Abstract

Debate over access to Assisted Reproductive Treatment (ART) has focussed primarily on the question of equitable, non-discriminatory access to medical services for noncoital (i.e. assisted) reproduction. For example, securing access rights for single women and same sex couples. However, as I will argue, equal access to ART does not necessarily generate an absolute right to unfettered assistance. Noticeably less attention has been paid to the circumstances in which restrictions on ART access might be ethically justifiable. This project evaluates whether ART restriction is ethically justified, or perhaps even ethically required, where significant child welfare concerns exist for the future ART child. It will also examine understanding of risk in other child welfare contexts (i.e. adoption and foster care) to inform decision-making about ART access where child welfare concern exists.