



intimate



Centre for Social Studies  
Associate Laboratory  
University of Coimbra



- CITIZENSHIP, CARE AND CHOICE  
*The Micropolitics  
of Intimacy in Southern  
Europe*

- 

PORTUGAL

SPAIN

ITALY

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*The Micropolitics  
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***What is Intimate about?***

PARTNERING  
PARENTING  
FRIENDSHIP

***What our participants say?***

LESBIAN COUPLEDOM STUDY  
POLYAMORY STUDY

***What our researchers say?***

LESBIAN COUPLEDOM STUDY  
POLYAMORY STUDY

***Events 2015***

***Our Consultants***

***Outreach***

***Queering Partnering 2016***



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## What is INTIMATE about?

This is a 5-year long research project focused on LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans\*, queer) intimate citizenship in Southern Europe. It involves a pool of international consultants, as well as an interdisciplinary team of researchers coordinated by Ana Cristina Santos.

### AIMS

To offer a comparative study of the legal, political and cultural context for LGBTQ intimate citizenship in Italy, Portugal and Spain; to explore experiences of transformations in partnering, parenting and friendship based on the narratives of self-identified LGBTQ people; to rethink citizenship, care and choice; to contribute to theoretical innovation and social change.

### TOPICS

6 cross-national in-depth qualitative STUDIES across the strands:  
**PARTNERING** (2015): *lesbian coupledom* STUDY 1  
+ *polyamory* STUDY 2;  
**PARENTING** (2016): *assisted conception and surrogacy* STUDY 3  
+ *politics of naming a child* STUDY 4;  
**FRIENDSHIP** (2017): *transgender and networks of care* STUDY 5  
+ *living with friends in adult life* STUDY 6.

INTIMATE is the first research project addressing LGBTQ intimate citizenship in Southern Europe funded by the European Research Council. It is based at CES (CENTRE FOR SOCIAL STUDIES . UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA . PORTUGAL) between 2014 and 2019 (Starting Grant n. 338452).



*Six years ago I applied [to adopt a child], but I'm still waiting. The explanation they gave me was that if they have to choose between a [heterosexual] couple and I, they will prioritise the couple.*

**'Alex'**

40-45 YEARS | LESBIAN | LISBON PORTUGAL

*I wrote a letter to my parents, about everything I felt and about the way they reacted (concerning my sexual orientation). This letter caused them much pain. One of the things I said was that instead of being there for me and trying to understand me, they abandoned me. I felt abandoned for a long time in my life.*

*Now, every time I go to my village, Rocío goes with me. Of course, there are things that still make them uncomfortable... If we meet someone we know, my mother always says: "This is Elisa's roommate" She is afraid of telling the truth, and in the end she forces me to remain hidden, even if I don't want to.*

**'Elisa'**

30-34 YEARS | PANSEXUAL | MADRID SPAIN

*Everybody comments, you hear these guys all the time. They see two girls, 'oh god, they want a guy in the middle, obviously! It's like we're asking for it, apparently, it's as if we're longing for the dirtiest and grossest comments ever.*

**'Raquel'**

25-29 YEARS | PANSEXUAL | LISBON PORTUGAL

*The government should take a step forward regarding these issues (...) for all of those people hiding, who cannot show who they are. This is for them. (...) I have many heterosexual acquaintances, friends, who go to Pride marches, many supportive people with children, and they help their children open their minds. This is my victory.*

**'Vittoria'**

30-34 YEARS | LESBIAN | ROME ITALY

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## PARTNERING What our participants say



# Lesbian Coupledom STUDY



*We don't have any type of representation, we're not visible at all and we don't have any rights. [...] If one of our children ends up in hospital, who gets to be there, who's got that right to be there? And even in situations of separation or death, right? It's difficult to understand what our rights consist of. [...] Possibly we'll have to swallow many bitter pills, or face many unfair situations in which we will not win, and that is sad. I mean we see it daily, it's always couple-oriented, holidays for two and stuff. These tiny things are a pain, because we don't want it to be two of us, we want to be considered as the three of us.*

#### **'Susana'**

25-29 YEARS | BISEXUAL | LISBON PORTUGAL

*We need more debate and awareness about this not being a temporary phase when you are a student or have just divorced. It can be for some people, it is their right and that is just fine, but this cannot stop just there. This reality has to be integrated in the legal system, parenthood, care related issues, economic and legal rights.*

#### **Aphra Behn**

EXPERT AND FORMER | ACTIVIST IN POLIAMOR | MADRID SPAIN

*People always accuse us [...] that we don't want to build, to grow up, to take responsibility. On the contrary, it seems to me that polyamory gave me twice as much responsibility, three times more, since you have a lot of emotions in your hands and then you make so many mistakes and you sometimes feel as if you were surrounded by porcelain, and you break everything. However, if you break things, you know you can fix them, you can rebuild them, and what was broken becomes stronger.*

