

# ANNUAL REPORT

Instituto de Investigaciones en Ciencias del  
Comportamiento (IICC)  
*(Research Institute of Behavioural Sciences)*



UNIVERSIDAD  
CATÓLICA  
BOLIVIANA  
ERIGIDA CANÓNICAMENTE  
POR LA SANTA SEDE DESDE 2023



**IICC**  
Instituto de Investigaciones en  
Ciencias del Comportamiento



# Welcome



UNIVERSIDAD  
CATÓLICA  
BOLIVIANA  
ERIGIDA CANÓNICAMENTE  
POR LA SANTA SEDE DESDE 2023



**IICC**  
Instituto de Investigaciones en  
Ciencias del Comportamiento

This year, the Research Institute of Behavioural Sciences (IICC) has strengthened its social impact in favor of children and adolescents in Bolivia, thanks to its multidisciplinary team and strategic allies.

**Marcela Losantos**  
Coordinator, IICC

**Research for the people, research within reach.**

In 2024, we conducted **ten research** projects on key topics such as violence against children, the justice system's response, child mental health, and family protection. We published **four articles** in indexed journals and a **book chapter edited at the University of Bristol**. Additionally, three of articles have been accepted, six are under peer-review, and four research reports, generated evidence to support decision-making in favor of children and bolivian families.

16 undergraduate students, mainly from UCB departments of Psychology and Communications, participated in our research projects, enriching their learning, and contributing new perspectives. Moreover, our partnerships with organizations such as SOS Children's Villages, Save the Children, the Lovain Cooperation, International Justice Mission, Johns Hopkins University, the Free University of Brussels (VUB), and Educo Bolivia, along with our participation in four international networks, expanded our reach and strengthened our initiatives.

At IICC, we believe in the transformative power of research, especially when conducted in collaboration with academics, non-academics, and the people whose stories help us build knowledge. We are grateful to everyone who made this year full of learning and achievements possible.

[WWW.IICC.UCB.EDU.BO](http://WWW.IICC.UCB.EDU.BO)

# Highlights of the year



UNIVERSIDAD  
CATÓLICA  
BOLIVIANA  
ERIGIDA CANÓNICAMENTE  
POR LA SANTA SEDE DESDE 2013



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# Our research projects this year

## Research Line: Children's rights and well-being

### Strengthening families: Assessment of family child protection in peri-urban districts of Bolivia



#### Key findings:

The study showed that 0% of families achieved an adequate level of protection according to the Updated Family Child Protection Index (IPIF-A). 2.6% were in the critical protection level, 90.8% were in the low protection conditions level, and 6.6% were in the moderate level. The main factors associated with this situation were children's exposure to violence, low parental self-efficacy, and precarious economic conditions. However, social support from family and friends stood out as a positive factor that helps strengthen child protection in highly vulnerable contexts.



Duration:  
**February -  
October 2024**



Funding Partner:  
**Aldeas Infantiles  
SOS Bolivia**

#### Aim:

To assess the state of family child protection in peri-urban districts of Bolivia through the update and application of the Updated Family Child Protection Index (IPIF-A).

#### Methodology:

Quantitative research based on surveys conducted with 1,206 mothers, fathers, and caregivers in ten peri-urban districts. The IPIF-A was validated through psychometric analysis, and probabilities were calculated using Odds Ratios.

#### Social impact:

To generate key evidence for the design of policies and interventions for Aldeas Infantiles SOS that strengthen family capacities and reduce the risks of child neglect.

[Research link](#)

# Research Line: Children's rights and well-being

## Risks and opportunities in the use of information and communication technologies among adolescents in Bolivia



### Preliminary findings:

**Digital Use and Skills:** Older adolescents have better digital skills, but girls face more barriers and higher risks, such as online sexual harassment.

**Risks:** 41.82% report experiencing face-to-face bullying, while 20.65% report online bullying; older adolescents are more vulnerable to digital sexual violence.

**Benefits:** ICTs are useful for schoolwork and socialization, but inappropriate content poses emotional risks.

**Parental Mediation:** While crucial, parental mediation declines with age; adolescents often bypass parental controls and feel superior in digital skills compared to their parents.

### Aim:

To understand the risks and opportunities faced by adolescents from different sectors of society at the national level in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs).

### Participants:

1,200 surveyed adolescents (ages 13-17) nationwide, 16 focus groups conducted with children and adolescents (ages 11-17), and 16 interviews with parents, mothers, and key stakeholders in La Paz, El Alto, Tarija, Cochabamba, and Santa Cruz.



