



**MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS 2018**  
**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HOSTING MARIE CURIE FELLOWS**

### HOST INSTITUTION

School of Sciences and Humanities | CICS.NOVA Research Unit

### RESEARCH GROUP AND URL

Health, Population and Well-being  
<https://www.cics.nova.fcsh.unl.pt/research-groups-1/5-health-population-and-well-being-1>

### SUPERVISOR (NAME AND E-MAIL)

Catarina Delaunay  
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### SHORT CV OF THE SUPERVISOR

Catarina Delaunay is currently an Integrated Researcher of CICS.NOVA – Interdisciplinary Centre of Social Sciences at NOVA FCSH. She has also worked as a consultant at Mário Soares Foundation for 20 years. Her MA in Social Sciences at ICS-UL, on the issue of gender divisions of household finance and consumption within the couple, has been awarded the Woman Research Prize 2001 Carolina Michaëlis de Vasconcelos and published in a book. She holds a PhD in Sociology (2009) from the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, with a thesis on time management among emergency physicians. From mid-2010 to mid-2016 she was a postdoctoral fellow at CICS-NOVA (Portugal) and EHESS (France) with a project on the controversies on assisted reproductive technologies with third-party donor. Both PhD and postdoc were financed by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT). She is also PI of a FCT funded R&D project entitled ETHICHO – Ethico-Ontological Choreographies of the Human Embryo. Her current research interests include Sociology of Health and Medicine, Sociology of Science and Technology, and Pragmatic Sociology. She has co-edited a book and has over 20 publications in journals and chapters in books.

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### 5 SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Delaunay, C. (2018), Mapping socio-technical controversies about same-sex couples' access to Assisted Reproductive Technologies in France and Portugal. *Health and Society/Salute e Società*, 2/2018 (forthcoming).
- Delaunay, C. (2017), Activimos virtuais em matéria de Procriação Medicamente Assistida em França e em Portugal. *Forum Sociológico*, 30, 43-54. Url: <https://journals.openedition.org/sociologico/1779>
- Delaunay, C. (2017). L'insupportable et l'incertain: proximité et dés-attachement dans l'assistance médicale à la procréation avec tiers donneur. *Anthropologie & Santé* [online], 15, (special issue Transitions existentielles en question). Url: <http://anthropologiesante.revues.org/2738>



- Delaunay, C. (2015, February). The beginning of life in the laboratory: The challenges of a technological future for human reproduction. *Technology in Society*, 40, (special Technological Futures), 14-24. DOI: 10.1016/j.techsoc.2014.09.001
- Delaunay, C. & A. C. Martins (2015). Dialectical tensions between caregivers and patients in ART and Palliative Care: Ethical and moral issues raised by the (bio)medicalization of birth and death. In J. M. Resende & A. C. Martins (Eds.). *The Making of the Common in Social Relations*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, pp. 53-100. ISBN (10): 1-4438-8107-4. ISBN (13): 978-1-4438-8107-4

## PROJECT TITLE AND DESCRIPTION

### ***ETHICHO – Ethico-ontological choreographies: Forms of objectification and evaluation of the human embryo in vitro in the context of Assisted Reproductive Technologies and Scientific Research***

This project aims to develop an in-depth and far-reaching sociological research on the conceptions and meanings about the human embryo in vitro in order to establish the basis for an empirical knowledge that would: 1) improve the existing forms of care in medically assisted procreation, namely the communication process between health professionals and infertile couples, as well as information provision concerning cryopreserved human embryos in terms of decision-making; 2) generate innovative impacts in the scientific community (increased sociological knowledge) and civil society (citizen accountability and inclusive health governance).

The main objectives of the project are: 1) to analyze the similarities and divergences between the forms of savant and lay objectification as well as evaluation of the human embryo both in medically assisted procreation (a “potential person” within a parental project) and in scientific research (biological material for science development and medical advances towards the promotion of public health); 2) to identify the medical vocabulary used by clinicians to inform about possible fates of surplus embryos and by embryologists to transmit to beneficiary couples the information on the quality and implantation potential of embryos in vitro; 3) to determine how the communication process is made by experts to enlighten MAP patients on embryos and how the conceptions of biomedical discourse are perceived and interpreted in a lay manner by couples (construction and circulation of meanings); 4) to understand how actors from both the scientific and profane worlds cope with complex situations within the decision process itself in terms of doubts, dissonances and disagreements about the embryo’s role and destiny; 5) to use the data generated during this study to transfer knowledge to society, contributing not only to increase professional and political awareness on current challenges but also to enrich the legal, medical and bioethical debates on this subject.

The expected contributions to stem from this research are: 1) to advance the knowledge in the fields of Sociology of Health & Medicine and Science & Technology Studies, which has produced in Portugal, until this date, very few studies about the human embryo; 2) to produce socially relevant knowledge which can be mobilized by health professionals, in the sense of good practice, in terms of counselling and follow-up of couples, while it seeks to generate more inclusive public health policies by increased forms of citizen accountability; 3) to take stock of the terms of the current embryo governance debate.

In terms of research methods for data collection, we intend to develop a combined quantitative and qualitative approach based on a preliminary survey questionnaire, an ethnographic observation (in medical consultations, multidisciplinary team meetings and laboratory settings) and semi-directive interviews with infertile couples, doctors and biologists.

## SCIENTIFIC AREA WHERE THE PROJECT FITS BEST

Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)