#### **'Nadia'**

30-34 YEARS | BISEXUAL | ROME ITALY

*This idea that you can only truly love one person, and that the rest is love through failure - this is the idea with which we grow up since birth, the idea that there is only one true love. And we must overturn this, we must destroy this idea by making people think, making people see the difference, and to experience the difference. [...] In the old days, lesbians were considered sick, and before that they were sinners or criminals, and this all stems from the way love is conceptually constructed*

#### **Gabriela Moita**

EXPERT AND HEAD | PORTUGUESE SOCIETY OF CLINICAL SEXOLOGY 2013-2015 | LISBON PORTUGAL

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## PARTNERING What our participants say

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## Polyamory STUDY



**Ana Lúcia Santos**

RESEARCHER  
PORTUGAL



**Luciana Moreira**

RESEARCHER  
SPAIN



**Tatiana Motterle**

RESEARCHER  
ITALY

*From my interviews there emerged the idea that it is better to “come out” when there is a real, “solid”, partner who legitimises the relationship and justifies the perceived risk of coming out. This stems from the homophobic societal structure, and the fictional compulsory coupledom paradigm in which we live, and through which everything is developed in order to ascribe privilege to the conjugal norm-monogamous, cohabiting and reproductive. But in fact, these same interviews illustrate a wide range of doing conjugality, inside and outside this same norm. These biographical narratives will certainly contribute to challenge conjugal norms and to legitimise one’s own sexuality per se.*

*Within the study on Lesbian Coupledom in Madrid I noticed the impact of friendship networks and political activism on people’s lives. An explanatory factor is linked to the context of austerity and economic precariousness in which the majority of respondents live, sometimes depending on their partners, but still remaining relatively free from hierarchies within the couple. I was also struck by efforts to maintain connections with families of origin even when they were extremely homophobic, which can be linked to the traditional role of the family in Southern European countries.*

*Our participants showed a self-reflective attitude concerning their sexual-affective relationships. Their accounts often depict a positive trajectory, describing a growing sense of self-determination, self-acceptance and self-care, inside and outside the couple. The couple in some cases represents a lifeline vis-a-vis a general context of economic precariousness, but always with a premise of equal mutual care. When couples share a project of life together, the total absence of LGBT civil rights laws is perceived as an urgent limiting factor, particularly in relation to the desire of having children.*

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## PARTNERING What our researchers say

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# Lesbian Coupledom

STUDY



**Ana Cristina Santos**  
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR  
PORTUGAL



**Pablo Pérez Navarro**  
RESEARCHER  
SPAIN



**Beatrice Gusmano**  
RESEARCHER  
ITALY

*Polyamorous intimate biographies offer new understandings of doing relationships and challenging the hetero-normative constraints of mainstream coupledom. Shaped by significant developments regarding sexual and reproductive citizenship, the complex arrangements to do with care and choice in the context of non-monogamy push decision-makers (theorists included) to change the ways in which citizenship is framed and enacted by law, social policy and sociocultural outlets. Faced with that challenge, we suggest the notion of (non-monogamous) relational citizenship to capture both the disjunctions and possibilities for reframing how we perceive, represent and manage our intimate lives.*

*Reflecting on gay and lesbian marriage right after its approval in Spain, the philosopher Paco Vidarte compared its symbolic value to an ancient Chinese vase that we had just inherited from our grandmother. One that, finally, we could smash to pieces against the floor. I think this metaphor is a promising guide when thinking of the relation between non-monogamies and the law. Not only in symbolic terms, but for entirely pragmatic reasons. Non-monogamous and even monogamous relational diversity is fortunately far more complex than anything to which the mononormative formula ‘one person, one relationship, one contract’ can give an answer.*

*Non-monogamous interviewees in Rome re-signified intimacies challenging not only heteronormativity and mono-normativity, but also 1) identity, in its multi-faceted nuances as a means to decolonise gender, sexual orientation, class, body perception, sex, race; 2) relational hierarchies that have always been considered hierarchically ordained, blurring boundaries between friends, lovers, family, kinship, ex-lovers, and giving centrality to belonging to non-normative communities; 3) care, both for oneself and for all the people we interact with, as a way to share goods in a context of precarious conditions of work, housing, health and life.*

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## PARTNERING What our researchers say



## Polyamory STUDY



INTIMATE CONFERENCE COORGANIZATION  
*1<sup>st</sup> Non-Monogamies and  
Contemporary Intimacies*

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES  
NEW UNIVERSITY OF LISBON . PORTUGAL  
+ SEPTEMBER 2015



INTIMATE CONFERENCE PANEL  
*12<sup>th</sup> European  
Sociological Association*

INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY IN PRAGUE  
CZECH REPUBLIC  
+ AUGUST 2015



INTIMATE LOCAL SEMINAR I  
*LGBT Citizenship  
in Southern Europe*

MUSEO REINA SOFÍA  
MADRID . SPAIN  
+ APRIL 2015



INTIMATE LOCAL SEMINAR II

TUBA BOOKSHOP  
ROME . ITALY  
+ MAY 2015



INTIMATE SEMINAR  
*Transvestites, Transsexuals and  
Transgender: trans as a (social) term  
for gender identification*

