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Abstract

PGD Users' Subjectivities: British and American Discourses in Conversation

The central objective of my larger project is to investigate how genetic risk and responsibility are conceptualized in relation to preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD), and how examining discourses of risk, responsibility, normalcy, and pathology can open up the space for analyzing cultural, political economic and ethical implications of reproductive genetics. One component of my research is to analyze users' representations of PGD as discussed in an online bulletin board in the US. For this workshop I will discuss preliminary findings from this Internet forum, and put these discourses into conversation with contemporary ethnographic research on British users of PGD that has been conducted by Celia Roberts and Sarah Franklin. My discussion will focus on comparing and contrasting the ways that users construct their subjectivities within these national contexts, and how the governance of reproductive technologies within nationalized and privatized health care systems may contribute to divergences in terms of how users frame themselves in relation to this technology. These preliminary findings provide insight both into how users justify or condemn uses of PGD and how they construct their own subjectivities in relation to reproductive genetics.