The ART of reproducing difference
Discussing (in)equality in the context of reproductive travel

Workshop with Lectures by Prof. Charlotte Kroløkke (University of Southern Denmark) and Dr. Michal Nahman (University of the West of England)

29-30 October 2015, University of Bern, Switzerland

CALL FOR PAPERS

A growing body of research has demonstrated how inequalities and notions of difference permeate the practices of assisted reproduction. They range from the exclusions from reproductive technologies on the basis of sexual orientation or economic power to the global and local inequalities that structure the travel directions of physicians, surrogate mothers, egg donors, patients or money. In this sense, ARTs create new forms of labour at the intersections of gender, race, ethnicity, age, nationality, and class. Feminist informed research, in particular, has criticized the asymmetries that structure the “outsourcing” of reproductive services, as well as the potential exploitation of and the inherent medical risks for infertility patients, egg donors and surrogates (Deomampo 2013; Nahman 2008, 2013; Pande 2010; Pfeffer 2011; Whittaker 2011). Yet, in this new global bio-economy, power relations are not only deployed, (re)produced and entrenched. They are also contested and undermined (Kroløkke et al. 2012, Waldby/Cooper 2008).

In this workshop, we pay attention to this dual nature of reproductive traveling and explore how we can make sense of the involved differences and (in)equalities, particularly along the lines of ‘race’, whiteness and national identity. We would like to discuss the following questions: Whose bodies are made “bioavailable” (Cohen 2005) in the market of assisted reproduction? In which ways are global/ (post-)colonial inequalities (re-)produced through this new bio-economy? What are the reasons for the emergence of different travel routes in cross-border fertility care and how are these developments linked to different categories of inequality? What are the specific biopolitics underlying these movements? How can (feminist) notions of agency and autonomy be discussed in the context of the mentioned inequalities? How do new global intimacies both reproduce and challenge national, racial, social, and economic boundaries? We invite empirically or theoretically informed papers that address one or more of these questions.

The two-day workshop, taking place from 29-30 October 2015 in Bern, aims at providing a platform for 15 scholars from Switzerland or neighbouring countries working on assisted reproductive technologies. This workshop serves to create networks between scholars from different disciplines but also between academia and political activism in the realm of assisted reproduction.

Presentations and discussions will be held in English. Funding for travelling expenses and accommodation is available thanks to the generous support of the Nachwuchsförderungs-Projektpools der Universität Bern and the Vereinigung akademischer Mittelbau der Universität Zürich.
Please send your abstracts (max. 300 words) alongside a short biography to veronika.siegl@anthro.unibe.ch and carolin.schurr@geo.uzh.ch by May 15, 2015. Accepted papers will be announced no later than June 1, 2015.

Organizing Team:

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References:


