Confronting sexual pluralism: the regulatory dilemmas and policy challenges of non-monogamous family formations

Fact Sheet

Project Information

CONFAM
Grant agreement ID: 653040

DOI
10.3030/653040

Project terminated on 14 February 2016

Funded under
EXCELLENT SCIENCE - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Total cost
€ 183 454,80

EU contribution
€ 183 454,80

Coordinated by
UNIVERSITY OF KENT
United Kingdom

Objective

This project addresses the question of how the state should deal with radical sexual pluralism, and in particular how it should take up the challenges and difficulties raised for law and public policy in accommodating non-monogamous relationships and family formations. This is a multidisciplinary project drawing on diverse research sources (political philosophy, normative theory, social science data, doctrinal analysis, face-to-face in-depth interviews, and focus groups). It will explore models of non-monogamy – particularly polyamory and polygamy – in the UK to understand how they might pose a both legal and social challenge to traditional family law and
This study thus provides a lens and case-study through which a core question for contemporary public policy is addressed: what legal and public policy instruments could and should the state adopt to deal with sexual and socio-cultural difference? The research will be conducted in four Work Packages (WPs). WP1 will critically assess the available literature on the social character, public relevance and legal status of non-monogamous relationships and family formations vis-à-vis monogamous ones. WP2 will involve in-depth semi-structured interviews with members of polyamorous and polygamous relationships and families to understand how law in its current form is experienced and the problems complex family forms face. WP3 will offer a philosophical-political analysis of the question of if and how the state should devise policy measures for the recognition of polyamorous and polygamous relationships and whether the best strategy is the production of a new relationship-recognition model, defined by specific legal provisions, or, conversely, the recognition of the contractual will of the parties. WP4 will involve members of relevant civil society organisations and state institutions in two focus groups to review the findings and indicate research gaps, potential biases, and areas for further development.

### Fields of science

- **Social sciences** > political sciences > political policies > public policies
- **Social sciences** > political sciences > political policies > civil society
- **Humanities** > philosophy, ethics and religion > philosophy > political philosophy
- **Social sciences** > law

### Keywords

- pluralism
- sexual pluralism
- monogamy
- family
- family law

### Programme(s)

- **H2020-EU.1.3. - EXCELLENT SCIENCE - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**
  - MAIN PROGRAMME
- **H2020-EU.1.3.2. - Nurturing excellence by means of cross-border and cross-sector mobility**

### Topic(s)

- **MSCA-IF-2014-EF - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships (IF-EF)**
Call for proposal

H2020-MSCA-IF-2014

See other projects for this call

Funding Scheme

MSCA-IF - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships (IF)

Coordinator

UNIVERSITY OF KENT

Net EU contribution

€ 183 454,80

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Region

South East (England) > Kent > East Kent

Links

Contact the organisation Website Participation in EU R&I programmes HORIZON collaboration network

Other funding

€ 0,00

EC signature date 27 March 2015
Last update: 23 July 2023

Permalink: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/653040

European Union, 2023