

Centre for Reproduction Research Seminar Series

Wednesday 24th May 2017, 12 – 1.30, Edith Murphy House, Room 4.10

Dr. Sophie Zadeh, Centre for Family Research, University of Cambridge

'Fathers, donors, and men: Mother-child communication in solo mother families'

As places are limited, please email CRR@dmu.ac.uk if you wish to attend to secure your place.

Abstract

The existing literature on families formed through the use of reproductive donation has often attended to the question of whether or not parents tell their children about their donor conception, and with what effects. Although the extensive developmental psychological research on this topic would suggest that sharing this information with children when they are at an early age may be beneficial, less is known about how reproductive donation relates to patterns of family communication more generally. This talk will draw upon data from a UK longitudinal study led by Professor Susan Golombok at the Centre for Family Research of single mother families in which children have been conceived using donor sperm. Based on data from both mothers and children, findings from the second wave of the ongoing study will be discussed in relation to notions of communication and representation. It will be argued that the social psychological and sociological theories relating to these concepts may offer new avenues for researchers interested in the experiences of families in which a donor has been involved in conception.

Speaker biography

Sophie Zadeh is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge, where she is also affiliated to the Centre for Family Research. Her research takes a social psychological approach to the study of families formed through the use of assisted reproduction. For the last six years, she has been working on a study of single mother families in which children have been conceived using donor insemination. During her postdoc, she has focussed on the issue of how best to study children's perspectives in families formed through the use of reproductive donation. For more information please see: <http://www.cfr.cam.ac.uk/directory/SophieZadeh>