



FACULTY OF PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES

Dialogues with young women, family home mothers and professionals on collaborative working processes with adolescents separated from their families.

Public defense to obtain the degree of
DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY
of

Ms. Leticia Rodríguez

which will take place on

March 11th , at 4 pm
Promotiezaal

Brussels Humanities, Sciences & Engineering Campus (Etterbeek)

How to reach the VUB: <http://www.vub.ac.be/campus/brussels-humanities-sciences-engineering-campus>
Pleinlaan 2 – 1050 Brussel

Please confirm your attendance before : 06/03/2019 via
(leticiarodriguez06@gmail.com)

Jury: INTERNAL:

Prof. dr. Caroline Andries (Chair) (VUB, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences)

Prof. dr. Jasmina Sermijn (VUB, Faculty of Social Sciences & Solvay Business School)

Prof. dr. Katrien De Koster (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Faculty of Law & Criminology)

EXTERNAL:

Prof. dr. Maria Luisa Papusa Molina (Taos Institute; Instituto Kanankil, Mérida Mexico)

Prof. dr. Rocio Chaveste Gutiérrez (Taos Institute; Instituto Kanankil, Mérida Mexico)

Promotors:

Prof. dr. Veerle Soyez (VUB, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences)

Prof. dr. Maria Luisa Papusa Molina (Taos Institute; Instituto Kanankil, Mérida Mexico)

Prof. dr. Rocio Chaveste Gutiérrez (Taos Institute; Instituto Kanankil, Mérida Mexico)



FACULTY OF PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES

Summary

ENFOQUE Niñez is a Paraguayan non-governmental organisation providing social and therapeutic work to children, adolescents and their families that are referred by the juridical system. This work consists of different aspects: to develop and run a family home placement program; to initiate and promote family reintegration; and to work collaboratively with children, adolescents and their families, for the fulfilment of their human rights.

The aim of this practise based study was twofold. First, to explore if and how the collaborative work practices, as developed by ENFOQUE Niñez, are considered as 'helpful' for adolescents involved: do these practices offer added-value to the work process and ? Second, to explore the lived experiences and challenges as encountered in collaborative practices by adolescents, family homes members, and professionals.

Starting from social constructionism as the philosophical and epistemological orientation, a dialogic collaborative research was performed in which the voices of three protagonist groups of actors involved in the therapeutic and social work process, were included: young women, family home mothers, and members of the professional team of ENFOQUE Niñez. Besides the researcher, which is also part of the ENFOQUE Niñez's team, 19 other persons participated in the study. The data consisted of transcribed (individual and group) dialogues, which were analysed using Constructionist Grounded Theory as a methodological framework.

All protagonists (young women, family home members and professionals) experienced the relationships as developed during the collaborative work processes as benefitting for them. For the young women specifically, the working processes offered (subjective) added-value in empowering them, though only when characterised by participation, support, co-responsibility, relational ethics, love and trust. However, these characteristics are regularly under pressure, due to a number of challenges, which appear in the complexity of these situations.

Curriculum Vitae

Leticia Rodriguez was born in Corrientes, Argentina, on June 26th, 1979. She moved to Asunción, Paraguay, to study at the Universidad Católica Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, where she graduated as a psychologist at the same time that she was doing her training to become a Family Therapist, in 2002. Her internships in communities and public services had a strong impact on her professional choices to continue learning and working. From 2004 she started working in family reintegration processes in ENFOQUE Niñez, a non-profit organization that works for the right of living in a family, offering therapeutic work, family home placement, research and advocacy in public policies. In 2004, she also had the opportunity to participate in an international network linked to postgraduate training on socio constructionism and reflexive processes with the Norwegian psychiatrist Tom Andersen. Both her experiences as a family therapist working in contexts of social injustice as her Master's in Social Psychology and Family Therapy (2007), inspired her to be involved in creating educational programs. From then on, she has been involved in training activities, as the academic coordinator of an international Master in Systemic Interventions, Collaborative and Dialogical Practices from 2012 to 2016 while working in ENFOQUE Niñez. In this context, she learned about the doctoral program of the Taos Institute in agreement with the VUB. In October 2015, she began her PhD at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, under the supervision of Prof. Dr Veerle Soyez and Taos' Advisors Prof. Dr Maria Luis Papusa Molina and Prof. Dr Rocio Chaveste from México, on therapeutic processes with adolescents separated from their families with the aim and commitment of collaborating on the transformation of usual responses in such situations. Besides conducting this research, Leticia is currently lecturer on Social Psychology and Family Therapy for bachelor students.