

## COLLOQUIUM

### The State of Orgins. Adoption and Biographical Conflicts in France and Ethiopia

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Thur. **Oct. 25**, 2018

3:30-5:00pm

SBSG 1517

"The "origin question" runs through contemporary debate over filiation; today, the initial conditions of an adopted child's conception and/or upbringing – prior to arrival in his or her adoptive family – should be divulged, ostensibly for the benefit of his or her psychic wellbeing. By focusing on international adoption (based in particular on research conducted in Ethiopia), this communication explores the social and political consequences of this new injunction to "transparency," and questions the practical procedures that allow such a story to be constructed. Putting "your" past into words and having "access" to it are individual actions that are partly conditioned by States' strength and archival policies, revealing the public aspect of (auto) biographical accounts."

