

*Dolors Comas d'Argemir*

**Family change; general patterns and social diversity**

The analyses of family changes have mainly focused on the general principles that cause these changes. It is in fact possible to distinguish some common patterns, based on the new roles of women, the modification in the relationships between men and women and in intergenerational relationships, the fragility of conjugal bonds, the increasing situations of dependence, the redefinition of childhood and of their value, etc. All this has an impact on the situation of children.

In my contribution, I will highlight the diverse ways in which these changes take shape, the different rhythms in which they are introduced and their complexity. Social inequalities on the one hand and multiculturalism on the other compel us to reject homogenised views and to introduce the axis of inequality and diversity in the analysis., As an example, adoptions and foster care have a Janus-faced nature and can be seen from the perspective of those who adopt or of those who have to separate from their children, and each of these visions express different social and familial circumstances. Focusing on inequalities, I would like to draw attention to adverse situations, above all those related to children (e.g. vulnerable, in a context of social risk, with illnesses or disabilities, poor, ill-treated) and the role of the family and public policies aiming to solve them.

*Dolors Comas d'Argemir*

*Universitat Tòrrida I Virgili, Spain*

e-mail : [dolors.comas@ya.com](mailto:dolors.comas@ya.com)