Duration:  
**2024 - 2025**



Funding Partner:  
**Save the Children  
and ChildFund**

### Partnership and Guidance with Global Kids Online:

This research, conducted in collaboration with Global Kids Online at the London School of Economics, is the first of its kind in Bolivia. It will allow for international comparisons and the development of contextualized strategies for education and digital safety, fostering critical skills and protection for adolescents.

[Research link](#)

# Research Line: Violence Studies

## Brave voices: The impact of violence on the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents in La Paz



### Aim:

To examine how different forms of violence (physical, psychological, sexual, and technology-facilitated violence) impact the mental health of children and adolescents, considering well-being as a moderating variable.

### Key findings:

65% of students reported experiencing psychological violence, while 70% reported physical violence, with school and family environments being the primary settings where these incidents occur. Female adolescents were more vulnerable to sexual assault and cyberbullying.

Exposure to violence significantly increases the risk of developing depression and anxiety, negatively impacting material, relational, and subjective well-being according to the 3D model. Adults identified the need to strengthen protection systems and improve education on cyberbullying.

### Participants:

A total of 605 students (347 primary and 258 secondary school students) from 20 educational institutions participated in the study. Additionally, 21 adolescents and 10 adults (mothers, fathers, and key stakeholders) were interviewed.



Duration:

**June - November 2024**



Funding Partner:

**Educo in collaboration with SEPAMOS**

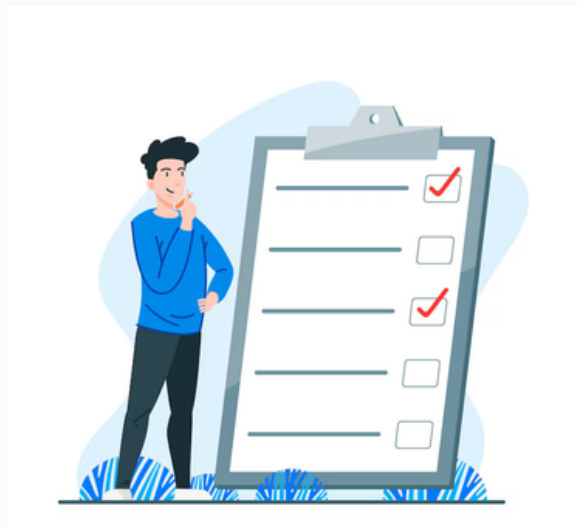
### Social Impact:

This study provides key evidence for the design of public policies and interventions that foster protective and resilient environments, reducing violence and improving the mental health of children and adolescents.

[Research link](#)

## Research Line: Violence studies

### Generating Political Priority for Addressing Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents in Bolivia



#### Aim:

This research project adopts a sociopolitical approach to analyze the political prioritization of sexual violence against children and adolescents in Bolivia. Its objective is to identify the factors influencing this prioritization and how it has evolved over time. Additionally, it seeks to develop strategies that encourage action against this global issue, identify theoretical and practical gaps that hinder its inclusion in Bolivia's protection agenda, and offer recommendations to increase visibility and strengthen advocacy.

#### Participants:

The study includes semi-structured interviews with 30 individuals from civil society organizations, institutions, policymakers, activists, and Indigenous leaders.

#### Key findings:

The research highlights the persistence of sexual violence against children and adolescents (SVCA) in Bolivia, with severe physical, psychological, and emotional consequences for victims. Despite legal reforms and international commitments, significant gaps in implementation remain due to sociocultural attitudes, political resistance, and institutional weaknesses. Historical and sociocultural factors, such as colonial legacies and systemic inequalities, perpetuate a culture of silence surrounding SVCA. Additionally, three key themes reinforce this silence: the normalization of incest and child marriage in certain contexts, the perception of SVCA as a private issue rather than a societal concern, and distrust in institutions, which discourages victims from reporting and accessing justice.



Duration:  
**2024 - 2025**



Funding Partner:  
**Johns Hopkins University**



## Research Line: Violence studies

### In My Shoes: Study on Violence Against Children, Adolescents, and Women and the Response of the Justice System



#### Aim:

To describe the response of the Public Criminal Justice System (SPJP) in Bolivia to physical and sexual violence against girls, boys, adolescents, and women through the implementation of four interconnected studies.

#### Key findings:

**Prevalence:** 40% of adolescents and 53% of women have experienced violence, with 44.4% of perpetrators being close acquaintances. The risk of revictimization is 84.3% among adolescents and 54.6% among women.

