Donor Insemination: International Social Science Perspectives

Donor insemination or DI is the oldest and most widely practised form of assisted conception. Until now, it has largely been assessed as if an entirely medical concern. This book brings together an international group of social scientists to discuss the social, cultural, political and practical dimensions to DI, relating it to the wider debates about fertility treatment and the place of assisted conception in contemporary society. The contributors consider the experience of DI from the viewpoints of all the various parties involved, including the recipients of the treatment, the sperm providers, the clinicians, the people conceived and policy-makers working in the area. The assumptions informing the world-wide practices around DI and the reactions to it are critically examined, with reference to cross-national perspectives, and to issues such as the language of DI, gender, sexuality, ethnicity and identity.

KEN DANIELS is Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work, at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand. He has written widely on the policy issues and psychosocial aspects of assisted conception, and is a member of the New Zealand National Ethics committee on Assisted Human Reproduction.

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Donor Insemination
International Social Science Perspectives

Edited by
Ken Daniels and Erica Haimes
KD: To Tricia for her love, unstinting support and many sacrifices

EH: To my family, friends and Robin to thank them for all their love and support.
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KEN DANIELS is Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. He has been working in the field of assisted conception and particularly DI for twenty years, and during that time has published over sixty papers. He has been used as a consultant by government or government appointed bodies in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Sweden, Australia and New Zealand.

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Notes on contributors

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SIMONE BATEMAN NOVAES is a sociologist and full-time researcher at the Centre de Recherche Sens, Ethique et Société (CERSES) of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in Paris, France. Her research focuses on ethical questions raised by novel medical practices, particularly in the area of reproduction, as well as on the legal and political aspects of these issues. She is interested in the way social practices are constructed around technical innovations which question our usual conceptions of being and acting human. She has recently published *Les passeurs de gametes* and has edited a volume *Biomedicine et devenir de la personne* (1991).

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ROBERT SNOWDEN is the Professor of Family Studies in the Sociology Department, Exeter University. During the last twenty-five years his research interests have focused exclusively on the topic of reproductive behaviour. The research institute he founded in Exeter University is designated a Collaborating Centre for Research in Human Reproduction by the World Health Organisation. He was a founder-member of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (1990-1993) and is an Honorary Life Member of the Family Planning Association. In 1994, he was admitted as a Fellow of the Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Robert and Elizabeth Snowden are among the first to have undertaken research into the social and personal implications of donor insemination.
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## List of abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFS</td>
<td>American Fertility Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHR</td>
<td>assisted human reproduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>AI</td>
<td>artificial insemination</td>
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<td>AID</td>
<td>artificial insemination by donor</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIH</td>
<td>artificial insemination by husband</td>
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<tr>
<td>ART</td>
<td>assisted reproductive technologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>BAAF</td>
<td>British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering</td>
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<tr>
<td>CECOS</td>
<td>Centre d’Etude et Conservation du Sperme (and more recently, Centre d’Etude et de Conservation des Oeufs et du Sperme Humaine)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DI</td>
<td>donor insemination</td>
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<tr>
<td>GIFT</td>
<td>gamete intra-fallopian transfer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HFE Act (1990)</td>
<td>Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, United Kingdom (1990)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HFEA</td>
<td>Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, United Kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>human immunodeficiency virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICSI</td>
<td>intra cytoplasmic sperm injection</td>
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<td>IVF</td>
<td>in vitro fertilization</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAC</td>
<td>National Association for the Childless, United Kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTA</td>
<td>Office of Technology Assessment, United States Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCNRT</td>
<td>Canadian Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCOG</td>
<td>Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, United Kingdom</td>
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