

## Styles of governance and practice of Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis

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Built on the platform of in vitro fertilization (IVF), the technique of preimplantation diagnosis (PGD) provides the first bridge between the effort to assist reproduction and the ability to intervene in heredity of human beings out of any research lab. Giving the opportunity to alleviate the suffering of genetic anomalies by selecting embryos at a stage where they are still “in glass”, PGD presents new kinds of genetic choices that have raised many questions about the governance of life, especially in some European countries. Among them, those that enforced the strictest regulations on IVF and PGD are without a doubt Austria, Germany, and Italy. In these contexts, PGD has played a very ambivalent role, in that has been at the same time the symbol of the most dreadful effects of IVF, and, at the same time, the reason to withdraw some of its firmest rules. Analyzing the regulatory framework, the public debate, and the practices of PGD in these three countries, this research aim is to analyze what Sheila Jasanoff has called the determinate and contingent patterns of “framing” of PGD.

In this presentation I will focus on the iconic image of PGD and “designer babies” in Italy. Ironically, they have been fiercely associated with a new form of liberal eugenics in the period of the ratification of the Italian law on IVF (l. 40/2004), but then they played an opposite role, in the decisive process of liberalization of IVF.

Tracking PGD as a thread of the fabric of IVF, I will try to make some general remarks about the acceptability of biotechnologies and, in particular, genetics in the field of medicine.