**Judicial Performance:** Legal proceedings exceed three years, and 30% of cases receive no response. Victims are required to testify up to 12 times, despite the legal standard requiring only one testimony.

**Trust in the System:** Only 21.7% of justice officials and related stakeholders express confidence in the Public Criminal Justice System (SPJP).

**Reporting Rates:** Only 4.5% of adolescents and 16.9% of women report incidents of violence. Furthermore, only 1 in 10 victims receives any form of restorative services.

#### Conclusions and calls to action:

- Physical and sexual violence against girls, boys, adolescents, and women is alarmingly high and exceeds the global average, requiring immediate attention.
- Encouraging reporting, removing barriers, and ensuring support for victims through specialized services and Trauma-Informed Care approaches is essential.
- The justice system must be strengthened through training, adequate resources, and concrete measures to hold perpetrators accountable and reduce violence.
- Prevention is key, and the State must lead coordinated efforts with civil society to protect the most vulnerable.



Duration

2022 - 2024



Funding Partner:

**International  
Justice Mission  
(IJM)**

[Research link](#)



## Research Line: Violence studies

### Mirrors in Conflict: Social Representations of Violence in the University Context Joint study by IICC and IISEC



#### Aim:

The study explored social representations of violence against women in the university environment, comparing and complementing the perspectives of male and female students at UCB in La Paz and Tarija.

#### Key findings:

The findings reveal a concerning normalization of aggression, with significant differences between men and women in recognizing violent behaviors. While women identify a broader range of actions as violence, men tend to minimize or justify them.

Additionally, the study found a high prevalence of sexual harassment and the persistence of victim-blaming attitudes. These relational dynamics underscore the urgent need for policies and programs that promote cultural change, hold perpetrators accountable, and strengthen safety and support in the university setting.

#### Methodology:

A concurrent mixed-methods research approach was used, collecting qualitative and quantitative data simultaneously, with separate analyses. The study included 20 interviews (10 with male students and 10 with female students) and 6 focus groups across two university campuses. Additionally, 264 surveys were conducted to measure attitudes toward violence against women in the university setting.

The surveys were completed by students from both campuses (La Paz and Tarija), selected based on their academic progress and representativeness of different degree programs.



Duration  
**2023 - 2024**



Funding Partner:  
**FRICA - UCB**

[Research link](#)

## Research Line: Violence studies

### Investigating Cultural Practices and Social Norms That Limit Women's, Adolescents', and Girls' Access to the Right to a Life Free from Sexual Violence in Bolivia



#### Aim:

The objective of this research is to generate knowledge about cultural practices related to the different types and forms of sexual violence against women, adolescents, and girls in Bolivia, specifically in the Amazon and Andean regions. To achieve this, the study will examine values, perceptions, and attitudes, as well as social and cultural dynamics that serve as underlying causes of sexual violence and other harmful practices in these prioritized contexts.

This understanding will enable the development of an effective intervention strategy for the culturally relevant prevention and response to sexual violence.



Duration:  
**2024 - 2025**



Funding Partner:  
**UNPF**

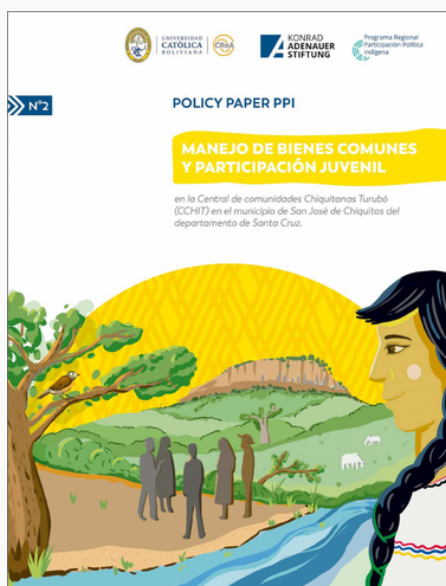
#### Participants:

Ethnographic fieldwork will be conducted in El Alto, Riberalta, and Potosí. In these areas, interviews will be carried out with professionals from government institutions and representatives of civil society. Additionally, field activities will take place in health centers, markets, and local festivities, where citizens will also be interviewed.

[Research link](#)

# Research line: Rights, youth, and environment

## Management of common goods and youth participation in the Central of Chiquitanas Turubó communities



### Aim:

To analyze the situation and management of common goods, identifying practices, perceptions, roles, knowledge, and perspectives across different population groups, with a particular focus on youth.

