



# Postgraduate Conference: The Sociology of Technologically Mediated Reproduction

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
De Montfort University, Leicester

Postgraduate students and early career researchers are invited to submit abstracts for presentation at 'The Sociology of Technologically Mediated Reproduction', a one day conference being hosted by the [Reproduction Research Group](#) at De Montfort University, Leicester. The conference will include a keynote lecture from [Professor Sarah Franklin](#), Cambridge University, and a writing workshop providing advice on publishing in the field as well as a chance to network and discuss work with fellow students.

## Call for papers

Assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) converge at the intersection between gender, technology, kinship, commerce and politics and therefore generate considerable public, ethical and academic debate. Sociologists continue to have a significant role in understanding the ways in which technologically mediated reproduction is variously interpreted in these debates as representing progress, promise or threat in a range of social contexts. Authors and researchers in this field have successfully demonstrated how local regulatory practices and diverse cultural settings mediate the experiences of those engaging with ARTs, both as 'users' and 'providers'. Feminist sociologists in particular have raised important questions about the exploitation of women, especially in low resource countries, and have highlighted issues of commercialisation, globalization, exploitation, reproductive rights, and medicalisation as central concerns to a sociology of ARTs.

This postgraduate conference aims to facilitate critical theoretical reflection and discussion of on-going empirical work across the ART landscape. It will offer an opportunity for postgraduates to debate and develop their work in an informal and participatory environment. This conference also hopes to stimulate the development of a new postgraduate network bringing together students and researchers working in the field of technologically mediated reproduction.

**Papers for oral presentation are welcomed that address any area relating to technologically mediated reproduction including, but not limited to:**

- IVF/ICSI
- Gamete donation
- Gamete or embryo cryopreservation
- Mitochondrial donation/replacement
- Preconception technologies
- Pre-implantation genetic diagnosis
- Surrogacy
- Cross border reproductive travel
- Men/male infertility and assisted reproductive technologies
- Sex selection
- Stem cell research

Students are invited to submit abstracts of no more than 250 words to Kylie Baldwin [kbaldwin@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:kbaldwin@dmu.ac.uk) by Friday 21st March. Authors whose abstracts are accepted for oral presentation will receive a small contribution towards their travelling costs and will be exempt from attendance fees.

Postgraduate students who are interested in attending the conference can find further information and can register via the British Sociological Association website <http://portal.britisoc.co.uk/public/event/eventBooking.aspx?id=EVT10336>

Registration closes on Friday 16th May. All delegates, including those not selected for oral presentation, will be invited to display an A3 poster for discussion at the event. The posters will be judged by senior members of the Reproduction Research Group and the winning poster will receive a £20 Amazon voucher.