

***REPROMOB 2nd International Conference (on-line): Researching reproductive mobilities and sexual and reproductive rights activism in a rapid changing, globalized world: challenges and opportunities for engaged researchers***

March 27th-29th 2023, 4.30 -7.30pm CET (participation is free, no registration is required)

Languages: Spanish, English (no simultaneous translation will be provided)

Link: [Feu clic aquí per unir-vos a la reunió](#)

ID de la reunió: 342 069 323 322

Clau d'accés: zRdUM7

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Meeting ID: 342 069 323 322; Password: zRdUM7

REPROMOB is a multi-disciplinary, multi-sited, collaborative research project hosted by two Universities in Catalunya-Spain, the Autonomous University of Barcelona - UAB, and the University of Barcelona - UB. It aims at investigating different forms of reproductive mobilities: cross- and in-country fluxes of people, substances, knowledge, practices, subjectivities, capitals, networks of relationships, and connections that assisted reproduction and abortion seeking as well as adoption generate globally.

This Conference aims to gather REPROMOB members and other researchers to reflect on the interplay between reproductive mobilities and changes in reproductive landscapes all over the world.

In particular, this Conference will aim at discussing the preliminary results of this coordinated research project, which includes 1) a sub-project focusing on mobilities related to the search for assisted reproduction technologies/services and adoption, and 2) a sub-project aimed at investigating (im-)mobilities related to abortion care seeking, including self-managed medication abortion.

The **main Conference themes** are:

**1. Legal changes, reproductive mobilities and (health)care experiences:**

Legal frameworks impact reproductive futures, imaginations, possibilities, and ultimately, life courses. There is a complex interplay between the legal context, how public and private finances are allocated to different actors in the field and the decision on which medical procedures are subsidized and prioritized and which ones are not. In several countries, the LGBTI+ community, as well as single or older women have limited access to ARTs, or to specific techniques as well as to adoption, and pregnant women are not able to access to abortion medical care. All these restrictions increase the flows of people, gametes, knowledge crossing national borders. However, mobility is not always possible, not only due to legal restrictions, which can make it difficult and sometimes impossible, but also due to the unequal access to different kinds of resources that people need to be able to move or share knowledge and technologies. Finally, the recent pandemic has shown how health emergencies can also limit mobility for long periods of time, affecting also access to sexual and reproductive health services, which are not considered essential care in all countries.



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Changes in legislative landscapes are deeply entangled with public debates and scientific outreach. The transnational circulation of pro-sexual and reproductive rights discourses and strategies has allowed access to sexual and reproductive care in restrictive legal contexts –for example the access for lesbian and single women to ARTs in France (June 2021), or the legalization of abortion in Argentina (December 2020) and its decriminalization in Mexico (September 2021) – and shaped medical practice globally. At the same time, however, the Polish abortion ban (January 2021) and the decision by the US Supreme Court to overturn *Roe vs Wade* (June 2022) show that powerful national and transnational networks of anti-choice and anti-gender organizations can exercise a strong political influence and lead to legal changes that can restrict access to sexual and reproductive health care, generating a flux of people and substances across borders.

Based on the preliminary findings of the REPROMOB project as well as on previous research related to our current project, in this Conference we will investigate the transnational circulation of pro- or anti-sexual and reproductive rights discourses and strategies supporting legal changes that affect reproductive mobilities in different contexts. We will also discuss the role played by key social actors in making reproductive mobilities possible and easier, or, on the contrary, in preventing them (for instance by providing self-managed medication abortion via tele-health). Additionally, we will investigate the transnational networks that these social actors generate and the strategies they use to circumvent legal restrictions and avoid criminalization. Finally, in contexts where recent legal changes have occurred, we will examine the circulation of people seeking access to abortion care or ARTs, to account for reproductive trajectories as well as medical practitioners' and users' experience, from an intersectional perspective. The circulation of substances and entities (such as gametes or embryos) that contribute to make assisted reproduction accessible to discriminated groups will also be taken into account.

## **2. Navigating reproductive mobilities as engaged researchers: moral, methodological and political challenges**

In this Conference we will also discuss which forms reflexivity can take for those of us who inhabit the social and public space as researchers, activists and, last but not least, individuals, whose own reproductive lives are impacted, in some cases, by those very same issues we research and write about. Legal and political changes affecting reproductive governance influence our own research, and interrogate our ability to keep up with a fast-moving landscape, to portray it accurately, and to design or adapt traditional data collection tools. While adjusting a research design over time is common procedure in social sciences, legal and procedural shifts can turn our research project upside down, corner us on a dead end, or open up new possibilities. As researchers – and experts – on topics such as abortion and ARTs, we are often interrogated and involved in the public debate. In this Conference we will examine how our research influence policy-making, or how, in turn, the public debate and legal context shapes our research, especially when one walks the fine line between being a researcher and an activist. We will also discuss how legal changes lead researchers to introduce methodological innovations, and how research opens up to new scenarios and support users of medical care abroad.

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