MSC 2017 Candidate for AFIN Research Group - UAB

“Never before have parents in most Western societies had their first children as late as in recent decades […] Massive postponement is attributed to the clash between the optimal biological period for women to have children with obtaining additional education and building a career” (Mills et al 2011: 848). Parallel, changes in legal and social rules on sexuality and marriage in many Western countries have allowed to single, same sex and heterosexual couples and persons to become parents. Thus, new strategies for making families that imply third-parties’ contributions emerged beyond the natural limits imposed by age, sex and biology.

Between 1975 and 1995, the fertility rate in Spain went from being one of the highest in Europe (2.8 children per woman) to 1.14, significantly below from the replacement rate. At first glance, Spain’s low fertility may look like a choice. Nevertheless, Spain has one of the largest ‘child gaps’ (the average difference between desired and actual children) in the European Union (Bernardi 2005). In Spain, since the 1990s, for many people constituting a family have required the reproductive “contribution” of other women, many of them living or coming from other countries.

From an interdisciplinary perspective and through the combination of quantitative and multi-sited qualitative methodology, this AFIN research project aims to analyse the challenges (at individual, family and social levels) of changes in reproductive patterns and to identify the collaboration and tensions between the interests and rights of intended parents, third-party providers, intermediaries/brokers and the individuals born through these processes.

The participation in the work team of researchers from other countries will allow comparative analyses on the consequences and challenges of infertility and third-party reproduction at personal, familial, social and economic levels.

AFIN Research Group would like encourage a suitably qualified researcher from outside Spain to apply for a Marie Sklodowska-Curie Individual European Fellowship to come to UAB for 24 months, from September 2017, to pursue research into a topic agreed with the AFIN Research Group and under supervision from one of the research group’s active researcher.

AFIN Research Group on Families, Childhoods and Reproduction, is internationally known for the quality of its research into subjects such as human reproduction - adoption, ART, third-party reproduction, surrogacy-, childhoods -child protection, family support and decision-making about underage people, foster care, children, adolescents, teens, and youth-, and families -parenting, professional practice with families, families-to-become-.

AFIN Research Group is based in the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB, in Bellaterra, Barcelona).
Application: documents for the selection of the host centre and deadline
- CV
- Brief statement
- Two Reference Letters

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Additional Information
Marie Sklodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships
- European Fellowships last from one to two years, Global Fellowships from two to three years.

These fellowships provide generous living allowances, travel costs and family allowances. The aim is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of the researcher, through advanced training and international mobility. Applicants must have a PhD or at least four years' full-time equivalent research experience at the deadline for submitting proposals. They cannot have lived or worked in Spain for more than 12 months in the previous 3 years.

For fellowships starting in September 2017, the submission period closes on 14 September 2016.

Further information about Marie Sklodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships is available in the attached guidelines and at http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/actions/if/index_en.htm