



INTIMATE

*Citizenship, Care and Choice:
The Micropolitics of Intimacy in Southern Europe*

After Marriage Conference

INTIMATE Short Conference Report

The INTIMATE team and the Families & Societies team prepared two panels during the After Marriage Conference at the John Jay College, New York City, 1-2 October 2016. This Conference was organized by CLAGS Center for LGBTQ Studies. Papers discussed within the Perspectives from Southern Europe I and II panels were:

Ana Cristina Santos: "Queer Non-Monogamy Hits the Legal (Marriage) Fan: Relational Citizenship in Portugal"

Gracia Trujillo: "Marriage? On Radical Genealogies, Queer and Feminist Protests and Austerity Times in Spain"

José Ignacio Pichardo Galán: "At the End of the Rainbow: Ten Years After the Legalization of Same-Sex Marriage in Spain"

Luciana Moreira Silva: "Living Lesbian Relationships in Madrid: Do They Really Care About Us?"

Mara Pieri: "Diving into the Unknown. Partnering and Migration Choices in Narratives from Italy"

Marie Digoix: "After the Laws: Is the Nordic Model Still a Reference? The Case of Iceland"

Marina Franchi and Giulia Selmi: "Queer Kinship Before Marriage: Narratives, Strategies and Struggles of LGBT Parents in Italy"

Pablo Perez Navarro: "Beyond Inclusion: Non-Monogamies Before the Law"

Tatiana Motterle: "Before Marriage: Lesbian and Bisexual Women Reclaiming Relational Visibility in Italy"

The panels were set to enable discussions around prospects and practices of queering coupledness, through work stemming from biographical narratives and collective struggles with a socio-cultural and historical lens. The sessions offered a great opportunity to liaise and think collectively about issues that are at the core of much of the work we develop. Some of the key points emerging from the debate were:

- Strategic deployment of language for epistemological and/or political reasons
- Moving beyond the family framework – pros and cons of using family of choice as an analytical category



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- The importance of decoupling rights from the couple
- Links between broader processes of Europeanization and LGBTQ politics
- The role of gender and class differences in the sample
- Legal recognition as legitimising tools for partner and parents, but also for grandparents and other kin

Both sessions were well attended and the audience was keen to join the vivid debate, with thought-provoking, insightful questions. The presence of the journalist Hugh Ryan was important for dissemination purposes outside the space of academia, with several tweets about the concepts advanced by the INTIMATE research project and the outcomes of the studies on lesbian coupledom and non-monogamous LGBTQ relationships.

In this event, scientific outputs were presented using an accessible language that made research pertinent to wider audiences. Overall, the Conference was a success, including the much needed gender neutral toilet facilities and the vivid exchange of ideas and experiences between scholars, activists and scholar-activists. Framed around a topic which is dominated by US and UK-based literature, the contribution of the research conducted in Portugal, Spain and Italy in this conference offered a crucial counter-point to hegemonic interpretative narratives.

