

SwissRepro Conference 2026

Advancing research in social sciences and humanities on reproduction and sexuality

Friday 8 May 2026

University of Geneva, Campus Battelle

Keynote Speaker
Eszter Kismödi

Organised by the University of Geneva

Institute of demography and socioeconomics (IDESO)
Maurice Chalumeau Centre in Sexual Sciences (CMCSS)

Supported by

Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Geneva

Gender Centre, Geneva Graduate Institute

Institute of Gender Studies, University of Geneva

URPP Human Reproduction Reloaded (H2R), University of Zurich

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<https://www.unige.ch/sciences-societe/ideso/swissrepro-conference-2026>

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SwissRepro



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE

SwissRepro Conference 2026

Date: Friday, 8 May 2026

Time: 8:30 to 17:45

Place: University of Geneva, Battelle A: Route de Drize 7, 1227 Carouge

Organisers

Prof. Clémentine Rossier (Institute of demography and socioeconomics, UNIGE)

Dre. Solène Gouilhers (Maurice Chalumeau Centre in Sexual Sciences (CMCSS) & Institute of Gender Studies, UNIGE)

Tina Latifi (Institute of demography and socioeconomics, UNIGE)

Lauriane Pichonnaz (CMCSS, UNIGE)

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Prof. Caroline Rusterholz (University of Fribourg)

Keynote Speaker

Eszter Kismödi is a Hungarian international human rights lawyer based in Geneva, serving as CEO of Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters. With over two decades of experience in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), her work bridges human rights, law, and public health, including a decade as Human Rights Adviser at WHO and various senior advisory roles for UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNDP, and OHCHR. She holds leadership positions in the World Association for Sexual Health, serves on multiple global committees (such as WHO's Transgender Health and Ethics Review committees), and is a visiting fellow at Yale Law School and former visiting scholar at Harvard Law School. She also lectures at several universities and publishes extensively on SRHR and global health governance.

Program

8:30 - 9:00

Welcome & Coffee

9:00 - 9:15

Opening Remarks *Auditorium*

9:20 - 11:00

Parallel sessions (1 & 2)

Reproductive rights & Inequalities *Auditorium*

Care Politics, Violence & Systemic Health Inequities *CMCSS*

11:00 - 11:15

Coffee Break

11:20 - 12:20

Keynote Speaker: Eszter Kismödi JD, LLM *Auditorium*
International Human Rights Lawyer

12:20 - 13:15

Lunch Break

13:15 - 13:30

Visit of the CMCSS collections

13:35 - 15:25

Parallel sessions (3 & 4)

Reproductive Governance & Moral Regimes *Auditorium*

Fertility, ARTs & Reproductive Stratification *CMCSS*

15:30 - 15:45

Coffee break

15:50 - 17:30

Parallel sessions (5, 6 & 7)

Queer & Trans Reproductive (In)justice *Auditorium*

Borders, Mobilities & Decolonising Reproduction *CMCSS*

Sexualities, Knowledges & Transnational Feminist Politics *404*

17:35 - 17:45

Closing remarks *Auditorium*

17:45 - 19:00

Closing Reception

Detailed Program

Registrations and Coffee

Plenary: Opening remarks

Parallel SESSION 1 — Reproductive rights & Inequalities

- **Audrey Lebret** — Taking Article 14 Seriously: Reproductive Rights in Contexts of Power Asymmetry before the ECtHR
- **Carlotta Manz** — Prenatal Genetic Testing in the Private Sector: At the Intersection of Reproductive and Disability Rights in European Human Rights Law
- **Elias Zouhour** — The Well-Being of the Child as a Requirement for Access to Reproductive Medicine — A Barrier for Persons with Disabilities?
- **Noa Vreven** — Reframing reproductive autonomy: a multidimensional and comparative approach to European reproductive rights narratives
- **Marie-Hélène Peter Spiess** — Towards the Legalisation of Egg Donation in Switzerland: Open Challenges and Comparative Lessons from France

Chair: Raquel Medina

Parallel SESSION 2 — Care Politics, Violence & Systemic Health Inequities

- **Edmée Ballif** — Reproductive Boundaries: Psychosocial Care and Pregnancy in Switzerland
- **Solène Gouilhers** — Controversies over Obstetric Violence in Switzerland: Competing (Re)framings of a Public Problem
- **Irina Radu** — Equity in maternal care in Switzerland: systemic and institutional barriers
- **Patricia Perrenoud** — Migrantized Care Pathways to Tackle Uneven Maternal Morbidity and Mortality in Switzerland?
- **Nadia Bellardi** — Across generations - mothering and belonging in 'postmigrant' Zurich
- **Caterina Montagnoli** — Building Paths to Healthcare: Experiences of Maternal and Infant Healthcare Access among Undocumented Migrants in Central and Western Switzerland

Chair: Nolwenn Bühler

Coffee break

Plenary Session – Eszter Kismödi: *Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in a Time of Global Contestation: Politics, Knowledge, and Justice*

