university as a provider of services emerging from the AFIN Group's research results. This laboratory facilitates the transfer of knowledge and access to tools and methodologies developed within the group, thus consolidating its mission of social and academic impact.

Later, in 2022, several people linked to the AFIN Group founded the spin-off INARI Social Action S.L., with the participation of the

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, one of the few companies that offers educational intervention services in sexuality and accompaniment in reproductive decisions and processes based on anthropological research. This innovative service won in 2021 the first *Why World Need Anthropology* (WWNA) award from the Applied Anthropology of the European Association of Social Anthropology (EASA), being recognised as one of the best applied anthropology projects in contemporary society.

In parallel, the AFIN Group has continued to innovate in various formats for transferring research to society at large and for its presence in the media (social networks and press). Starting in 2023, it launched the *Conversaciones AFINes* podcast series, accessible on Spotify and Ivoox, with two series of eight episodes each. The first series, *Cuerpos, óvulos y mercados*, was coordinated by Dr. Anna Molas Closas; the second, *El trimestre invisible: silencio y tabú en las primeras 12 semanas de embarazo*, was coordinated by Dr. Carolina Remorini, Dr. Lynne McIntyre and Master Ana Cerezuela. With four series launched per year (February/March, April/June, September/October and November/December), the latest episodes are in production, while the third episode of the latest series, *Sexualidades, Infancias y Adolescencia* is already available.



Looking to the future after two decades of impact

For two decades, the AFIN Group has been a benchmark in the interdisciplinary study of topics such as adoption, assisted reproduction, family diversity, care practices and sexuality, which analyse the most intimate aspects of society. Its innovative approach, which combines academic rigour with social commitment, has generated useful knowledge not only for the scientific community, but also for professionals, families and public entities, thus favouring a better understanding and management of these issues.

With the backing of a solid network of national and international collaborators and recognition as a Consolidated Research Group, AFIN projects itself into the future with an increasingly global and inclusive vision. New research projects and knowledge transfer initiatives are proof of its ongoing commitment to building a more informed, diverse and empathetic society.

In this context, the AFIN Group not only celebrates a journey of achievements and discoveries, but also reaffirms its mission to continue researching, learning and sharing results that contribute to well-being and the expansion of rights and social justice. In this way, its work stands as a legacy that lays the foundations for future research and opens the way for future generations of researchers committed to social change.



CONVERSACIONES
afines

Further Watching

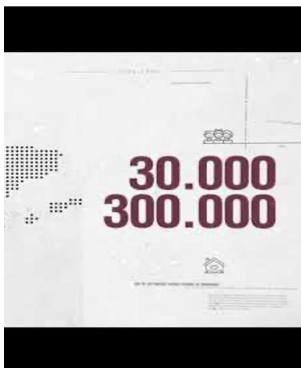


Malgosa, E. (2023)

***(Re)pensant l'educació sexual* [Documentary]**

Spain, 92 min

This documentary is a visual and educational tool that presents the main findings of the SexAFIN research project, developed by the AFIN research group at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Conducted between 2017 and 2023, the project explores sexual education during childhood, involving 3,090 children aged 3 to 11, as well as their teachers and families, from seven schools in Barcelona. Through an interdisciplinary approach, the documentary examines how sexual education is addressed during early childhood, offering an innovative, data-driven perspective aimed at contributing to the discussion about the importance of comprehensive sexual education from an early age.



Marre, D. i Clemente, C. (2023)

***Adopciones Irregulares en España* [Documentary]**

Spain, 3 min

This video provides a concise yet insightful exploration of the phenomenon of irregular adoptions in Spain, examining its causes, impact, and the various perspectives surrounding this complex issue. Its goal is to frame and contextualize a specialized resource platform on this topic: <https://adopcionesirregulares.com>, offering an accessible tool to better understand this phenomenon.

Further Reading



Marre, D. i Bestard, J. (2024)

La adopción y el acogimiento: Presente y perspectivas
Bellaterra Edicions

This book compiles the reflections and debates that emerged during the conference titled *La Adopción y el Acogimiento: un Estado de la Cuestión*, held on October 2, 2004, at the Parc Científic of the Universitat de Barcelona. Throughout the conference, participants analyzed the social, economic, and cultural implications of the rise in international adoptions in Spain since the 1990s, the reopening of domestic adoptions, and the convergence with immigration of children and adults from the same countries of origin as adopted children. Catalonia, which has the highest percentage of adoptions and related organizations, played a key role in this analysis. Within this context, the book aims to provide an interdisciplinary perspective on these phenomena, engaging both social actors and researchers in the social sciences to foster a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the present and future prospects of adoption and foster care.



