PRIVATE LIFE, FAMILY AND ADOPTION 1975-1991

An Abstract of the Thesis by Viviana Camila Ariza Cárdenas

Adoption in Colombia has predominantly been a matter of the private sphere, as state regulation of this process and the establishment of centralized institutional frameworks did not materialize until the 1960s. However, this attempt was plagued with difficulties and resulted in a hybrid system heavily reliant on private institutions. The journey of social assistance in the country has been long and filled with challenges. This research delves into the topic of adoption in Colombia through the examination of an adoption archive to explore institutional transformations, discourses, and mentalities surrounding the idea of family instituted by the Bogotá elite. Additionally, it examines the various forms of violence, stigmatization, and silence surrounding the formation of a family through the adoption process in the Colombian context, establishing a practice based on numerous class tensions.