### Key findings:

Young people demonstrated extensive knowledge of common goods management and expressed active interest in these topics, leading to greater involvement in community dynamics. Their participation is influenced by structural, familial, and individual experiences, enabling them to take on leadership roles in defending their territory and natural resources.

### Participants:

The research involved 58 Indigenous youth, along with interviews and focus groups conducted with other community members.



Duration:  
**2023 - 2024**



Funding Partner:  
**CRaA Project funded by VLIR-UOS and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation**

### Social impact:

The project promotes awareness and empowerment of Indigenous youth, strengthening their capacity to manage natural resources and defend their territorial rights. This contributes to the environmental and cultural sustainability of their communities.

[Research link](#)

# Research line: Rights, youth, and environment

## Doctoral Research in Progress: Bridging Ideals and Realities – Exploring "Vivir bien" from a Child-Centered Rural Perspective



### Aim:

To explore the life experiences of children aged 6 to 12 to gain a genuine understanding of "Living Well" within the rural community of Chojasivi, Bolivia.

### Methodology:

This research combines Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) focused on children with Child-Led Research approaches. This positions children as co-researchers, giving them an active voice in the investigative process.

Through ethnographic methods and artistic tools, children not only share their experiences but also co-create knowledge about what "Living Well" means from their perspective. This approach emphasizes the importance of working with children as equal partners, recognizing the richness of their perspectives in building relevant and context-sensitive solutions.

### Participants:

Children aged 6 to 12 from the rural community of Chojasivi, La Paz.



Duration:  
**2023 - 2027**



Funding Partner:  
**UCB CReA Project with VLIR-UOS funds**

### Progress:

Scoping Review: Analysis of 435 articles (12 selected) to map and analyze children's and adolescents' participation in CBPR phases.

Documentary Review: Analysis of texts on "Living Well" in Bolivia and its connection to childhood.

Child- and Adolescent-Led Research Notebooks: Designed to help children and adolescents conduct research independently.

# Articles published in 2024

## ➤ Searching for your child as a form of resistance: First families' search strategies in transnational adoption from Bolivia

Cawayu, A. & Sacré, H.P. (2024). Zoeken naar je kind als een vorm van verzet. Zoekstrategieën van families van oorsprong in transnationale adoptie uit Bolivia. Tijdschrift voor Jeugd- en Kinderrechten, 2024/3, 177-193.

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[Online publication](#)

## ➤ Bolivia's journey towards effective child protection: challenges and opportunities

Losantos, M.; Morales, N.; Arias-Uriona, A.M.; & Guillén, N. (2024). In L. Brown, T. El-Hoss, & A. Gearon (eds.), the development of child protection systems and practice in low- to middle-income countries. <https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/the-development-of-child-protection-systems-and-practice-in-low-to-middle-income-countries>

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[Online publication](#)

## ➤ Can first parents speak? a Spivakean reading of first parents' agency and resistance in transnational adoption

Cawayu, A. & Sacré, H.P. (2024). Can first parents speak? a Spivakean reading of first parent's agency and resistance in transnational adoption. *Genealogy*, 8(1).

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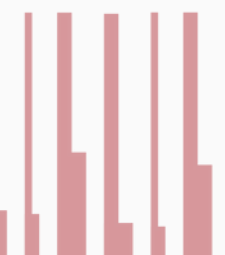
[Online publication](#)

## ➤ Self-control moralization: the role of moral identity and moral foundations in young adults

Orellana, D., & Roth, E. (2024). Self-Control Moralization: The Role of Moral Identity and Moral Foundations in Young Adults. *Revista Interamericana de Psicología/Interamerican Journal of Psychology*, 58(2), e1842-e1842. <https://doi.org/10.30849/ripijp.v58i2.1842>

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[Online publication](#)



# Upcoming publications in 2025

## ➤ Leaving Care Around the World: Twenty Years of the International Network on Transitions to Adulthood from Care

Losantos, M.; Cawayu, A.; & Mazó, J. (2025, accepted). Bolivia. In T. Rafeali & V. Mann-Feder (eds.), *Leaving Care Around the World: Twenty Years of the International Network on Transitions to Adulthood from Care*. Oxford University Press.

## ➤ Body Territory / Cuerpo Territorio

Cawayu, A. & Vertommen, S. (2025, accepted). *Cuerpo Territorio / Body Territory*. Kohl: A Journal for Body and Gender Research.

## ➤ Social Representations of Violence in the University Context

Losantos, M.; Olarte, K.; Martínez, O.; & Bravo, M.J. (2025, accepted). *Social Representations of Violence in the University Context*. *Revista Ajayu*.