San Román, B. (2021)

Fundamentos y prácticas de la adopción contemporánea
Editorial UOC

Both in international and national legislation, as well as in public policy programs, adoption is defined as a protective measure aimed at providing children without families with a permanent and adequate care solution. At the same time, adoption involves the movement of children not only between families but also across social group boundaries, and often across state, racial, and ethnic lines. This book critically examines the theoretical foundations that have guided adoption in Spain, as well as current trends.

Further Reading



López, C.; Marre, D. i Bestard, J. (2013)

Maternidades, procreación y crianza en transformación
Bellaterra Edicions

This book presents, through an ethnographic lens, one of the relationships that best represents mutuality in our cultural imagination: the mother-child dyad. In the first section, “Reproducción, adopción y acogimiento”, it examines the changes brought about by the medicalization of conception and birth in the experience of motherhood. Is birth still the foundational condition of personhood? How does the anonymous donation of gametes become part of a personal history? How is a relationship of mutuality built in adoption and foster care? In the second section, “Nuevos contextos de filiación”, the book explores various forms of motherhood in gay and lesbian couples, as well as in single mothers by choice. It also examines motherhood in the context of individuals with intellectual disabilities. Finally, the book focuses on the personal aspect (mutuality, friendship) and the political aspect (the principle of justice) that frame the ongoing changes in the experience of motherhood.

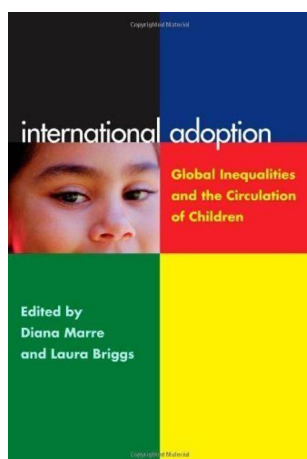


Rodríguez, M. J.; Marre, D. i San Román, B. (2023)

Infancia y adopción: Una perspectiva sociocultural
Editorial Síntesis

This book addresses the challenges of adoption in Spain through a historical overview and an analysis of child protection systems from a social and cultural perspective. Adoption has not only undergone a profound transformation in all its dimensions but has also gained visibility, relevance, and social recognition, particularly since 2004, when Spain became the country with the second-highest number of international adoptions in the world. With an approach that combines social and cultural perspectives, this book invites reflection on child protection frameworks, exploring them through the lens of diversity and the ways contemporary societies redefine and celebrate family life.

Further Reading



Marre, D. i Briggs, L. (Eds.) (2007)
International Adoption. Global Inequalities and the Circulation of Children
New York University Press

In recent decades, transnational adoption has gained significant relevance by intersecting global dynamics such as economic inequalities, international relations, and the histories of race and power. This book addresses the complexities of this phenomenon from a multidimensional perspective, considering both receiving countries, such as Europe and the United States, and sending countries. It also highlights less explored aspects, such as the fact that the United States also sends children — particularly children of color — to international adoptions. The book challenges conventional approaches that reduce transnational adoption to a binary debate between exploitation driven by Western power and altruism toward children in need. Instead, it offers a more nuanced perspective that explores the tensions between these positions while examining global inequalities and the contradictory effects of transnational adoption. This interdisciplinary approach broadens our understanding of the phenomenon, taking into account its social, economic, and cultural implications in a global context.

Guides



San Román, B.; Grau, E. i Barcons, N. (2014) ***Hablar de adopción, también cuando es difícil*** **CORA-ARFACYL-AFIN**

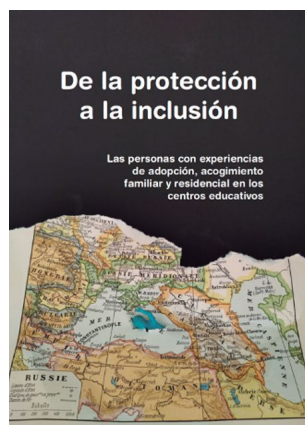
Sponsored by CORA and ARFACYL and developed by the AFIN Research Group, this downloadable PDF guide focuses on family communication regarding “sensitive” or “delicate” issues related to adoption. These include questions about the birth family, the existence of biological siblings, the reasons why the child was placed for adoption, or suspicions of “irregularities.” While every adopted person and adoptive family is unique — and therefore the processes of assimilating pre-adoption history differ for each — the text offers reflections and resources where parents, professionals, and adopted individuals can find useful guidance.

