



CATE ROBINSON

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Professional Summary

I am a deeply motivated individual with a desire to improve services for children and young people both in terms of their protection and wellbeing. I have significant social work experience and I also have experience in child care research, consultancy and coaching. I am keen for my career to follow a path that can positively influence children and their families not only through direct work, but through the implementation of evidence based practices and supporting change at national and international levels in government policy.

Current Projects

Founder and President of the Chilean Foster Care Association (AFAC www.somosafac.cl)

June 2020 - ongoing

AFAC is the first Foster Care Association in Latin America (confirmed by RELAF 2022).

Current Responsibilities: Support the development of AFAC into a new stage of being, with new and adapted services that better meet the needs of the foster carers.

Main responsibilities:

- Manage the connections, communication and support for a national group of foster carers, co-constructing ideas and experiences with the intention of improving the lived experience of the carers and the children and young people in their care.
- Motivate participation in group activities, meanwhile providing individual support, and generally promoting understanding about foster care and attracting more carers through the sharing of experiences.
- Lead a group of volunteers through the implementation of a board of directors and different teams that engage in daily running of the Association.
- Lead and deliver online meetings via zoom, promoting the association, delivering training, and testimonial nights.
- Lobby with government and relevant actors in child care and protection and beyond to promote foster care and advocate for positive changes in policy and practice.

- Work within a network of foster care programs to design and promote foster care. Supporting the first national campaign “Acoger Es”, launched this year.

Specific achievements:

- Three international online seminars held in June 2021, 2022, 2023 with national and international invitees presenting foster care issues and experiences.
- Launching of the first National Foster Care week in June 2022.
- Today the Association has over 170 members

Lifestyle and career coach: Wings for Success Coaching and Consultancy

October 2014 – ongoing

Main Responsibilities:

- Online coaching to motivate, inspire and promote change in the lives of clients.
- Using a strengths and relational perspective to support the achievement of goals, the breaking of habits, and the development and maintenance of wellbeing.

Publications*

- Co-author with lead investigator and author Irene Salvo Agoglia: *“Walking towards adoption: Series of guidelines” (Transform adoption, Fondecyt 2022).*
- Investigator and Author: *“How to facilitate that more children and young people over 6 can leave residential care and live in families” (Fundación ProAcogida, 2022).*
- Co-author: *“It wasn’t 30 pesos, it was 30 years”. 30 years on from the ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (Universidad Diego Portales, 2020).*
- Collaborator: Revision and elaboration of protocols and instruments for visits to residential child care centers (CIDENI/ Defensora de la Niñez, 2020)
- Co-author: *Foster care a method of alternative care in the framework of the new institution of the national service of protection. (Universidad San Sebastián, 2019).*
- Collaborator: *Investigation of the revision and analysis of specialized foster care of the direct administration and collaborators. (UNICEF, 2019).*
- Principal investigator and author: *Initial processes of recruitment, evaluation, training and allocation of foster care families. (Pro Acogida, 2018).*
- Associate investigator: *From statement to right: Quality standards for residential protection homes for children and young people. (Hogar de Cristo 2017).* *All titles have been translated.

Professional Experience

Consultancy on the project: Rethinking adoption from the perspective of the children and young people with Irene Salvo Agoglia in the Fondecyt no. 11200491

March 2022 to March 2024

Main Responsibilities:

- Research and write guidelines for: the transition of children and young people from residential care and foster care to adoption; the adoption of brothers and sisters; lifestory work and prevention of adoption dissolution or breakdown.
- Support the presentation of this work in seminars and group activities.

External consultant and expert for the investigation led by the University San Sebastián: Evaluating the experience of foster care programs in the South of Chile during Covid 19.

January 2022 to November 2022

Main responsibilities:

- Support and guide the investigative team in considering relevant literature, review the progress of their work, provide ideas to help the development of the project.
- Presentation in a seminar online organized by the University regarding the Association (AFAC).
- Write a review of the investigative work completed.

