Digital Futures Network Day – EPFL 2018

Practices, experiences and needs of migrant women regarding new technologies of information and communication (ICT) around pregnancy and the postnatal period (MI-TIC study).

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BACKGROUND:

ICT are widely used by mothers(-to-be) to access information, to document pregnancy and the health of their infant. Parents from transnational families also use ICT to maintain contact with their family or friends living abroad.

However, ICT use by mothers(-to-be) has mainly been documented within (upper) middle-class populations. Hence, little is known regarding ICT practices, experiences and needs in less privileged populations, such as migrant and/or allophone mothers(-to-be). Yet, this population is a priority from a public health standpoint as it has a poorer maternal and neonatal health as well as an unequal access to health care services including health related information.

In addition, preliminary findings – that need to be documented – show emerging practices of health care professionals and social workers using ICT and collaborations with interpreters to improve the access to services and information of allophone families.

OBJECTIVES:

To explore the ICT practices, experiences and needs of migrant and/or allophone mothers(-to-be):

1. For information and translation purposes
2. For the development and continuation of social relationships with relatives and friends
3. For the access to health care professionals or social workers through the mediation of an interpreter

METHODS:

A socio-anthropological fieldwork with a triangulation of qualitative methods: ethnographic observations and interviews and semi-directive interviews carried out with the collaboration of interpreters in 8 languages (French, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Albanese, Arab, Tigrigna, Tamoul).

The research will be realized in partnership with two associations:

- PanMilar: offers birth preparation classes with interpreters for allophone mothers(-to-be) (Vaud).
- L'Arcade sages-femmes: offers many services to parents(to-be) among which a free postpartum attendance in a priority neighborhood called "Les Libellules" in Vernier (GE).

PanMilar
Préparation à la naissance dans votre langue

Arcade sages-femmes

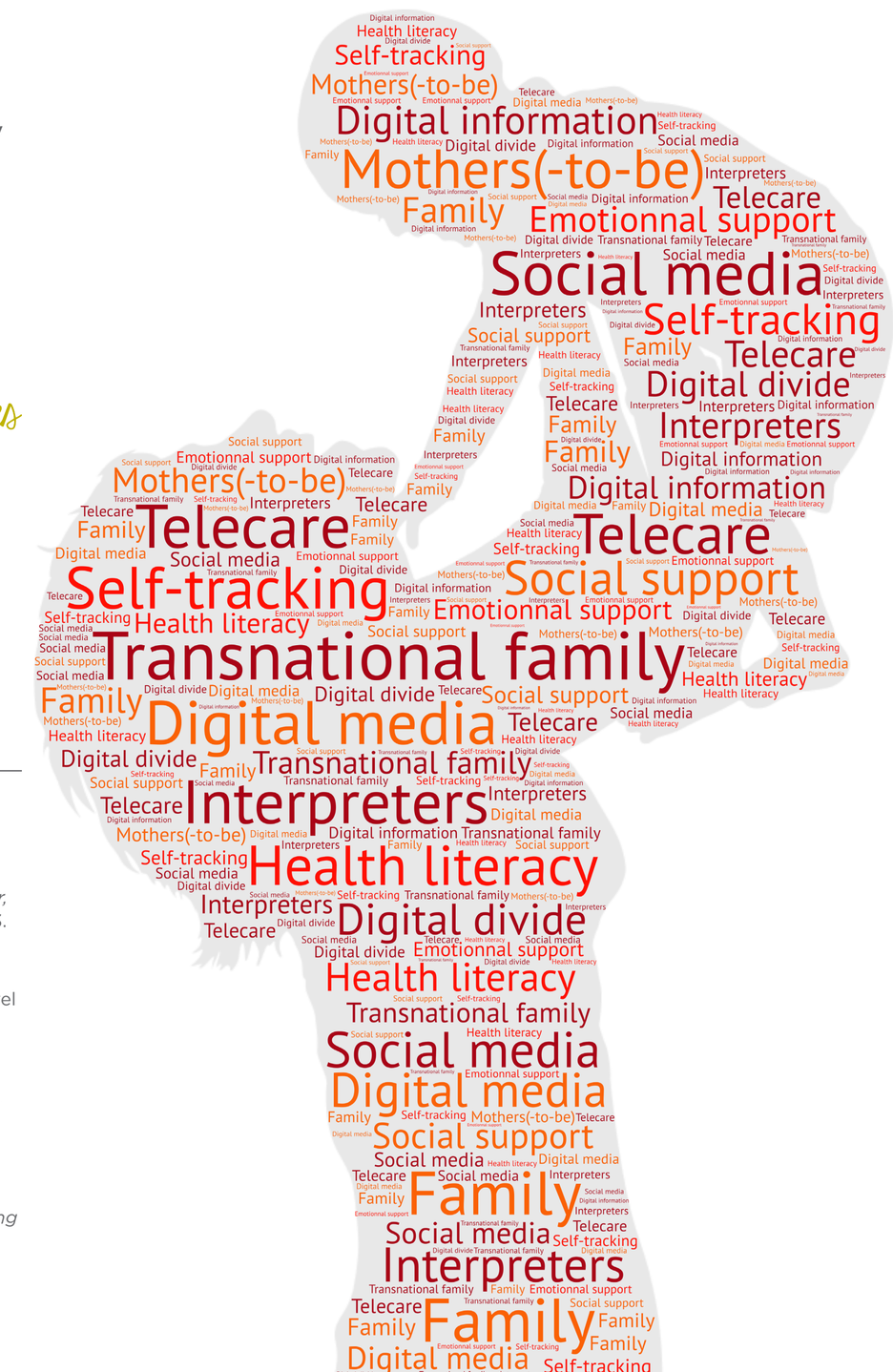
TARGET POPULATION:

Ethnographic observations and interviews (n=30) and semi-directive interviews (n=40) will be conducted with:

- Migrant and/or allophone mothers(-to-be)
- Interpreters
- Health care professionals and social workers

ICT:

A secondary purpose is to enquire about the suitability of an ICT interface to improve the access to health related information and to health care services of migrant and/or allophone mothers(-to-be). The originality of our project is to foresee to create such a tool while taking mothers' needs and preferences into account.



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