Salvo Agoglia, I. (2021) ***SANKOFA. Historias de Adopción y de Búsquedas de Orígenes*** **Agencia Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo**



This work, the result of a co-production process based on participatory narrative research (IP: Irene Salvo Agoglia), offers a profound and authentic exploration of the processes of searching for origins and constructing identity within the context of adoption. Through moving testimonies from adult adoptees in Chile, the book delves into the emotional challenges and personal discoveries that arise on the journey toward self-knowledge. It is aimed at a wide and diverse audience: adoptees, adoptive and birth families, professionals, researchers in the field of adoption, and anyone interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the lived experiences of adoptees. Beyond its informative purpose, SANKOFA seeks to contribute to a more inclusive and empathetic society by providing a space for reflection and dialogue about adoption and the profound meanings of identity and origins.

Manuals



San Román, B. (2021)

De la protección a la inclusión. Las personas con experiencias de adopción, acogimiento familiar y residencial en los centros educativos

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

This manual addresses the reality of children and adolescents who have experienced adoption or are under state care, whether in foster families or residential centers. Its main objective is to provide tools and strategies for educators to understand and adequately meet their needs. Throughout its pages, the authors explore how early experiences can affect development and learning, offering guidelines to promote resilience and emotional well-being within the school environment. The book emphasizes the importance of creating a welcoming atmosphere where every student, regardless of their family background, feels valued and supported. It also invites reflection on how personal biases and a lack of training can lead to unintentionally exclusionary practices. The manual advocates for an approach rooted in empathy, respect, and an understanding of diverse family realities. This is a valuable resource for those seeking to transform educational centers into truly inclusive spaces where every student, with their unique story, can reach their full potential in an environment of acceptance and support.



News AFIN

The AFIN 2024-2025 Seminar Cycle has been launched

On October 10, 2024 the AFIN Barcelona Group launched its 2024-25 Seminar Cycle with an inaugural seminar entitled *Los márgenes de la gobernanza y las políticas reproductivas*, by Prof. Dr. Diana Marre, Director of AFIN.

During this cycle, which will conclude on May 29, 2025, twenty-five seminars will be conducted by speakers from a variety of countries. These online sessions, which are open to the public, will be held on Thursdays from 4 to 5 pm (CET) through the Zoom platform. The link to access the sessions and the full program of the series can be found on [the AFIN group website](#).

Bruna Alvarez, Anna Molas and Alexandra Desy, speakers in “El preu de la reproducció”

AFIN Group researchers Brunna Alvarez and Anna Molas participated as speakers in the inaugural session of the course “*El preu de la reproducció: mercat, disig, precarietats i nous imaginaris*”, organized by the Institut de Recerca Urbana de Barcelona (IDRA) in collaboration with Ona Bros (*BetaBlastoCuir*), Miquel Missé (*Un estudio propio*) and Raquel Miralles (*Crisi | espai de pensament crític*).

As the course organizers point out, the aim of the course is to open debates and politicize the discomfort involved in facing the promises and limitations of assisted reproduction. To this end, the course delves into the interactions between technology, bioeconomy and biological possibilities, and how these shape our social imaginaries.

In their lecture, Alvarez and Molas addressed the social, legal and economic causes that restrict people's reproductive choices and help explain the rise of assisted reproduction in



Spain and the development of its fertility industry, one of the largest in the world. Focusing on their research in maternity and egg donation, they offered some keys to understand the current context.

A future session of the course will also include the participation of AFIN Group doctoral student, Alexandra Desy, who will present her research on French patients who cross the border to undergo assisted reproduction treatments in Spain.