CLÁUDIO ALVES PUC MINAS/GPFEM . BRAZIL

CENTRE FOR SOCIAL STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA . PORTUGAL  
+ VIDEO MAY 2015



INTIMATE SEMINAR  
*Contrasting Homophobia through  
Institutions. European Perspectives  
and Critical Interpretations*

LUCA TRAPPOLIN PÁDUA UNIVIVERSITY . ITALY

CENTRE FOR SOCIAL STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA . PORTUGAL  
+ MARCH 2015

- **Events 2015**
- **PARTNERING**
- **SEMINARS**
- **CONFERENCES**
- **OUTREACH**
- **TEAM MEETINGS**
- **TRAINING**
- **KEYNOTES**
- **PRESENTATIONS**



**Sasha Roseneil**  
INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT



**Ana Luísa Amaral**  
LOCAL CONSULTANT  
PORTUGAL



**Gracia Trujillo**  
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SPAIN



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ITALY



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INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT



**Alessia Acquistapace**  
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**Brigitte Vasallo**  
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SPAIN



**Daniel Cardoso**  
LOCAL CONSULTANT  
PORTUGAL

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- ## Our Consultants
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## PARTNERING

LESBIAN COUPLEDOM  
POLYAMORY

# MEDIA

## ***It Takes More Than Two to Tango! Relational Citizenship and the Queer Ethics of Care and Choice***

QUEER KINSHIP & RELATIONSHIP CONFERENCE POLAND

Ana Cristina Santos

+ JUNE 2015

## ***INTIMATE Panel: Reframing coupledom through same-sex relational citizenship in Southern Europe***

NON-MONOGAMIES AND CONTEMPORARY INTIMACIES PORTUGAL

Ana Cristina Santos . Beatrice Gusmano . Pablo Pérez Navarro . Luciana Moreira

+ SEPTEMBER 2015

## ***Same-sex parenthood and legal change in Portugal***

CASA DAS CALDEIRAS . COIMBRA UNIVERSITY TV PORTUGAL

Interview Ana Cristina Santos

+ JUNE 2013

VISÃO MAGAZINE PORTUGAL

+ *On social networks, gender-based labels and conceptual change*

DIÁRIO DE NOTÍCIAS NEWSPAPER PORTUGAL

+ *On homophobia and transphobia across the globe*

PÚBLICO NEWSPAPER [P3] PORTUGAL

+ *On women, reproduction and citizenship*

DIÁRIO DE NOTÍCIAS NEWSPAPER PORTUGAL

+ *On couples and the politics of names*

INQUIRE MAGAZINE SPAIN

+ *Interviews the INTIMATE team*

PÚBLICO NEWSPAPER [P3] PORTUGAL

+ *On sex and 50 Shades of Grey*

PÚBLICO NEWSPAPER [P3] PORTUGAL

+ *On mamading*

DISIDENTE NEWSPAPER SPAIN

+ *Interviews Pablo Pérez Navarro*

DIÁRIO DE NOTÍCIAS NEWSPAPER PORTUGAL

+ *On children and gender-based stereotypes*

DIÁRIO DE NOTÍCIAS NEWSPAPER PORTUGAL

+ *On sex work*

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## Outreach



## UPCOMING

### PUBLICATIONS

**Gusmano, Beatrice 2016**

*“Uncomfortable bargains? Networking between local authorities and LGBT associations in the context of neoliberalism”*

SEXUALITIES RESEARCH: CRITICAL INTERJECTIONS, DIVERSE METHODOLOGIES, AND PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS A KING, AC SANTOS AND I CROWHURST EDS. | ROUTLEDGE

**Santos, Ana Cristina 2016**

*“In the old days, there were no gays” - democracy, social change and media representation of sexual diversity”*

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF IBERIAN STUDIES, SPECIAL ISSUE: QUEER IN PORTUGAL: HISTORY, IDENTITY AND FUTURE ED. BY RICHARD CLEMINSON

### WE RECOMMEND

*Protection against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics in the EU - Comparative legal analysis 2015* + PDF

*Standing up for the human rights of intersex people - how can you help? 2016* + PDF

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30 • 31 March 2016  
FACULTY OF ECONOMICS  
UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA  
PORTUGAL

# QUEERING 1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PARTNERING

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Alessia Acquistapace  
Ana Luísa Amaral  
Brigitte Vasallo  
Christian Klesse  
Daniel Cardoso  
Gracia Trujillo  
Liana Borghi  
Sasha Roseneil



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**1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
Queering Partnering  
2016**

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**FINAL  
PROGRAMME**



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#1 INTIMATE

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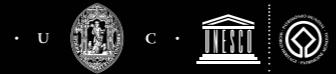
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Intimate Image Bank

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