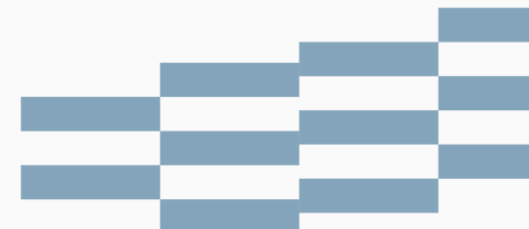
# Articles under review

## ➤ Demystifying Evil: Anthropological Contributions for the Exploration of Infanticide in Bolivia

Losantos, M.; Neri, J.P.; Mazó, J.; Orellana, D.; & Centellas, K. Manuscript under review at *Polar: Political and Legal Anthropological Review*.

## ➤ Mapping Young Voices: Scoping Review of Community-Based Participatory Research with Children in Rural Latin America

Mazó, J.; Jiménez, C.; Loots, G.; & Losantos, M. Manuscript under review at *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*.



# Articles under review

➤ **How family and institutional networks influence the empowerment of women-owned small businesses**

Morales, N. Manuscript under review at Revista Perspectivas.

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➤ **Social determinants of violence against women and health impacts: reviewing research priorities in Latin America**

Arias-Uriona, A. M.; Bedoya, P.; Losantos, M.; Villalobos, A.; & Orellana, D. (2024). Manuscript under review.

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➤ **Modelling the effects of child violence on women's health in developing countries: mediation through intimate partner violence**

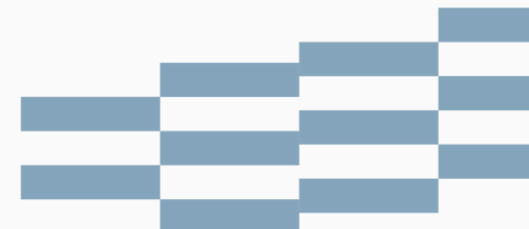
Orellana, D. Manuscript under review at Archives of Women's Mental Health.

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➤ **Analysis of environmental concern and its relationship with youth well-being in the context of urbanization among young people from rural communities in Bolivia**

Guillén, N. & Dorado, M. Manuscript under review at Revista Kawsaypacha: Sociedad y Medio Ambiente.

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# Training

## Diploma in Inclusion and Social Protection Policies (Second edition, virtual modality)



Duration:

**7 months (August 2024 to March 2025)**



Funding Partner:

**UNICEF and IICC-UCB.**

### Key Information:

- National and international professors.
- Master classes in each module.
- Program subsidized by UNICEF and IICC-UCB.

### Aim:

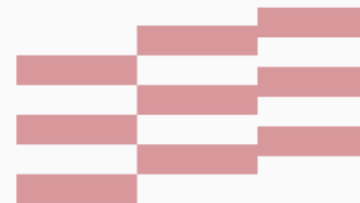
The Diploma in Inclusion and Social Protection Policies is a joint initiative between the Institute for Behavioral Science Research (IICC) of the Bolivian Catholic University "San Pablo" and UNICEF Bolivia. This program aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the principles, policies, and practices that underpin inclusion and social protection, addressing dynamics of social exclusion and designing effective and affordable protection systems.

### Number of participants:

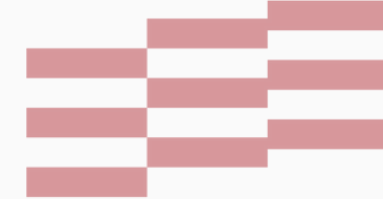
27 students

### Social Impact:

The diploma contributes to strengthening professional capacities to reduce social inequalities and ensure the protection of the most vulnerable groups.







## Participation in conferences



### Sexual Violence Initiative Forum - South Africa

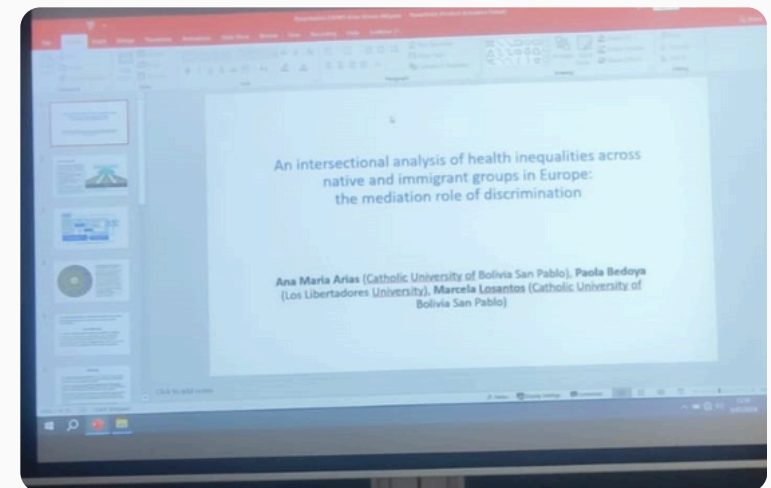
October 21-25 in Cape Town, South Africa