AFIN presents the initial results of its research on pregnancy and climatic emergency

On September 25, 2024, Dr. Anna Molas and PhD student Ana Cerezuela presented at the *Barcelona Exposome Symposium* the initial results of the project *Viure l'embaràs a Barcelona: dones i persones gestants davant l'emergència climàtica* on pregnancy and the climate emergency, coordinated by the AFIN Group, funded by the Barcelona City Council and developed in collaboration with the Hospital Sant Pau, the Hospital Sant Joan de Déu and the Hospital del Mar. The aim of the project is to learn about the experiences of pregnant or breastfeeding people in Barcelona with respect to the effects of climate change and pollution, as well as their perceptions of their health, reproductive decisions and future prospects.

The emerging results that were presented shed light on how pregnant and breastfeeding people in Barcelona conceive and construct the idea of “environment”. The presentation was received with great interest by those attending the symposium for its social focus in a setting of mostly quantitative and biomedical research.



When the cost of late motherhood is not only economic

Research on maternity policies in Spain by Bruna Alvarez and on egg donation by Anna Molas were featured in the news article entitled “*Cuando el coste de ser madre tarde no es solo económico*”, written by Diana Oliver and published in *El País* on October 13. The article highlights research results indicating that biological reproductive age does not correspond to social age, because decisions around whether or not to have children prioritize economic and professional stability, which in the Spanish context takes a long time to achieve. This labor precariousness also influences the increasingly frequent use of assisted reproduction treatments in general and, in particular, those using “donated” eggs. The article exposes the economic and emotional costs that this scenario poses to women and couples, especially if they are recipients of gametes, whether eggs and sperm.

Anthropology to Accompany Gestational Losses

The research carried out by the AFIN Group within the framework of the project *Pérdidas Reproductivas Precoces: del malestar físico y emocional invisible al posible duelo personal, familiar y social*, and a decade of related experience in the accompaniment of reproductive decisions and processes, maternal and child health and grief from an anthropological perspective, has made it possible to design a support program for people who have experienced early gestational losses. This service adds to those already offered by the AFIN Group's spin-off company,

INARI S.L. A key premise of all the services offered by INARI is that they are based on the group's research findings. Dedicated to social health, defined by the WHO in 1946 as an essential component of wellbeing together with physical and psychological health, this support is characterized as a safe space, providing tools and resources for decision making and working on social and relational wellbeing.

This new service includes discussion groups, as well as face-to-face or online sessions that can be attended individually or with a companion, in which an anthropologist from the team works with the methods and from the perspective of social and cultural anthropology that allow a better understanding of the diversity of life processes and personal journeys, based on listening and reflection.

Individuals or institutions interested in receiving more information about these services can contact us by email: info@inari.cat

A day to listen to each other and add our voice

On October 15, coinciding with International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day, AFIN Barcelona and the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau organized the Day *Pérdidas Gestacionales Tempranas: Derribando Tabúes, Creando Puentes, Sumando Voces*, in the Assembly Hall of the Hospital.

This day was part of the dissemination activities of the project financed by Fundación "la Caixa" through the Conecta program and which had the support of FEDUP (Federación Española de Duelo Gestacional, Perinatal y Neonatal), Cor a Cor, Sociedad Marcé Española (MARES), Petits amb Llum,

Umamanita (Apoyo, Sensibilización y Humanización de la Atención al Duelo y a la Muerte Perinatal) and the Asociación Red Nacional de Infértiles.

During the conference, which was attended by professionals from various specialties and the general public, various activities were carried out which, together with the objective of making visible a common and often invisible problem, allowed us to share knowledge and experiences, exchange perspectives, dialogue, get emotional and, especially, listen and learn.

The day began with a round table presentation of the results of the project by its main researchers: Diana Marre (Director of AFIN and Professor at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), María José Rodríguez Jaume (Professor at the Universidad de Alicante) and Elisa Llurba (Director of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department of the Hospital Universitario de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau in Barcelona).

The morning activity closed with the premiere





of the production "Algo en mí" from the series *Pérdidas* of the *Transforming Voices* project, directed and produced by Dr. Miguel Gaggiotti, filmmaker and professor at the University of Bristol, UK. This production, which will soon be available in open access, is composed of 7 short films that narrate, in first person, the experience of a gestational loss in the first trimester.

