QUEERING FRIENDSHIP is the 3rd and FINAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE of the ERC funded study INTIMATE, coordinated by Ana Cristina Santos. The Conference will focus on LGBTQ FRIENDSHIP with a particular intersectional interest in practices of citizenship, care and choice beyond law and public policies.

Contrary to individualization theories that suggest the impoverishment of human relationships, theories of relationality recognize the increasing centrality of informal networks of solidarity and care. In this debate, FRIENDSHIP plays a fundamental role. The mutual implications of intimacy and CITIZENSHIP need to be addressed, exploring the extent to which issues of LGBTQ FRIENDSHIP matter (or not) in being recognized as citizens.

The centrality of friendship is even more striking when considering personal lives of trans and non-binary people, but also lesbian women, gay men and bisexual people, LGBTI migrants and other intersecting, vulnerable groups. In particular, the way transgender people actively provide and receive different CARE between friends offers invaluable contributions to political debates and conceptual discussions around friendship and care as a key aspect of everyday life.

Unveiling the richness of the blurred spaces of intimacy, the ways in which LGBTI people produce alternatives to family-based forms of cohabitation are also of critical importance. LGBTI lived experiences further contribute to destabilizing the family/friends and public/private binaries, whilst challenging heterosocial and romantic expectations about who legitimately belongs to the intimate sphere and who remains excluded and/or invisible.

This conference welcomes conceptual and empirically-driven work that looks into the POLITICS AND PRACTICES OF LGBTQ FRIENDSHIP in everyday life. It welcomes studies on care practices that mainstream sociological theory and social policy overlook; studies that examine the social impact of policies around care which disregard non-heterosocial and non-romantic care practices; as well as studies in which everyday practices of partnering, parenting and friendship contribute to the debate on CHOICE and self-determination in relation to the intimate sphere.

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INTIMATE 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.

TOPICS AND STUDIES

PARTNERING  
LESBIAN COUPLEDHOM  
POLYAMORY

PARENTING  
ASSISTED CONCEPTION  
SURROGACY  
POLITICS OF NAMING A CHILD

FRIENDSHIP  
TRANSGENDER AND NETWORKS OF CARE  
LIVING WITH FRIENDS

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