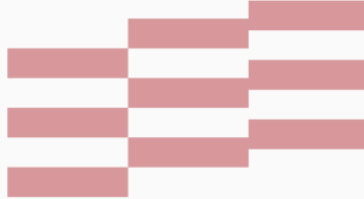
Marcela Losantos, coordinator of the IICC, presented the research titled "Tracing the Path to Incest Disclosure" at the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum 2024. The SVRI is a leading global organization focused on managing knowledge about violence against women and children, founded in 2003 as part of the WHO and now independent.

### ESHMS (European Society of Health and Medical Sociology): Intersectionality & Inclusion in Health, Amberes-Bélgica

July 2-5 in Antwerp, Belgium

Ana María Arias, senior researcher at the IICC, participated in the 20th Biennial Conference of the European Society of Health and Medical Sociology (ESHMS). During the event, she presented the application of an innovative methodology for quantitative analysis of the intersectional approach, mapping and highlighting the mediating role of discrimination in self-perceived health inequalities among migrants from low- and middle-income countries residing in Europe, compared to natives.





## Participation in conferences



### International Congress on Resilience in the Face of the Climate Crisis

July 24-26 – Santa Cruz, Bolivia

The Bolivian Catholic University "San Pablo" organized the International Congress "Resilience in the Face of the Climate Crisis." The objective of the congress was to create multidisciplinary dialogue spaces that lead to concrete actions contributing to resilience building.

During this event, the research findings on "Management of Common Goods and Youth Participation in San José de Chiquitos" were presented, along with the proposal "EcoPlat: Your Voice, Your Community."

### 4h Global Conference in Children and Youth - Cambridge

June 6-9 – Møller Institute, University of Cambridge

Jazmín Mazó Torrico and Camila Jiménez-Sánchez, doctoral candidates from Subproject 1, presented their paper "Mapping Young Voices: Scoping Review of Community-Based Participatory Research with Children in Rural Latin America." This study highlights the importance of including children in research on issues that affect them. Based on a comprehensive review of multiple databases, their work promotes inclusive practices in rural communities across Latin America.



## Participation in conferences



### Buenos Aires: The Right to Be Cared for in the Alternative Care System for Children and Adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean

**September 23-26**

Marcela Losantos, coordinator of the IICC, participated in the Conference on Alternative Care, organized by Institución Doncel, an organization specializing in the transition to adulthood for young people with institutionalization experience.

During the event, findings from the research on leaving alternative care from the Bolivian experience were presented, along with preliminary results of the comparative chapter between countries in the region. Taking advantage of the occasion, the annual meeting of the INTRAC Global research network was also held.



# Student involvement

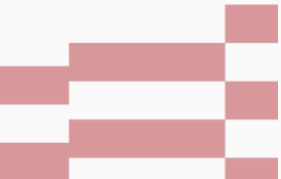
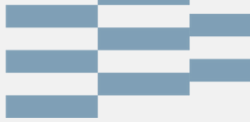
Our team is strengthened by new talents. Undergraduate students played a key role in our research projects, forming data collection and analysis teams across all studies.

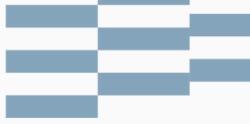


**12 students from  
psychology**



**4 students from  
social  
communication**





# Partners and funders



Louvain Coopertion  
Bolivia



VLIR UOS



Save the Children



ChildFund



Educo



Unicef



Aldeas Infantiles SOS



Konrad Adenauer  
Stiftung



Fundación Jubileo



UNFPA



Johns Hopkins  
University



Vrije Universiteit  
Brussel

# Our International networks



## Global Kids Online

Global Kids Online is an international research project aimed at creating a solid and comparative evidence base on how children and adolescents use the internet across different countries. Its goal is to understand the opportunities, risks, and rights of minors in the digital environment, providing methodological tools and data to inform policies and practices that benefit children in the digital age. The IICC is part of this global network, contributing to the study of digital experiences of children and adolescents in Bolivia. Through its participation, IICC helps to understand how Bolivian youth interact with digital technologies, identifying both opportunities and challenges they face in this domain.

