

Architecture of rerogenetic objects

This talk, based on the findings of my thesis, investigates a very recent phenomenon, the geneticisation of human conception using discourse analysis (following Foucault). The geneticisation of conception is analysed as a clash of international, mainly US-American, scenarios of genetics, biomedicine and reproductive medicine with local, very different scenarios and contexts in reputable German print media between 1995-2003.

The study shows that the geneticisation in reproduction amalgamates contraception and conception in a general laboratory fertilisation thereby normalising infertility as well as the wish to have a child of non-coupled or non-heterosexual persons or other 'abject bodies' (Butler).

Additionally, the concept of health-promising features of the child (genetic equipment of the embryo) shifts over the time period analysed from 1995-2003 towards the free choice of genes.

Current analysis on discourse about new genetic reproductive technologies finds the categories risk (Beck), responsibility and choice to be prominent. This study, in contrast, shows that in current public experts' future fictions, the human procreation as standardised laboratory conception revolves around categories that have received little attention so far: love, empowerment and suffering. The shows how these different categories are linked to each other and by which ways they attach to 'global' values that function as bridge heads (Weingart) in the introduction of rerogenetic technologies.