

Centre for Reproduction Research Seminar Series

On **Wednesday 19th March 2025 12 noon – 2pm**, we'll welcome two speakers presenting their respective research on donor-conceived individuals.

Dr Sophie Zadeh, University of Sussex

Sibling 'mismatches' in donor conception

In both academic and non-academic writing, it is common for similarities between donor siblings to be emphasised: siblings have similar mannerisms, tastes, and physical appearances. Using interview and questionnaire data from the Young Adults Study, a multi-method UK-based ESRC-funded study that ran from 2020-2024, in this talk I shall instead highlight the 'mismatches' described by young adults who are donor conceived. Donor siblings may be personally different; they may want very different things (particularly with regards to contact); and they may have different rights in law to information. I will focus on how these 'mismatches' are articulated and experienced against a cultural backdrop that emphasises donor sibling similarity rather than difference.

Biography: Sophie Zadeh is a Reader in Family Psychology at the University of Sussex. Her research addresses the experiences and perspectives of parents and children in non-normative family forms, with a focus on families formed through donor-assisted conception.

Dr Sabrina Zeghiche, Université du Québec en Outaouais (Canada)

"I came into the world through a back door, under a false identity" - Insemination Fraud and Its Impact on Donor-Conceived Individuals' Perceived Identity

"Insemination fraud" refers to cases where a physician knowingly replaces the selected sperm sample with a different one (including their own, another donor's, or another clinic patient's) without the parents' knowledge or consent. This presentation aims to provide a deeper understanding of this phenomenon by exploring the experiences of donor-conceived individuals who have been affected by it. Specifically, it examines the impact of insemination fraud on their perceived identity. A qualitative study was conducted between 2021 and 2024, involving semi-structured interviews with 21 donor-conceived individuals (15 women and 6 men) who had discovered they were affected by insemination fraud. This study highlights the profound impact of insemination fraud on the perceived identity of those affected. Given these findings, it is crucial that donor-conceived individuals receive the medical, political, and legal recognition they deserve.

Biography: Sabrina Zeghiche (she/her) is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Social Work at the Université du Québec en Outaouais (Canada). She holds a PhD in sociology from the University of Ottawa (Canada). Her research interests focus on complex reproductive trajectories, with a particular emphasis on perinatal loss and bereavement, as well donor sperm conception.