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Changing Fertility: Social, Demographic and Ethical Consequences of Assisted Conception Technologies

Cambridge, 23 May 2016



Welcome!

We are very pleased to have you at the 2016 Philomathia Forum on “Changing Fertility: Social, Demographic and Ethical Consequences of Assisted Conception Technologies”. This forum is co-organised by the Reproductive Sociology Research Group (ReproSoc) and the Philomathia Social Sciences Research Programme at the University of Cambridge. This Forum is made possible by the generous support from The Philomathia Foundation and The Wellcome Trust.

Aims and Scope

Over the past 35 years IVF has expanded to become a worldwide industry, linked to an ever widening range of cognate technologies, and seemingly endless consumer demand. The rapid expansion of assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) has brought renewed hope to couples with difficulties conceiving, and relieved the burden of unwanted childlessness for many. At the same time they have extended the biological age limits of childbearing, and more generally have changed the very meaning of ‘human reproduction’ – which is now increasingly viewed as a highly technologically mediated process. As the use of ARTs has become increasingly widespread, the sector has also raised many ethical and practical questions, involving, among other things, health implications for mothers and children, equality of access to

treatments, commercial and transnational reproductive transactions, and legal regulation.

So far, less attention has been given to the significance of ARTs in relation to theories of fertility change, birth rate decline, or other forms of what are known as ‘demographic transition theory’. At the same time, we know that in every country where IVF and other ARTs have been developed, the consequences for reproduction have been complex and multifaceted. The effort, then, to ‘situate fertility’ more precisely in relation to the impact of ARTs represents a crucial, but largely unexplored, area of study. These issues are directly linked to policy implications regarding the level of spending on ARTs and the question of whether demographic or fertility implications should play a part in how these technologies are monitored, provided, or regulated. This forum will address these questions by bringing together scholars from various disciplines, leading figures in the ART sector, and policy makers from the UK and abroad.

Organizing committee: Prof Sarah Franklin, Prof Jacqueline Scott, Dr Nitzan Peri-Rotem and Chantal Nowak




Timetable




12:30-13:00	Registration and light lunch
13:00-13:30	Welcome and introduction
13:30-15:00	<p>Changing Fertility? ARTs, Population and Demography</p> <p>Dr Kamal Ahuja, The London Women’s Clinic</p> <p>Dr Lone Schmidt, University of Copenhagen, Department of Public Health, Section of Social Medicine</p> <p>Dr Tomáš Sobotka, Vienna Institute of Demography and Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital</p>
15:00-15:30	Break and refreshments
15:30-16:30	<p>Responses and discussion</p> <p>Chair: Prof Sarah Franklin, Director of Reproductive Sociology Research Group (ReproSoc), Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge</p>
16:30-17:00	Break and refreshments
17:00-18:30	<p>“Julian Huxley’s Reproductive Futures”</p> <p>Public Lecture by Prof Alison Bashford, Vere Harmsworth Professor of Imperial and Naval History, University of Cambridge</p> <p>Chair: Dr Nitzan Peri-Rotem, Philomathia Fellow and Research Associate at ReproSoc, Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge</p>
18:30-19:00	Drinks reception
19:00	Dinner at the Riverside Restaurant

Forum Participants

	<p>Kamal Ahuja Dr Ahuja is Chairman of Reproductive BioMedicine Online, an international medical journal, and the Scientific and Managing Director of the London Women's Clinic Group. He gained his PhD at Cambridge, which sparked his lasting interest in clinical IVF. The ethics of IVF and its cost effectiveness continue to be part of his research interests. kamal.ahuja@londonwomensclinic.com</p>
	<p>Alison Bashford Vere Harmsworth Professor of Imperial and Naval History, and Fellow of Jesus College at the University of Cambridge. Her research connects imperial and world history with medical and environmental histories. She is author of <i>Global Population: History, Geopolitics and Life on Earth</i> (Columbia, 2014) and co-author, with Joyce E. Chaplin, of <i>The New Worlds of Thomas Robert Malthus: Re-reading the Principle of Population</i> (Princeton, 2016). acb90@cam.ac.uk</p>
	<p>Peter Braude Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Division of Women's Health at King's College London and a fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences. His research interests include reproductive health and subfertility, preimplantation genetic diagnosis, human embryonic stem cell derivation and mitochondrial donation. peter.braude@kcl.ac.uk</p>