During the afternoon, there were two round table discussions moderated by Carolina Remorini, PhD in Anthropology (AFIN-UAB). *Itinerarios, labores y silencios en torno a las pérdidas gestacionales*, featuring Sofia Gaggiotti, MD specialized in assisted reproduction (Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau and Fundació Puigvert), Cristina Trilla, MD (Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau), Lynne McIntyre, PhD in Anthropology and psychotherapist (AFIN, UAB), Giulia Colavolpe-Severi, master and doctoral candidate in anthropology (AFIN, UAB). *(Re)pensando el acompañamiento de las pérdidas gestacionales tempranas* featuring Alexandra Desy, master and doctoral candidate in anthropology (AFIN, UAB); Concepción Torres, PhD in Law and professor at the Universidad de Alicante; Montserrat Robles, nurse and president of FEDUP, and María Llaboré, midwife at the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau. Those who attended the Conference were also able to visit the

exhibition *No Tengo Nada Más: Memoria colectiva y materialidad*, which featured objects and images about the experiences of early loss, organized by AFIN with contributions from participants in the project.

Dr. Diana Marre closed the conference with the proposal of a participatory activity that, through an interactive application, asked participants to synthesize the learning of the conference by means of a word. The most popular words were: listening, inspiration, knowledge, empathy, voices, sharing and love.

For more information about the project and the event, please read [the UAB press release](#).

Carolina Remorini elected Convenor in the ENPA (European Network of Psychological Anthropology)

On September 5, after a process of pre-selection and subsequent voting of its members, Carolina Remorini was elected convenor for the next 4 years in a virtual meeting of the network. ENPA is a European network founded in 2018 affiliated to EASA (European Association of Social Anthropology), which brings together,



professionals in the field of Psychological Anthropology. Dr. Remorini will be incorporated into this network through activities that generate synergies among researchers centers and international institutions interested in promoting research, teaching and training of professionals in this field, contributing to the consolidation of a space on issues of early childhood development. Those who have proposals or interest in participating are invited to contact the researcher or visit [the ENPA website](#) for more information.

Cycle on Grief in Lleida

On October 9th and 23rd, the seminar *Rompamos el silencio: hablemos de duelo* took place in the city of Lleida, co-organized by the Social Observatory of CaixaForum and the AFIN Group with the scientific direction and moderation of both events by Diana Marre.

The event on October 9 was featured by José Ramón Ubieto, psychologist and psychoanalyst and columnist for *La Vanguardia*, Anna Freixas Farre, writer, doctor in psychology and retired university professor, and Xusa Serra Llanas, nurse, anthropologist and thanatologist, president of GestDol, Bereavement Service of the Hospital Universitat General de Catalunya and SOM Salut Mental 360 of the Hospital de Sant Joan de Déu.

The event on October 23rd was attended by Joan Carles March Cerdà, doctor of medicine, professor, researcher and communicator on health issues; Elisa Llurba Olivé, director of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Service of the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, of the Be Dona functional medicine clinic and associate professor at the Facultat de Medicina of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, and Silvia

Fernández Cadevall, president and founder of Arte Paliativo, a social organization that seeks to accompany the emotional dimension of people suffering from an illness through artistic expression, who in 2023 has been awarded the Princesa de Girona Social Award for her career.

Participation of Diana Marre in the program *No Ho Sé* of RAC1

On Tuesday, October 8, Diana Marre participated in the program *No Ho Sé* of RAC1 with Anna Vallhonestà to discuss the results of the latest survey of the Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas (CIS) on fertility, family and childhood in Spain. You can listen to the interview in this [link](#).

Closure of the *Austerity and Altered Life-Courses* Project

On October 16th, the closure of the *Austerity and Altered Life-Courses* project was celebrated, in which the AFIN research group participated, simultaneously in Barcelona (Spain), Manchester (United Kingdom), and Sardinia (Italy).

The objective of this project was to analyze the impact of sociopolitical disruptions on the lives of young people in an austerity context, as well as to explore how these individuals projected their life courses into the future.

The project's closure included a series of simultaneous activities, some of which were streamed at the various project locations. The AFIN group participated in the welcome session, led by Sarah Hall, Professor of Geography, as well as in a presentation on feminist research methodologies.

At the UAB, students of the *Antropología de los sistemas sexo/género* course from the Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology conducted a focus group discussing austerity policies, followed by an individual activity in which participants reflected on how they projected their biographies into the future. The results of this focus group will be published in an upcoming issue of the *AFIN Publication*.

