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MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS 2019
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HOSTING MARIE CURIE FELLOWS

HOST INSTITUTION

NOVA School of Social Sciences and Humanities | CICS.NOVA – Interdisciplinary Centre of Social Sciences

RESEARCH GROUP AND URL

RG 5: Health, Population and Well-being

URL: <https://www.cics.nova.fcsh.unl.pt/research/research-groups/5-health-population-and-well-being>

SUPERVISOR (NAME AND E-MAIL)

Catarina Delaunay
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SHORT CV OF THE SUPERVISOR

Catarina Delaunay has recently been awarded an Assistant Researcher Position at the Interdisciplinary Centre of Social Sciences, NOVA University Lisbon (CICS.NOVA), with the project Anticipating infertility in cancer patients: medical practices, social (in) equality and individual responsibility for preserving fertility in risk societies, funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science & Technology (FCT). She is currently the principal researcher on a 3-year project (2018-2021) entitled Ethico-ontological choreographies: Forms of objectification and evaluation of the human embryo in vitro in the context of Assisted Reproductive Technologies and Scientific Research, funded by the FCT. From mid-2010 to mid-2016 she was a postdoctoral fellow at CICS.NOVA (Portugal) and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales - EHESS (France) with a project on gamete donation financed by the FCT. Catarina Delaunay qualified with a PhD in Sociology from the Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas, Universidade Nova de Lisboa (NOVA FCSSH) in 2009. Previously, her master's dissertation was awarded the Carolina Michaëlis de Vasconcelos Women's Research Prize in 2001 and was published in a book. She has organized several national and international scientific events. She has co-edited three books and published over 20 book chapters and journal articles. These have appeared in top-ranking international journals in the fields of gender, health and science & technology studies (Technology in Society; Salute e Società/ Health and Society; Anthropologie & Santé; Journal of Comparative Research in Anthropology and Sociology; Dilemas: Revista de Estudos de Conflito e Controle Social; 3º Milénio: Revista Crítica de Sociologia e Política). She had also been a reviewer for leading journals in her field of expertise (Sciences Sociales et Santé; Revista Crítica de Ciências Sociais; Interface: Comunicação, Saúde, Educação; Fórum Sociológico). Her current main research interests are the Sociology of Health and Medicine, Sociology of Science and Technology, and Pragmatic Sociology.

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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, (special

issue The art of ART. Assisted Reproductive Technology challenging gender, biomedicine and inequalities), 72-89. DOI: 10.3280/SES2018-002006

- Delaunay, C. (2018). Doctor-patient-caregiver communication put to the test by a medicine that does not heal: troubles in Medically Assisted Procreation and Palliative Care. In J. M. Resende, A. C. Martins, M. Breviglieri, & C. Delaunay (eds.). *The Challenges of Communication in a Context of Crisis: Troubles, Misunderstandings and Discords*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, pp. 103-123. ISBN: 978-1-5275-1420-1.
- Delaunay, C. (2017), Activimos virtuais em matéria de Procriação Medicamente Assistida em França e em Portugal. *Forum Sociológico*, 30, 43-54. DOI: 10.3280/SES2018-002006
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). DOI: 10.4000/anthropologiesante.2738
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 issue Technological Futures), 14-24. DOI: 10.1016/j.techsoc.2014.09.001

PROJECT TITLE AND SHORT 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

PTDC/SOC -SOC/29764/2017

Short description: 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,



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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)