	<p>Robert Doubleday Executive director of the Centre for Science and Policy at the University of Cambridge. His research interests include the role of science, evidence and expertise in contemporary societies, in particular the relationship between scientific advice, public policy and democracy. rvld2@cam.ac.uk</p>
	<p>Katie Dow Research Associate at ReproSoc in the Department on Sociology, University of Cambridge. Her main research interest is the ethical dilemmas and questions provoked by reproduction and assisted reproductive technologies. She is particularly concerned with the ways in which ideas of nature and naturalness are implicated in morality and ethics, as well as the importance of gender, class, ethnicity and sexuality in structuring parenting and reproduction. kld52@cam.ac.uk</p>
	<p>Sylvie Dubuc A senior research fellow in Population Studies at the Department of Social Policy and Intervention at the University of Oxford and a visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Cultures of Reproduction, Technology and Health at the University of Sussex. She is mainly interested in population dynamics, reproductive choices and behaviours, gender and social inequalities and the role of cultural contexts and policy. Her current work involves son preference and prenatal sex selection in Asian countries. sylvie.dubuc@spi.ox.ac.uk</p>

	<p>Claire Fenton-Glynn University Lecturer in the Faculty of Law and a member of the Centre for Law, Medicine and Life Sciences at the University of Cambridge. Dr Fenton-Glynn specializes in human rights and family law. Her research interests include assisted reproduction and surrogacy from a comparative perspective and private international law rules concerning the recognition of parenthood. ces74@cam.ac.uk</p>
	<p>Yvonne Frankfurth In her MPhil dissertation, Yvonne explores the legal regulation of reproductive technologies in Germany, particularly pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD). Broadly, her research interests include medical and legal sociology, (particularly concerning genetic and reproductive technologies), public health, and gender. yif2@cam.ac.uk</p>
	<p>Sarah Franklin Prof Franklin holds the University Chair of Sociology at Cambridge where she directs the Reproductive Sociology Research Group (ReproSoc). In her recent monograph, <i>Biological relatives: IVF, stem cells and the future of kinship</i> (Duke 2013), she explores the ways in which contemporary ideas of the biological are undergoing transformation, often in intimate contexts such as technological quests for parenthood, through which the process of making new biological relatives engenders a new relativity of the biological. sbf25@cam.ac.uk</p>

	<p>Zeynep Gürtin Research Associate at ReproSoc in the Department on Sociology, University of Cambridge. Her research interests concern the social and ethical issues surrounding the globalization of assisted reproductive technologies. Her work specializes in three areas: IVF in the Middle East, egg-donation and egg-sharing, and "reproductive tourism". zbg20@cam.ac.uk</p>
	<p>Nicky Hudson Dr Hudson is a Reader in Medical Sociology at De Montfort University, Leicester. She also leads the Reproduction Research Group, a multi-disciplinary research cluster based in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences. Her research interests involve social aspects of infertility and reproduction. Her work also focuses on the sociology of chronic illness and ethnic diversity and inequalities in health and care. nhudson@dmu.ac.uk</p>
	<p>Emily Jackson Professor of Law at the London School of economics and political science and Deputy Chair of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, of which she has been a member since 2003. Her research interests are in the field of medical law and ethics and particularly the regulation of reproductive technologies and stem cell research. e.jackson@lse.ac.uk</p>



Karen Jent

Karen Jent is a PhD student whose project ethnographically explores notions of biological growth – normal and malignant – in stem cell therapy development between the tissue culture lab and the cancer ward. The project specifically examines how regenerative medicine materializes connections between the regeneration of immune systems, bodily environments and aging societies in Scotland.

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Martin Johnson

Martin Johnson is an Editor of Reproductive BioMedicine Online, joint senior editor of Reproductive BioMedicine and Society, and Emeritus Professor of Reproductive Sciences in the Department of Physiology, Development and Neuroscience at the University of Cambridge UK. His current research interests are the history of the reproductive and developmental sciences and their historical relationship to the development of human IVF and other clinical technologies, and to their regulation legally and ethically.

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Tim Lewens

Tim Lewens is a Professor in the History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Cambridge, and a Fellow of Clare College. He is a member of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics, and the author of various books and academic articles including *The meaning of science* (Pelican, 2015) and *Darwin* (Routledge 2007), a philosophical study of Darwin and Darwinism. His research interests include philosophy of biology, philosophy of science and philosophical bioethics.

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Sayani Mitra

Sayani Mitra is a PhD student at the Department of Medical Ethics and History of Medicine, Goerg August Universitaet, Goettingen, Germany. Her doctoral research deals with the aspect of risk and disruptions during the course of gestational surrogacy in India. Currently she is a visiting researcher at the ReproSoc in Cambridge.

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Sarah Norcross

Sarah Norcross is Director of the Progress Educational Trust (PET), Commissioning Editor of its flagship publication BioNews and Co-Chair of the campaigning organisation Fertility Fairness. She is also a Member of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority's National Donation Strategy Group, the National Gamete Donation Trust's Advisory Council and the Association of Fertility Patient Organisations.