Consultant with Centro CUIDA, Pontificia Universidad Católica and Fundación San José

January 2022 to July 2023

Main responsibilities:

- Evaluate the current Foster care program for the foundation.
- Investigate, design and write a report presenting an improved foster care program.
- Carry out training regarding the design and implementation of the program to the professionals across all teams in the foundation.

Investigator for the study: How to facilitate that more children and young people over 6 can leave residential care and live in families. Fundación ProAcogida.

June 2021 to December 2021

Main responsibilities:

- Design and carry out the investigation

- Interview international experts in the field of alternative care.
- Analyze and present the results and conclusions in a report and then in an online seminar with authorities in child protection in Chile.

Independent Consultant in Alternative Care: University Diego Portales

March 2020 - November 2020

Main responsibilities:

- Co-author on a chapter for the Human Rights annual report by the Diego Portales University discussing the recent social uprising, the pandemia and the current and historical problems within the Chilean alternative care system.

Independent Consultant in Alternative Care, CIDENI (Centro Iberoamericano de los Derechos del Niño)

April 2020 - August 2020

Main Responsibilities:

- Support colleagues with an international literature review regarding the standards of auditing and supervision of children's homes.
- Construct questionnaires for young people to use within an audit of residential and secure care.

Lecturer and coordinator of the diploma: '*Relational intervention strategies in residential and foster care*' Universidad Católica.

August 2019 – 2021

Main responsibilities:

- Presentation of the diploma to interested parties to invoke interest.
- Organization of the diploma and the lecturers to ensure the smooth running of the course.
- Lecturer for the modules: A relational approach in alternative care; good practice, strategies and relational interventions in alternative care.

Independent Consultant in Alternative Care

Ministry of Social Development, Chilean Government:

March 2019 - July 2020

Main responsibilities:

- Design and write the theoretical framework, practices, standards and indicators for a new system of support for young people living permanently or partially in situations of homelessness.

Independent Consultant in Alternative Care UNICEF

March 2019 - March 2020

Main responsibilities:

- Support the design of the technical guidelines for the Chilean Government's new pilot foster care recruitment, evaluation and training program.

- Support the design of the new pilot for emergency foster care.
- Support the redesign of the technical guidelines for the national foster and kinship programs.
- Complete various reports on foster care: such as an international literature review; the process of fostering and adoption in different countries; emergency foster care; processes for the recruitment and training of foster carers.
- Design and write a manual for the evaluation of foster carers including tools, instruments and ideas for pre-service training

Shared Country Representative (Chile) Project Trust January 2016 - March 2020

Main responsibilities:

- Provide guidance, support and mentoring to young people on their volunteer gap year in Chile.
- Take action in crisis situations to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the young people.
- Source new projects and maintain support to current projects.
- Complete checks and make necessary arrangements to prepare organizations and families in Chile for the arrival of volunteers.

Founder and member of the national foster care program network: Red Acogida

August 2018 – 2022

Main responsibilities:

- Create the first national campaign to advertise foster care with the aim of attracting more foster care families.
- Support and encourage fostering as the first choice for alternative care in Chile.
- Connect organizations and programs involved in fostering.
- Lobby for better policy and practice in foster care.
- Participate in leading and organizing the monthly meetings.

Independent Consultant in Alternative Care

Participant in the national working group for foster care.

Sename: October 2018 - April 2019

Main responsibilities:

- Participate in monthly meetings with professionals and experts involved in foster care.
- Collaborate, provide ideas, information and evidence for the development and improvement of foster care programs.

Independent Consultant in Alternative Care

Collaboration in the investigation: *Investigation of the revision and analysis of specialized foster care of the direct administration and collaborators* UNICEF – CIDENI.

December 2018 – January 2019

Main responsibilities:

- Collaborate with the development of the analysis
- Collaborate with the revision of international literature
- Participate in team meetings.

Co-Designer for the diploma: Relational intervention strategies in residential and foster care. Universidad Católica: (FOCUS, Pro Acogida). October 2018 - December 2018

Main responsibilities:

- Design of a new diploma for professionals in alternative care using the model of child and youth care relational practice.

