

SAVE THE DATE

VII International Conference on Shared Parenting Challenges and Opportunities December **3, 4, 5 and 6** of 2025

Lisbon Law University (3,4,5) &
ISCTE (6)
Lisbon, Portugal



Third Announcement and Call for Papers

The Seventh International Conference on Shared Parenting (ICSP) will be held in Lisbon, Portugal from 3–6 December 2025 at the University of Lisbon and the University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE).

The conference will be held in person at the University of Lisbon on 3-5 December and at the University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE) on 6 December, with the option to join the whole conference virtually for those unable to attend physically. December 6 will also be the 10th International Conference on Equal Parenting of the Portuguese Equal Parenting and Children's Rights group, a Portuguese based NGO in this field. Specialists in the field of shared parenting and other family related issues representing the academic sciences, the legal and family professions, and civil society are invited to present their research results, professional practice accounts, and examples of best practice and impact at this international, interdisciplinary and interprofessional conference. The theme of this conference is:

Shared Parenting in Practice: Challenges and Opportunities

Since the formation of ICSP in 2014, there has been a growing consensus globally that shared parenting, where children alternate their home life across households, represents not just a viable model of family life for children and young people but in the majority of cases the most desirable outcome for them where parents do not live together. However, the ways in which shared parenting is enacted and the extent to which it is understood and supported *in practice* varies enormously from country to country and across jurisdictions. This is due not least to the different ways in which shared parenting can be viewed, depending on whether it is being considered as a judicial decision, a family practice, an administrative framework, a discourse, an aspiration, an ideology or a political tool. To this we might also add a psychological or emotional imperative.

The conference organisers seek contributions that will help unpack and address the challenges and opportunities that arise for shared parenting *in practice* from and through these different lenses. We are delighted to be able to host the ICSP Conference for 2025 in Lisbon, Portugal, and are particularly keen to hear from potential contributors from Brazil and South America more generally where shared

parenting has come to the fore in recent years raising both challenges and opportunities in equal measure. As a powerhouse of Latin America, the legal, social and cultural drivers that surround all aspects of shared parenting *in practice* within Brazil can provide a helpful barometer of change and transformation not just within the Americas but across the global south more generally. For this reason, many of the presentations will be simultaneously translated in English and Portuguese, making this a truly powerful and compelling opportunity.

The ICSP scientific committee cordially invite submissions for oral presentations that correspond to completed scientific research and practical accounts on a wide variety of topics linked, but not limited to, the conference theme. These include:

- **Shared Parenting under Brazilian and South American Laws** (e.g., the rule of law and the effectiveness of civil justice systems; recent legal challenges in the Brazilian Civil Code; Parental Alienation in the context of Brazilian and South American Laws)
- **Family Violence and Child Protection** (e.g., Family violence and the UNCRC under the Istanbul Convention and Brazilian Law; Family violence and shared parenting under Council of Europe law and the Barnahus model; Parental Alienation and family disruption; Research integrity and the UN report on Parental Alienation)
- **Representation of Children and Specialized Training** (e.g., child advocates; legal, social work, early years and child educators, third sector; family mediation, family therapy)
- **Shared Parenting, Mental Health, and Self-Esteem** (e.g., cooperative co-parenting, parallel parenting, parental conflict; trauma and attachment; neuroscience and neuropsychology; notions of home and belonging)
- **The Child's Best Interests** (e.g., the evolution and/or devolution of shared parenting law, policy and practice; regulating family responsibilities; in-camera family proceedings or allowing press access to family courts)
- **Shared Parenting and Wider Familial and Kinship Groups** (e.g., shared residence and social and cultural capital; the involvement of grandparents, siblings, and step-parents; shared parenting in the context of children with special educational needs and disabilities)
- **Family and Child Public Policy** (e.g., social policy – housing, parental leave, child support, child benefit packages, child and family welfare; the economics of shared parenting; economic policies in the context of changes in labour markets and economies)
- **Shared Parenting and Demographic Trends** (e.g., shared parenting in the context of declining fertility or rapid population growth)
- **Post-Separation Parenting, Artificial Intelligence, and Technology** (e.g., family communication; the role of technology/digital tools in helping parents and children manage post-separation care arrangements; maintaining consistency in parenting approaches through technology; post-separation parenting apps, including shared calendars, parenting planning software, expense trackers, and communication tools; improving family experiences accessing family and children justice; improvements of court and family management cases based on AI and technology; AI supporting decision-making)

About the Organisers:

International Council on Shared Parenting (ICSP)

The International Council on Shared Parenting (ICSP), founded 2014 and based in Bonn, Germany, is an international association with individual members from the sectors of science, family professions and civil society. The purpose of the association is first, the dissemination and advancement of scientific knowledge on the needs and rights (best interests) of children whose parents are living apart, and second, to formulate evidence-based recommendations about the legal, judicial and practical implementation of shared parenting.

Website: twohomes.org

Igualdade Parental

The Portuguese Association for Parental Equality and Children's Rights (**Associação Portuguesa para a Igualdade Parental e Direito das Crianças**) is an NGO that supports families in situations of parental divorce and separation. It promotes shared physical custody, positive parenting, family mediation, the prevention of parental conflict and encourages both training and research in matters related to children and their families. Established in 2009, Igualdade Parental provides a mutual aid group to support parents and their families, holds an annual International Conference on Parental Equality, and plays an influential role with Parliament in the production of legislation.

Website: <https://igualdadeparental.org/>