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**Willem Ombelet**

Willem Ombelet (MD, PhD) is the founder of the Genk Institute for Fertility Technology. He became the Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the ZOL Hospitals in Genk in 1999. In 2010 Willem Ombelet co-founded The Walking Egg non-profit organisation, which strives to implement accessible infertility programmes in resource-poor countries.

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**Nitzan Peri-Rotem**

Philomathia Research Associate at the Department of Sociology and a member of the Reproductive Sociology Research Group (ReproSoc) at the University of Cambridge. Her main research interests are in the sociology and demography of the family. In her recent work, she explores the relationship between partners' relative resources and the transition to parenthood and union stability. She is also interested in socioeconomic disparities in access to infertility treatment.

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**Robert Pralat**

Research Associate at ReproSoc in the Department on Sociology, University of Cambridge, Robert's research combines his interests in parenting and sexuality. Through in-depth interviews, he studies how people who, historically, have not been expected to have children respond to cultural changes related to sex and the family. Specifically, Robert's work examines non-heterosexual parenthood in

	<p>contemporary Britain, with a particular focus on assisted reproductive technologies and sexually transmitted infections.</p> <p>rp422@cam.ac.uk</p>
	<p>Lone Schmidt Associate Professor at the Department of Public Health, Section of Social Medicine at the University of Copenhagen. She is also the Coordinator of the Copenhagen Multi-centre Psychosocial Infertility (COMPI) Research Programme. Her research interests include reproductive health with a special focus on infertility, assisted reproduction, family formation and prevention of infertility.</p> <p>lone.schmidt@sund.ku.dk</p>
	<p>Jacqueline Scott Professor of empirical sociology and a Fellow of Queens' College Cambridge. Her research interests focus particularly on gender inequalities and changing gender roles; changing family and household structures; inter-generational relations; generational shifts in attitudes and behaviours and life course processes. From 2004-2010 she was the Director of the ESRC Research Priority Network on Gender Inequalities in Production and Reproduction, the largest research multi-disciplinary network of its kind in the UK.</p> <p>jls1004@cam.ac.uk</p>



Wendy Sigle

Professor of gender and family studies at the Gender Institute and the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion at The London School of Economics and Political Sciences. She has worked on a variety of issues related to child fostering, child health and single parenthood in both historical and contemporary societies. Her recent publications have focused on the potential impact of proposed welfare reform policies in the US and the living arrangements of new parents.

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Tomáš Sobotka

A research group leader on “Comparative European Demography” at the Vienna Institute of Demography and Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital. His main research interests are fertility intentions and behavior in low-fertility settings and assisted reproduction, including the role of ART in countering fertility decline in Europe.

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Arne Sunde

Professor of Medicine at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Children’s and Women’s Health (LBK) and Director of the Fertility Clinic at St. Olavs Hospital in Trondheim, Norway. His research involves different methods of assisted reproduction and their success rates.

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Simon Szreter

Professor of History and Public Policy at the University of Cambridge. He is interested in comparative demographic, social and economic change. His current research includes the study of qualitative and quantitative sources on the history of fertility decline in Britain, including a new project on the venereal diseases and fertility decline.

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Juliet Tizzard

Juliet has worked in and around IVF for nearly 20 years, starting her career in a small charity and working in the British Medical Association ethics department, before becoming Head of Policy at the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority in 2009. During her time at the HFEA, Juliet has overseen large policy reviews and public consultations, such as mitochondria replacement and compensation for egg and sperm donors.

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Ayo Wahlberg

Associate professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Copenhagen. Working broadly within the field of social studies of (bio)medicine, his research has focused on traditional herbal medicine (in Vietnam and the United Kingdom), selective reproductive technologies (in China and Denmark) as well as health metrics (in clinical trials and global health).

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Clare Williams

Professor of medical sociology at Brunel University London. Her research focuses on four inter-related areas: the sociology of biomedical ethics; gendered experiences of chronic illness; the sociology of medical/scientific professions; and the development of new medical technologies. Her current research explores the social, medical, scientific and ethical aspects of innovations in biomedicine, particularly the interface between the lab and the clinic in the fields of pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, stem cell research, embryo donation and experimental neuroscience.

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Lucy van de Wiel

Research Associate at ReproSoc in the Department on Sociology, University of Cambridge. Her research focuses on the interdisciplinary study of assisted reproductive technologies and their relation to contemporary conceptualisations and practices of ageing. This relation is at the heart of her current research project on egg freezing, titled Freezing Fertility: Oocyte Cryopreservation and the Gender Politics of Ageing.

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