
Introductory Remarks

MARIA JOHANNA SCHOUTEN

University of Beira Interior and CICS/University of Minho

Good afternoon, welcome everybody. We are happy to see such massive interest in this event, which promises to be quite important for today and also for the future. So we welcome the audience, the speakers who as you can see from the programme have interesting topics to discuss with you, and especially those who have come from abroad as part of the COST Action project, which we will explain later. One of them is Professor Soo Downe who is the Chair of this Action and she is one of the speakers.

I will very briefly introduce myself: I am Maria Johanna Schouten. I am Portuguese but also Dutch, and I am an anthropologist and sociologist on the academic staff of the University of Beira Interior (UBI) and the Centre for Research in the Social Sciences at the University of Minho (CICS/UM) in Portugal, and one of my interests is medical anthropology and sociology, and also gender so that is one of the reasons that I am also involved in this kind of research. On my left is the first speaker. She will give a short introduction about the situation in Portugal. She is Joanna White, an anthropologist as well. She is at the Centre for Research in Anthropology (CRIA-IUL) in Lisbon and at the moment she has a Marie Curie fellowship and is conducting a study on contemporary cultural processes relating to childbirth in the United Kingdom and in Portugal. And now I give the floor to Joanna.