

CALL FOR PAPERS

Birthing, mothering and othering: actors, representations and practices in global maternal and reproductive care journeys

The scientific conference “Birthing, Mothering and Othering” will be held at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, from October 20 to 24, 2025. Bringing together scholars, care providers, activists, and artists from around the world, the event aims to foster a global, cross-disciplinary dialogue on reproductive care and justice.

Drawing from fields such as sociology, anthropology, public health, and demography, as well as from the lived experiences of midwives, doulas, and other practitioners, the conference will explore the full spectrum of reproductive care—from preconception to postpartum. It will highlight diverse approaches to birth, including both medicalized and non-medicalized practices, and give special attention to gender-based and obstetric violence, as well as community-based alternatives within a reproductive justice framework.

A key feature of the event is its participatory approach: beyond academic presentations, it will include hands-on workshops led by traditional and professional care providers. This inclusive format emphasizes ethical, practitioner-informed collaboration and aims to build international networks of solidarity among those working in reproductive health.

Thematic Strands

1. Birth Work: Experiences, Narratives and Practices.
2. State Regulation and Governance of Reproductive Bodies.
3. Navigating Gender, Race, Class and Migration: Intersectionality and Injustice in Reproductive Journeys
4. Obstetric Violence and Alternatives.
5. Care Providers in Reproductive Decision-Making and Beyond.
6. Mothering & Not Mothering: A Reproductive & Life Choice?
7. Environmental Injustices in Reproductive Journeys.
8. Decolonizing Reproductive Care: Past & Present Dialogues.

Scientific Committee

Clara Devlieger, Selma Mouchel & Irene Maffi (University of Lausanne), Frances Hasso (Duke University), Georgina Sánchez-Ramírez, Karina Atayde (ECOSUR), Paola Sesia (CIESAS), Camila Pastor (CIDE), Jocelyn Leyva Santoyo & Joana Michel-Costa, Colline Léonard (EHES), Paula Cristofalo (EHESP) and Alicia Márquez Murrieta (Instituto Mora).

Details



October 20-24, 2025
University of Lausanne