

Centre for Reproduction Research Seminar Series

Wednesday 21 February 2018, 12 – 1.30, Edith Murphy House 1.27

Wendy Norton:

Gay men's journeys to parenthood via surrogacy: an exploratory study of UK residents.

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

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Desire and motivation to parent has often been conceptualised as a women's reproductive concern whilst relatively little is known about men's reproductive desires, reproductive decision making and reproductive experiences. Gay men have traditionally been stereotyped as uninterested in children and parenting, yet an increasingly number of same-sex male couples are exploring the possibility of surrogacy as a means of creating a family. Advances in assisted reproduction technologies have somewhat blurred the social and traditional boundaries of reproduction and parenting, creating new opportunities for gay men to not only achieve parenthood, but to become biological parents.

Very few studies have explored gay men's use of surrogacy to become parents, and to date, no studies have explored men's use of surrogacy within the UK context where gamete donation is highly regulated and commercial surrogacy is illegal. Drawing upon theoretical concepts of procreative consciousness and procreative responsibility (Marsiglio, 1991) and Critical Kinship Studies (Krolokke et al, 2015; Riggs & Peel, 2016) this PhD study explores men's motivations to parent via surrogacy and the factors which may facilitate or constrain this aspiration. In addition, this study examines the extent to which normative assumptions about procreation and child-rearing may marginalise gay men in terms of their procreative planning and decision-making, and enacting their parental rights and responsibilities.