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## Global INTRAC

Global INTRAC is an international network dedicated to researching and improving the experiences of young people transitioning from institutional care systems to adulthood. It facilitates collaboration among researchers, professionals, and policymakers, organizes global conferences to share findings and best practices, and has regional chapters that address specific challenges. Its goal is to influence policies and practices to promote the successful integration of these young people into society through evidence-based approaches.

# International networks we belong to



## European Society of Health and Medical Sociology

The European Society of Health and Medical Sociology (ESHMS) is a scientific community that brings together international researchers dedicated to exploring complex and relevant issues in the fields of health and medical sociology. Since its foundation in 1986, the society has regularly organized biennial conferences, promoting knowledge exchange and advancing the understanding of health issues from social perspectives.

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## Childhood, Culture and Cognition (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

The Childhood, Culture and Cognition research unit at Vrije Universiteit Brussel explores how children develop their understanding of the social world, focusing on classification schemes, social interactions, and cultural representations. Through Jazmín Mazó's doctoral research, IICC contributes to this network, providing insights on child well-being in rural communities in Bolivia.

More than  
800 people  
reached



**9 national events**



**IJM:**

Approximately 300 people, including key actors from the SPJP, NGO representatives, and members of the civil society.



**Tracing the Path to Incest Disclosure**

Dissemination in La Paz, Sucre, Cochabamba, and Santa Cruz to share the research findings.



**More than ten media outlets reached, including:**

La Vanguardia, EFeminista, La Razón, Cisex, Los Tiempos, El Deber, Opinión, among others.





# Looking ahead to 2025

## **Team Project: Resilient Minds, Sustainable Futures – Climate Change and Mental Health in Rural and Indigenous Communities in Bolivia**

The "Resilient Minds, Sustainable Futures" project, funded by VLIR-UOS, aims to enhance the well-being ("buen vivir") of rural and Indigenous communities in Bolivia that face high climate risk by strengthening their mental health resilience against climate change-induced stressors.

Using a transdisciplinary community-based research (TCBR) approach, the project seeks to co-create and mobilize scientific and community knowledge, develop preventive programs and culturally appropriate interventions, and strengthen local and institutional capacities.

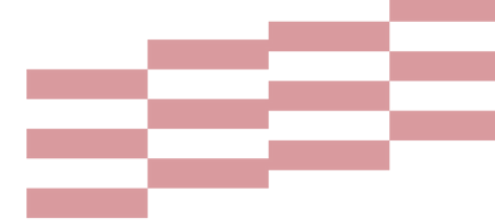
With a five-year duration, the project aims to positively impact community resilience, inform climate-sensitive public policies, and contribute to long-term sustainability.

## **EcoPlat: Your Voice, Your Community**

The EcoPlat platform, promoted by the IICC, is a collaborative space that brings together more than 10 institutions, including youth groups, communities, local authorities, cooperation agencies, public and private institutions, and academia.

Its main objective is to create synergies to empower youth from rural, urban, Indigenous, and peasant communities (CCRUI) in Bolivia, channeling economic, human, and other resources to enhance their well-being.

Through a transdisciplinary community-based approach (TCBA), EcoPlat aims to strengthen democratic leadership among young people and implement climate and environmental initiatives that address local challenges, improving their opportunities and contributing to the sustainable development of their communities.



# Partner testimonials



**Jimena Tito Rosquellas**  
**Thematic Expert in Child Protection and Governance**  
**Save the Children**

"My collaboration with the IICC has been enriching, particularly through research on incest and ICT use among adolescents, which generates key evidence for public policies. Our joint work, based on innovative methodologies, contributes to child protection and promotes lasting change."



**Eduardo Serrano**  
**Deputy Director**  
**Aldeas Infantiles SOS Bolivia**

"The absence of data makes the complex realities faced by children invisible. Together with the IICC, we work to reveal this reality and generate social impact."



**Daniel Perez Cueto**  
**Director - Regional Coordination Office for Andean America**  
**Louvain Cooperation**

"Our collaboration with the IICC has been fruitful, as we share common objectives, effectively integrating academia with professional practice, and jointly building innovative proposals."



## Mission

We aim to produce and renew knowledge in psychology and related interdisciplinary fields within a pluralistic and academically free environment. It aligns with the essence and values of the Catholic Church, fostering a constructive, open approach to the confrontation and discussion of ideas, respecting different theoretical and methodological perspectives in research activities.

