

Biographical ,optimization‘ of parenting through reproductive medicine

Changes in family planning and gender meanings

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The pilot study aims to investigate the biographical 'optimisation' of parenthood through reproductive medicine. It explores how family planning and the meaning of gender and parenthood are changing in the context of growing possibilities to optimize biographical planning and realization of parenthood. In particular, motivations and consequences of reproductive medical treatments are analysed.

The pilot study uses interviews with (expectant) parents who have undergone treatment in reproductive medicine to examine ideas and presentations of gender and parenthood in the context of reproductive medicine with a view to the following questions: How are individual experiences with reproductive medicine treatments narratively presented and biographically interpreted and how are they related to optimization requirements in biography and lifestyle? Which images and interpretations of gender and parenthood are effective in the interviews and which social ideas and gender-specific stereotypes are referred to? How do normative orientations on reproductive medicine flow into self-presentations and gender constructions?