Independent Consultant in Alternative Care

Universidad San Sebastián: October 2018 - December 2018.

Main responsibilities:

- Revision of international literature comparing residential and foster care, foster care practices and evidence in foster care.
- Collaboration in team meetings.

Director of investigations

Pro Acogida: April 2018 - October 2018

Main responsibilities:

- Responsible for decisions, the execution of plans and leading team meetings.
- Collaboration on the proposals for the government: Proposals for strengthening foster care families in Chile: advancing towards the right to live in a family; and Proposals for alternative care: advancing towards an early family intervention model.
- Presentation of the proposals to the national working group on child protection, a number of the recommendations were then included in the National Agreement for Children (Government of Piñera, April 2019).
- Presentations and lobby to various political ministers: Gabriel Boric, Hugo Gutiérrez, Juan Antonio Coloma, Carolina Marzán and Francesca Muñoz.
- Responsible for the investigation, organization of volunteers and the writing of the study: ***Initial processes of recruitment, evaluation, training and allocation of foster care families.***

Director of residential girls' home REM/PER, Hogar de Cristo

October 2017 to March 2018

Main responsibilities:

- Manage the care and protection of the girls living in the residential home 24/7.
- Support, monitor, review and assess family contact.
- Promote, support and supervise the development of the team.
- Provide a transparent service of support to the children and their families.
- Support case analysis for adequate decision making.
- Manage all financial human resources linked to the home (budget, food, rotation and monthly planning of work schedule, volunteers etc).

Residential Child Care Researcher,

Department of Social Work Studies Hogar de Cristo: 2015 - 2017

Researcher investigating the needs of children in children's homes and the standards required to meet these needs.

Main responsibilities:

Shared responsibility in the design and planning of the research. Completion of an international literature review on best practices in residential childcare, models of residential

care and standards of care. Assessment, review, and synthesis of international standards in residential child care. Use of the RAND framework to determine essential standards of residential child care. Primary interviewer in each of the 30+ interviews conducted with children. Secondary interviewer in interviews with families, young adults who have left care (home visits) and staff (focus groups). Provision of feedback within the team, generating and translating ideas to support the development of the research. Involved in providing the foundational information for the development of a new practice model to be implemented in two pilot adolescent residential homes.

Children and Families Social Worker,

South Lanarkshire Council, Scotland 2005 - 2015

Main responsibilities:

Provide advice, guidance and assistance to parents and their children. Assess and manage need and risk to ensure the wellbeing of children and adolescents. Use the appropriate legislation and policies to manage the protection of children.

Work with families to negotiate and make decisions to ensure the protection of children. Work with children and families developing relationships to support interventions to encourage positive change. Work in partnership with agencies to share information and meet the needs of the child and family. Attend meetings in various settings, presenting assessments and information relevant to the situation to help inform decisions. Record keeping, report writing, review of documents and assessments as required. Working within deadlines for the Children's Hearing and court processes.

Education

Doctoral Student University of Girona. January 2020 – September 2023

Honorary Research Fellow Strathclyde University: 2015 - 2017

MPhil: Strathclyde University 2009 - 2015 Answering the research question: "What are social workers needs in engaging in direct work with children and young people?"

BA DipSW in Residential Child Care: Strathclyde University 2002-2005

Languages

Native English speaker. Fluent Spanish speaker.

Other Achievements

Reiki Master 2013 - 2018, Reiki Chile.

Life Coaching Diploma with Achievement Specialists 2014 - 2015 This diploma involved 9 months of study and supervision and 50 hours of voluntary coaching.

Project Trust volunteer: Hogar de Cristo (Chile), living in a residential girls home, setting up and working in a nursery 2000-2001. Volunteer: residential girls home Hogar de Cristo (two months, 2003). Head Girl: Berwick upon Tweed High School (1999-2000).

Duke of Edinburgh: Bronze, Silver and Gold (1995 - 1999).