Finally, in an internal meeting among AFIN researchers, various studies on reproduction linked to austerity contexts were shared, and a discussion was held on how reproductive futures are perceived in contemporary societies.



Bruna Alvarez on *Catalunya Ràdio* talking about the sandwich generation

Bruna Alvarez, anthropologist and researcher at the AFIN group of the UAB, participated in the show *L'Ofici d'Educar*, directed by Elisabet Pedrosa, providing an anthropological analysis of the sandwich generation, that is, the generation composed mainly of women between 40 and 64 years old, who are caught between work and caring for dependent parents and young children. This situation creates significant tension, exhaustion, and stress, especially given the lack of resources for care and the delay in young people's emancipation, as shown by the study from the Observatorio Mujer, Empresa y Economía of the Cámara de Comercio in Barcelona.

Dr. Alvarez highlighted that, despite the increase in men's involvement in child-rearing, care of the elderly still largely falls on women. Dr. Alvarez points out that this overload of responsibilities particularly affects women, who not only have to care for dependent parents but also emotionally manage the care of young children, all without time for self-care.

For Dr. Alvarez, the solution lies in socializing care, making it a collective responsibility, not just an individual one. "Caring is everyone's responsibility," she states, emphasizing that care should be a priority in public policies. This perspective also allows for viewing care as an opportunity for intergenerational connection, not just between parents and children, but also between grandparents and grandchildren, transmitting values of solidarity and the importance of mutual care for the whole of society.

This vision is essential to alleviate the burden placed on women, as, according to Margaret Mead, care is what makes us human.

The AdopARTE Project organizes and participates in various activities in Spain and Chile during Adoption Month

In November 2024, the AdopARTE Project, led by Irene Salvo Agoglia of the AFIN Group, carried out a series of activities as part of Adoption Month, both in Spain and Chile. These initiatives included two outstanding webinars and an in-person event in Barcelona, strengthening dialogue on fundamental adoption topics and providing valuable resources for adoptees, adoptive families, and professionals in the field. The first event was the webinar titled *Caminando hacia la adopción: Adopción de grupos de hermanos y contactos post-adoptivos*, held on Friday,

November 15. This session, co-organized with Child Identity Protection (CHIP), the Servicio de Protección Especializada de la Niñez y la Adolescencia de Chile and OPCIÓN Corporation, addressed specialized topics such as the adoption of sibling groups and the practice of post-adoption contact. Additionally, an open-access specialized [guide for adoptive families](#) was released during the webinar. On Saturday, November 16, the in-person event *Adopción y Post-Adopción: La experiencia de las personas adoptadas* took place in Barcelona. Organized by the Diversitas Institute, this gathering provided a unique opportunity to hear and learn from the experiences of adult adoptees, who shared their stories, reflections, and challenges related to the adoption process. As part of the event, Dr. Salvo Agoglia led the workshop *Collageando la Vida y la Identidad: una exploración de la adopción a través del arte*, which included 30 participants, among them adoptees of various ages and adoptive parents, in an innovative and creative activity.

Finally, on Saturday, November 23, the webinar *Contactos postadoptivos en Chile: mitos, beneficios y desafíos* was held. This event offered a comprehensive perspective on open adoption, highlighting the benefits of this practice for adopted children, their adoptive families, and other significant figures in their lives. Through these initiatives, the AdopARTE Project reaffirms its commitment to knowledge transfer, the development of practical resources, and the creation of inclusive spaces to support adoptive families and adoptees in their diverse experiences.



AFIN at the I Jornada Nacional de Cuidados Paliativos Perinatales

Under the theme "*Fostering Bonds: A Transdisciplinary Approach*", this event brought together specialists committed to improving perinatal care for patients with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions, as well as their families. Carolina Remorini, PhD in Anthropology (AFIN, UAB), participated in the opening panel, *Una aproximación a los cuidados paliativos perinatales desde la bioética y la antropología*, alongside Montserrat Esquerda, pediatrician and bioethics specialist, and journalist Espartac Peran. Together, they engaged in a dialogue that, from their respective perspectives, explored how to better understand the care needs and expectations of families and children during these highly fragile moments and how to accompany them with respect for diversity.

The event took place at the Assembly Hall of CaixaForum (Barcelona) on October 11, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

More information on the [website](#).