Lunch break

Visit of the CMCSS collections

Parallel SESSION 3 — Reproductive Governance & Moral Regimes

- **Debra Lanfranconi** — The “architecture of distancing”: a mode of abortion governance illustrated by the Italian case
- **Dorothea Chatzikonstantinou** — ‘Artificial wombs’ and abortion: Recentering pregnant people in the abortion debate
- **Gülce Ecem Uçar** — The Penal Persistence: Navigating Reproductive Rights through the Moral Instruments of Türkiye, Germany, and Switzerland
- **Mariam Ghafir** — Reproductive life in times of crises: thoughts on the evolving political economy of the family in Egypt
- **Arushi Sahay** — Ordinary Sterilisations: Everyday Reproductive Politics in Northwest India
- **Irene Maffi** — Unpacking the category of caesarean on maternal request. Women’s motivations and biomedical cultures in Switzerland
- **Mauricio Jiménez Hernández** — Universalism Without Access, Permissiveness Without Guarantees: Health Systems and Abortion Access in Brazil and Mexico

Chair: Véronique Mottier

Parallel SESSION 4 — Fertility, ARTs & Reproductive Stratification

- **Sachiyo Yagi** — Egg Freezing Values: The Politics of Reproductive Effort and Autonomy
- **Tina Latifi** — Understanding how sociocultural factors affect intentions to use Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) in Switzerland: a KAP model
- **Kristin Hammer** — Declining Fertility: Individual Reasons and Experiences of People without Children in Switzerland
- **Clémentine Rossier** — The rise in childlessness intentions in Switzerland (2018-2023): the role of shifting gender role attitudes
- **Emma Mavodza** — Striving to Mother: Assisted Reproductive Technologies and Reproductive Justice among Black Women in South Africa
- **Maila Mertens** — “Missing Half of the Story”: Mapping Men’s Reproductive Journeys in Switzerland
- **Larissa Fritsch** — Social Disparities in Reproductive Self Determination in Switzerland

Chair : Edmée Balliff

Coffee break

Parallel SESSION 5 — Queer & Trans Reproductive (In)justice

- **Caroline Chautems & Thomas Méchineau** — Becoming a queer parent in Switzerland: Advancing perinatal health equity through LGBTQ+ lived experiences
- **Tamara Bosshardt** — Exploring Queer Paths to Parenthood in Switzerland
- **Melissa Pisteljic** — Needs and Experiences of Trans and Gender diverse Persons in Reproductive Health: A Swiss Qualitative Interview Study
- **Marie Fonjallaz** — Reproductive Rights and Trans Parenthood: Navigating Legal Margins
- **Clara Almeida Lozar** — Artisanal Reproduction and State Regulation: SameSex Families' Reproductive Narratives Through the Lens of Intrafamilial Adoption
- **Claire Grino** — Queer biological imagineries of sex: the case of the evolution of gamete fusion

Chair: Marie-Hélène Peter-Spiess

Parallel SESSION 6 — Borders, Mobilities & Decolonizing Reproduction

- **Mica Palaz** — Crossing borders, transgressing norms: Reproductive journeys from Switzerland
- **Marlyse Debergh** — Abortion, borders and (im)mobilities in Switzerland and in the Netherlands
- **Victor Santos Rodriguez** — Foregrounding 'hindered parenting' as a structural and functional feature of the Swiss migration regime (1946-2026)
- **Surangika Jayarathne** — Decolonizing Narratives on Birth Mothers in Transnational Child Adoption For Reproductive Justice
- **Ilaría Pretelli & Susanne Gössl** — Child Protection in CrossBorder Filiation
- **Garima Yadav** — Demographic Ambivalence: Demographic Desires and Anxieties in Contemporary India

Chair: Clémentine Rossier

Parallel SESSION 7 —Sexualities, Knowledges & Transnational Feminist Politics

- **Yara Barrense-Dias** — ASTRI: Analysis of Sexualities, Relationships and Intimacy among Young People in Switzerland
- **Carolina Topini** — Whose Knowledge, Whose Bodies? LARCs, Contraceptive Safety, and Transnational Feminist Campaigns (1980s–1990s)
- **George Severs** — Black women's sexual and reproductive health experiences in postwar England
- **Sahanah Kathirvelu** — Role of International Human Rights Framework in Recognizing Right to Menstrual Health as a Human Right
- **Jolene Yiqiao Kong** — Passing the Exams, Reaching the Shore: Pregnancy and the Labour of Medical Efficacy in Urban China

Chair: Nicole Bourbonnais

Closing remarks

Closing Drinks

Participants

Clara Almeida Lozar - TSPS, University of Fribourg & CEG University of Lausanne

Edmée Ballif - University of Lausanne and University of Zurich

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Claire Grino - Institute of Gender Studies, UNIGE

Marlyse Debergh - University of Fribourg

Marie Fonjallaz - University of Lausanne

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Emma Mavodza - ISEK, University of Zurich
Thomas Méchineau - Swiss Rainbow Families Association
Raquel Medina - Complutense University of Madrid
Maila Mertens - University of Zurich
Caterina Montagnoli - University of Basel and HEdS-Geneva
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Mica Palaz - University of Lausanne
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