

Cristina Brullet

Towards a post patriarchal family system? Childhood and family policies in Spain and Catalonia. State of the question

- (I) The three fundamental axes of the structure of family occidental system of first modernity are transforming in depth, which allows us to think of a transition towards a post patriarchal family system that would characterize the second modernity. These processes of transformation can be observed already clearly in Spain and Catalonia, where we a certain new legitimacies on kinship, new social practices of organization of the daily life of the domestic group - roles, time and spaces - and new relationships of power between women and men, and among adults, children and youngsters. But although the new representations and social practices imply new opportunities also they imply new risks and social de-adjustments.
- (II) The transformations of the family and social-economical system imply new and varied needs in social policy. The demographic revolution brings us to smaller family kernels and to a risk of higher social isolation on the part of children and old people; the dynamics of formation and breaking of conjugal couples claim measures directed to give support to family transitions; the diversity of children family living ways needs new visions of the processes of socialization; the crisis of the patriarchal power has given evidence on the confusion between authority and authoritarianism; massive access of women to educational and job market has put in question the sexed segregation between public and private spaces; the new position of the oldest generations in the social structure generates the need to invest an important amount of resources in services and spaces of attention to dependence: the material and cultural inequalities in the family living conditions of minors and child poverty show us the other side of the society of consumption and globalized knowledge. The speaker proposes to make a brief balance of the emergent needs and the answers that today are being given to Spain and Catalonia.
- (III) Social and family policies in Spain and Catalonia don't accompany these processes of transformation in a sufficient way, which can increase the vulnerability of childhood and the weakest sectors of our society. The current and intense migratory processes add complexity to the problem.

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