Media coverage of AFIN's research on early pregnancy losses

Several Catalan publications, including *La Vanguardia* and *Ara.cat*, covered the results of the research project entitled *Pérdidas reproductivas tempranas: del malestar físico y emocional invisible al posible duelo personal, familiar y social*, led by the AFIN group. This two-year project aims to make visible the reality of early pregnancy loss, which is often silenced, and to identify the needs for help and support of the women and families who experience it.

Newspaper articles published in *Ara.cat* and *La Vanguardia* highlighted the lack of care and support for women who suffer miscarriages in the first trimester of pregnancy. Experts such as Elisa Llurba and Diana Marre were interviewed by these media to present the conclusions of the research.

The results of the project have served to amplify a reality that has been silenced for a long time, and have opened a debate on the need to improve the care of women who suffer early pregnancy loss, including the training of health personnel, the regulation of sick leave, the possibility of registering deceased babies, and the creation of specialized units in hospitals.

The articles can be read at the following links:

- https://es.ara.cat/criaturas/regla-hemos-silenciado-abortos-precoces_130_5194790.html
- <https://www.lavanguardia.com/vida/20241028/10044609/tiralo-vater-silencio-rodea-muertes-perinatal-embarazo.html>
- <https://www.lavanguardia.com/vida/20241028/10051528/muerte-hijo-embarazo-me-aconsejaron-reposo-apoyo-psicologico.html>

Participation of Zenaida Maria Andreica-Gheorghe in the program *No Ho Sé* on RAC1

On Tuesday, October 8, Zenaida Maria Andreica-Gheorghe, anthropologist, PhD candidate, and Joan Oró fellow in anthropology with the AFIN Group, participated in the program *No Ho Sé* with Anna Vallhonestà. The discussion focused on the findings published in the latest report by the Ministerio de Igualdad

regarding pornography consumption among children and adolescents. The interview can be listened to via this link.

SexAFIN now has an exhibition! Sexualitats i infàncies: construïnt sabers

The research project *SexAFIN: educació afectivosexual i reproductiva a les escoles de primària* is pleased to announce the inauguration of the exhibition “Sexualitats i Infàncies: construïnt sabers”, an event that highlights the voices, perspectives, and experiences of children in relation to sexuality. This exhibition is the result of a collective effort that combines research and intervention, aiming to create spaces for dialogue about sexuality and childhood.

The exhibition offers a reflective perspective through various formats, including drawings, books, crochet pieces, and a documentary, created by both professionals and children. Each piece seeks to generate an open dialogue about often invisible topics, emphasizing the importance of giving space to children’s perspectives in discussions about sexuality.

The exhibition will be open from January 20 to March 7, 2025, at the Biblioteca de Comunicació i Hemeroteca General of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, located at the Plaça Cívica on the Campus de Bellaterra.

We look forward to seeing you there!



AFIN's Participation in the Latest Edition of the Nit de la Recerca

On September 27, Carolina Remorini, Alexandra Desy, and Zenaida Andreica Gheorghe, researchers from AFIN, took part in the *Nit de la Recerca*, coinciding with European Researchers' Night. This event, aimed at bringing science and technology closer to the public, offered various interactive activities for children and adults at the CosmoCaixa Museum.

AFIN joined other research and knowledge transfer groups at the *Xarxa AccésCat* stand, a network focused on improving accessibility and inclusion in educational and cultural spaces. Based on a conception of accessibility in social, cultural, age,

and gender terms, AFIN's proposal included activities with children and their families to share the findings of projects on childhood and youth sexuality as well as reproductive and sexual health in Catalonia. These activities featured games, storytelling, and Q&A sessions, during which participants discussed their knowledge on these topics, raised and debated various perspectives, and learned new concepts alongside the researchers.

One of the highlights of the stand was the crocheted genitals presented by the *SexAFIN* project, which served as a catalyst to discuss sexuality and human reproduction. Using these crocheted models, the researchers emphasized the importance of addressing these topics from early childhood, recognizing children's knowledge and experiences while listening to their questions and perspectives. These discussions intertwined with themes such as sexual and gender diversity, family diversity, the various ways of becoming part of a family, social relationships, education, and child-rearing. The aim was to make research knowledge and resources more accessible to people of diverse cultural backgrounds, ages, and genders.

The event provided an opportunity to showcase the work being conducted by AFIN and AccesCat, fostering dialogue between researchers and society.