

## **Biographical 'optimization' of parenthood through reproductive medicine. Changes in Family Planning and Meaning of Gender**

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The pilot study investigates the biographical 'optimization' of parenthood through reproductive medicine. It is explored how family planning and the meaning of gender and parenthood change in the course of the increasing opportunities for optimizing biographical planning and realization of becoming a parent. In particular, the motives and consequences of reproductive medical treatments are analysed.

In the pilot study interviews with (expectant) parents who have undergone a reproductive medical treatment are conducted to examine the representations and images associated with sex, gender and parenthood in context of reproductive medicine. The following questions are investigated: How are individual experiences of reproductive medical treatments narratively presented and biographically interpreted? How are they related to requirements of optimization in biography and lifestyle? Which images and interpretations of gender and parenthood take effect in the interviews and which social ideas and gender-specific stereotypes are referred to? How do normative orientations on reproductive medicine affect self-presentations and gender constructions?