

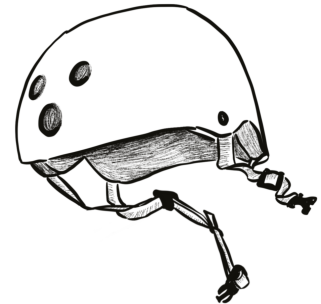


# On (Not) Building and Raising a Queer Family in Europe

Workshop, 18 - 20 January 2027, University of Lucerne, Switzerland

## Organisers

Carole Ammann (she/her), University of Lucerne  
Leo Valentin Theissing (they/them), University of Lucerne  
Caroline Chautems (she/her), University of Lausanne




## Call for Papers

Queer and trans people have long been positioned outside normative understandings of kinship, reproduction, and parenthood (Weston, 1991). These narratives have shifted in recent decades in some contexts, as legal reforms and expanding reproductive options have opened new pathways to parenthood and contributed to the growing visibility of queer families. Yet these transformations remain uneven and deeply stratified (Mamo & Alston-Stepnitz, 2015). Becoming a parent is often easier for people who are privileged, for example in terms of class, race, or gender (Dahl & Andreassen, 2023). In light of debates on reproductive homonationalism (Leibetseder & Freude, 2024), “the possibilities open to different cohorts of LGBQ in terms of family, kinship and intimate citizenship have radically changed for some but remain unchanged for others” (Heaphy, 2019: 23). The current landscape of queer family-making in Europe is therefore marked by profound contradictions.

Across Europe, anti-gender movements increasingly mobilise the ideal of the cis-heterosexual nuclear family as a symbol of national and moral order (Holvikivi, Holzber, & Ojeda, 2024). Debates about reproduction and family are thus deeply entangled with broader political struggles over gender, sexuality, and belonging. Europe can be understood as a fragmented and uneven terrain of queer reproduction and parenting, where national regulations, cultural norms, and political climates differ widely. These differences shape how queer people imagine (Pralat, 2025; Smietana, 2018), pursue, negotiate, refuse, or never achieve parenthood. Engaging with debates on queer reproductive justice (Chautems, Palaz, & i Escoda, 2025; Fixmer-Oraiz & Yam, 2021), the workshop asks how power, inequalities, and structural violence shape access to queer reproduction and LGBTQIA+ parenting, as well as experiences of queer non-parenthood.

This workshop convenes scholars studying queer families, kinship, and reproduction in Europe to examine how queer people negotiate diverse pathways to becoming and being parents. Drawing on Anttila, Palojoki, Vuori, and Janhonen-Abruquah’s (2023: 1645) framework, we explore key steps along these pathways: (1) articulating parental desires, (2) considering possible practices, (3) reflecting on decisions, and (4) taking concrete actions toward bringing a child into the family. We further investigate how queer parents adapt to (Teschlade, Motakef, & Wimbauer, 2025) and queery (Ammann & Miller, 2025) cis-heteronormative norms of doing family. In addition to experiences of queer parenthood, we



welcome contributions on the social, political, and personal dimensions of not becoming a parent.

We invite contributions that critically engage with questions of '(Not) Building and Raising a Queer Family' through an intersectional lens. We welcome empirically grounded (qualitative and/or quantitative) and conceptually rich papers that illuminate the lived realities of queer parenting practices in different European contexts. We are particularly **interested in submissions** from and about countries and regions that have been largely **overlooked in research on queer families** (e.g., Eastern Europe), as well as **work addressing gaps** in the existing literature. Such possible themes and groups include, but are not limited to:

- Bisexual, asexual, nonbinary, or intersex parents
- Trans mothers and trans parents
- Perspectives beyond the white middle-class
- Disabled and neurodivergent queer parents
- Chosen families (with and without children)
- Co-parenting and multi-parent families
- Queer and child-less
- Reproductive losses
- Sex, sexuality, and reproduction
- Queer families beyond the urban
- Everyday work of normalisation and subversion



The workshop seeks to **foster interdisciplinary dialogue** and to take stock of the current state of queer family and kinship studies in Europe, a field remaining fragmented across disciplines such as sociology, anthropology, gender studies, human geography, reproductive studies, history, migration studies, and law. By bringing together scholars from different regions and research traditions, the workshop aims, first, to identify research gaps and emerging directions for the field, and second, to move beyond methodological nationalism by foregrounding how reproductive narratives and practices transcend national borders. Contributions developed in the workshop will form the basis of a planned **Special Issue**. Participants will be asked to submit an early draft of their paper (minimum 5 pages) two weeks prior to the event. We especially welcome contributions by junior scholars.

Please send an abstract (max. 300 words), including a title, your name, position, institutional affiliation, and a short biographical note (max. 150 words), **by 8 June 2026** as a Word document to the organisers (carole.ammann@unilu.ch, leo.theissing@unilu.ch, & caroline.chautems@unil.ch).

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