QUEERING FRIENDSHIP is the 3rd and final International Conference of the ERC funded study INTIMATE: CITIZENSHIP, CARE AND CHOICE - The Micro-politics of Intimacy in Southern Europe, coordinated by Ana Cristina Santos (ces.uc.pt/intimate). The Conference will focus on LGBTQ FRIENDSHIP with a particular intersectional interest in practices of citizenship, care and choice beyond law and public policies.

Contrary to individualization theories that suggest the impoverishment of human relationships, theories of relationality recognize the increasing centrality of informal networks of solidarity and care. In this debate, FRIENDSHIP plays a fundamental role.

The mutual implications of intimacy and CITIZENSHIP need to be addressed, exploring the extent to which issues of LGBTQ FRIENDSHIP matter (or not) in being recognized as citizens.

The centrality of friendship is even more striking when considering personal lives of trans and non-binary people, but also lesbian women, gay men and bisexual people, LGBTQ migrants and other intersecting, vulnerable groups. In particular, the way transgender people actively provide and receive different CARE between friends offers invaluable contributions to political debates and conceptual discussions around friendship and care as a key aspect of LGBTQ everyday life.

Unveiling the richness of the blurred spaces of intimacy, the ways in which LGBTQ people produce alternatives to family-based forms of cohabitation are also of critical importance. LGBTQ lived experiences further contribute to destabilizing the family/friends and public/private binaries, whilst challenging heterocisnormative expectations about who legitimately belongs to the intimate sphere and who remains excluded and/or invisible.

This conference welcomes conceptual and empirically-driven work that looks into the POLITICS AND PRACTICES OF LGBTQ FRIENDSHIP in everyday life. It welcomes studies on care practices that mainstream sociological theory and social policy overlook; studies that examine the social impact of policies around care which disregard non-heterocisnormative care practices; as well as studies in which everyday practices of partnering, parenting and friendship contribute to the debate on CHOICE and self-determination in relation to the intimate sphere.

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

Jack Halberstam  COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Sasha Roseneil  UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

TOPICS include, but are not limited to, the following questions:

- To what extent have transgender people been actively involved in providing and/or receiving care for/from friends?
- To what extent have friends been replacing lovers and relatives in terms of home ‘making’ amongst LGBTQ people?
- Do people decide to cohabit with their friends, or does this mirror an adjustment to wider processes of legal, policy and cultural misrecognition?
- What are the needs, expectations and resources related to care provision for/from trans people from/to friends?
- How to improve public policies regulating shared accommodation amongst friends?
- How are the processes of precariousness affecting LGBTQ self-determination, including reproductive and partnering projects?
- How are LGBTQ people negotiating parenthood?
- How central is the idea of ‘the couple’, and to what extent, and in what ways, is that idea being queered?
- What does the recognition of sexual orientation, gender identity or relational orientation entail when it comes to citizenship, care and choice?
- How does LGBTQ politics of friendship intersect with those of ethnicity, disability and other forms of discrimination?
- Which is the role of social movements in claiming rights beyond biological ties?
- How has austerity affected the conditions of LGBTQ people living outside the ‘couple norm’? Which are the spaces of resistance?

ABSTRACTS should not exceed 300 words SUBMITTED THROUGH SUBMISSION FORM

DEADLINE 05 March 2018
NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE 16 April 2018

THE WORK LANGUAGE DURING THIS CONFERENCE WILL BE ENGLISH. IF YOU CHOSE TO PRESENT IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE, PLEASE USE PORTUGUESE, SPANISH OR ITALIAN, AND SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT IN ENGLISH, ENSURING YOU WILL LATER USE SLIDES OR PROVIDE HANDOUTS IN ENGLISH BEFORE THE PRESENTATION.

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN LISBON, PORTUGAL.