

Foster care and diversity? – New insights and research desiderates

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Small discussion groups

What new insights on foster care and diversity did we gain during the Conference?

What research should be done in the field of diversity and foster care?

« Diversity » questions the « normality »

To what extent should there be a norm for foster care?

How do our foster care services adapt to diversity?

33 papers were presented during this exciting conference:

- 18 investigate the perspective of children in care or care leavers
- 11 of foster carers
- 5 of social workers
- 3 of experts in foster care
- 2 of adults in general population
- 1 used case files
- and 1 paper includes the perspective of birth parents.

Why does research not seek the perspective of birth parents?

Could they help to better understand young people's diverse backgrounds and identities?

Diversity is a cross sectional issue

that needs to be considered
in every research we do in foster care

In Foster Care Research, **we have to find a balance between**

(a) focusing on diversity and doing research on every particular group of children/ parents / foster carers

(b) Focusing on the «big picture» in foster care

→ *What do we learn from research on a **particular** group about foster care in **general**?*