Gendering and being gendered

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My research is on gender-differentiated and generation-bound care and early childhood education and care (ECEC) amongst indigenous peoples in Peru. It will produce valuable information on a scarcely studied topic of gender socialization of indigenous children and the dynamics and negotiations of this process between the ECEC services and the families, which are often composed of several generations.

In my research I will focus on 1) How do the generation and gender of the primary caregiver and of the child shape parenting and families’ relationships with ECEC services? and 2) How do families and services negotiate practices, discourses, attitudes and expectations?

The research will be done using ethnographic method and taking participatory position in everyday life and activities of the community. I argue that the research can so reach a truer understanding of the culture-bound childcare practices. The results of this study will help in designing and implementing more culturally relevant ECEC services, which will potentially result in a more equitable society.

In this presentation, I will give an outline of the available literature on gendered ECEC, on how the gender of the child and of the caregiver, as well as his/her generation, produces differentiated care and how it shapes the practices, discourses, attitudes and expectations. I aim to draw a picture of how parenting and care as gendered practices compose the social amongst indigenous cultures.

Keywords: gendered parenting and early childhood education, intergenerational care, indigenous populations, family expectations towards early childhood education services