

Centre for Reproduction Research Seminar Series

Wednesday 22 November 11:30 – 1:00

Edith Murphy House room 4.10, De Montfort University, Leicester

Damien Riggs, Flinders University

'Navigating reproductive desires and demands in the context of fertility preservation for transgender people'

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

Abstract

Whilst there are many pathways to parenthood for transgender people, increasing attention has been paid to the decisions that transgender people make in terms of fertility preservation prior to commencing hormone therapy or having gender affirming surgeries. Such decisions are often made in the context of guidance from clinicians in terms of the options available with regard to fertility preservation. Decisions about fertility preservation are also made in the context of the value accorded to reproductive citizenship, and conversely the institutional barriers to reproductive justice for transgender people. As such, this paper suggests that there is a tension present in the context of fertility preservation for transgender people between a need to support and facilitate the reproductive rights of transgender people, without defaulting to a narrative of 'just in case' (i.e., undergoing fertility preservation 'just in case' stored gametes might be used in the future). Whilst the former requires concerted action in terms of increasing access to services, the latter requires such services to offer a balanced account of fertility preservation, especially given research evidence on 1) success rates re: assisted reproduction using frozen gametes, and 2) the considerable distress that many transgender people experience when undergoing fertility preservation.

Speaker biography

Damien Riggs is an Associate Professor in social work at Flinders University and an Australian Research Council Future Fellow. He is the author of over 200 publications in the areas of transgender health, family life, and reproduction, including (with Clemence Due) *A Critical Approach to Surrogacy: Reproductive Desires and Demands* (Routledge, 2017).