The hidden side of obstetric violence
North-south dialogue on the appropriation of women’s pregnant body

16th February 2016 | 3:30 – 5:00 pm
Professionshøjskolen Metropol – Jordemoderuddannelsen, room D033
Sigurdsgade 26 Copenhagen N

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Several South American countries have passed laws against obstetric violence. Obstetric violence is also a concept that is recognised in the World Health Organisation’s statement on the “Prevention and elimination of disrespect and abuse during childbirth”. The concept is often used to refer to the misconduct of health professionals, particularly in poorer, foreigner settings. However, this approach reinforces blame on health staff, and misses the broader and somewhat invisible dimensions of violence against women that frame the concept of “obstetric violence”, as defined and discussed in the Latin-American and some South European countries. In this presentation, we aim to present the key features of obstetric violence. We will discuss if the concept of obstetric violence is relevant in a European context, and we will discuss how we should recognise obstetric violence in the maternity care system.

Image: APDMGP (Portuguese Association for the Rights of Women in Pregnancy and Childbirth). From the Birth Shades Campaign: “Take her to caesarean because this is not going to work any other way” https://sombrasdoparto.wordpress.com/