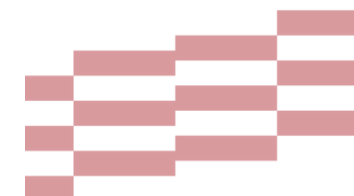
The interdisciplinary research conducted by the IICC seeks to involve all branches of the Bolivian Catholic University “San Pablo” related to the study of human behavior across all campuses.

## Vision

At mid-term, the IICC will be an established and self-managed institution within the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences. It will be capable of conducting high-level psychological research, led by top academic professionals in the country.

The IICC will serve as a space for critical reflection and competitive knowledge creation, recognized both nationally and internationally. Additionally, the institute will facilitate the dissemination and systematic application of the knowledge it produces, contributing to improving the living conditions of Bolivians. Finally, the IICC will be a recognized research center, accredited by national universities and its international peers.

# IICC team



## Marcela Losantos

Coordinator of IICC since 2015  
Ph.D. in Psychology, passionate about research on the rights of children and adolescents in Bolivia.



## Natalie Guillén Aguirre

Therapist and master's in research, committed to child and youth well-being, balancing environmental sustainability and economic opportunities for their communities.



## Atamhi Cawayu

Ph.D. in Gender Studies, with a background in sociology and anthropology. His research focuses on childhood and the child protection system.



## Percy M. Daza García

Business Administrator. Previously worked as a consultant and trainer in entrepreneurship and marketing. Currently, he serves as a logistics assistant for the CReA project at UCB.



## Ana María Arias

Ph.D. in health and well-being dynamics, medical doctor, specialist in quantitative methodology, social inequalities, and intersectionality.



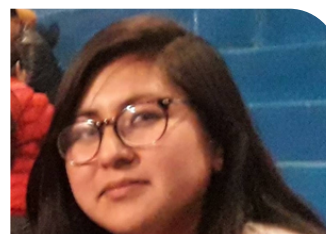
## Jazmin Mazó Torrico

Doctoral candidate, specialist in systemic clinical psychology and brief therapies. Ph.D. student at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), passionate about participatory methodologies centered on children's well-being.



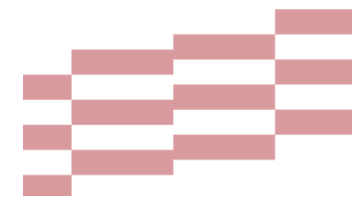
## Milenka Cordova

Project administrator at IICC, with experience that has allowed her to understand the significant impact of research on society.



## Mabel Meneses

Project administrator for UCB-VUB, chemical engineer with experience in project management and administrative development, enhancing her expertise in international cooperation.

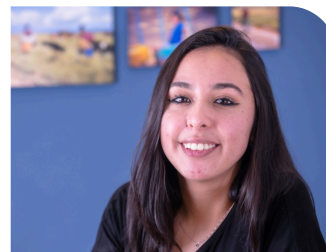


## Adjunct researchers



### **M. Narayani Rivera**

Psychologist (UCB), master's in social psychology (UAM), and Ph.D. candidate in human rights (UdG). Researcher at IICC since 2023, specializing in gender-based violence.



### **M. Fernanda García**

Psychologist (UCB) and junior researcher with an interest in violence prevention and child and adolescent protection.



### **Andrés Villalobos Guzmán**

Psychologist and researcher with a focus on social psychology, cultural studies, and qualitative methodologies. Currently works as a researcher at IICC.



### **Lorena Alarcón**

Licensed psychologist and junior researcher, interested in violence against children and adolescents and gender studies. Currently working as a researcher at IICC.

## Interns



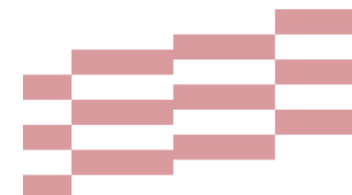
### **Ana Belén Ayo Kudelka**

Intern since July 2024, serving as a research assistant in three projects during the current cycle. Currently in her final semester of psychology.



### **Mariana Dorado Alem**

Research assistant at IICC since 2023, currently in her sixth semester of psychology.



## Work-Study scholarship students



**Eduardo Vargas**

Administrative assistant at IICC. Despite being a mechatronics engineering student, he has gained valuable experience in the administrative processes behind social research projects.



**Emily Sánchez**

Fourth-semester psychology student and scholarship assistant at IICC. She is particularly interested in social research and its impact on the current Bolivian context.





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