



Project Newsletter

Transnational Reproduction: An exploratory study of UK residents who travel abroad for fertility treatment.



Welcome to Newsletter No.3

We are now approaching the last leg of the project and are pleased to let you know that things are progressing well.

Our data collection phase is now complete and we have conducted the following interviews:

- 15 interviews with key stakeholders including clinicians, nurses, counsellors, and patient support group representatives
- 50 interviews with 'users' or intended users of overseas fertility clinics

Our task now is to undertake the analysis of what has become a large and complex set of data.

As many of you will be aware, qualitative data is very detailed and rich, but requires a thorough

approach to analysis if our interpretations are to be considered reliable.

The initial analysis demonstrates where people are travelling to for treatment. The most popular destinations were: Spain, the Czech Republic and the USA.

We are seeing that many of our participants have more than one reason for choosing to go overseas. These reasons included: the cost of treatment in the UK compared with other countries; a shortage of egg and sperm donors in the UK; and associated waiting times for treatment.

Further analysis of our data will continue over the summer. See overleaf for some of our planned dissemination of the findings.

Stakeholder Event

The final part of the project consists of a stakeholder workshop, which we are holding in Leicester on June 18th.

This is intended as an integral part of the project rather than just a dissemination event. We have a wide range of people attending this closed meeting including users, donors, overseas clinics as well as social scientists, ethicists, clinicians, support group reps and others with a keen interest in the issue. We plan an active day of debate and expect a lively discussion of what are often controversial and highly political issues. We will report on the outcome in the final Newsletter, so watch this space!

In this issue:

- Data collection is complete
- Analysis is underway
- Stakeholder event
- Dissemination activities

The 'Transrep' Project

'Transrep' is a qualitative study, designed to explore the experiences of people who are involved in the process of going overseas for fertility treatment either as a 'user' of services, as a 'provider' of services, or as other key stakeholders.

The study seeks to answer the following questions: What are the possible personal and social implications of travelling abroad for fertility treatment? How can treatment providers, regulators and patient groups support couples who are faced with decisions about travelling overseas for treatment?

New Conference papers and publications

Hudson, N. & Culley, L. 'Globalizing Biomedicine: creating babies across borders' paper presented to *Society for Applied Anthropology Society, 70th Annual Meeting, Vulnerabilities and Exclusion in Globalization*. March 24-27, 2010 Mérida, México

Lorraine was invited to speak at the HFEA Ethics and Law Committee Horizon Scanning Event, held in London in February. She outlined the current evidence base in relation to cross border reproductive care .

Culley, L & Hudson, N (2010) Fertility Tourists or Global Consumers? A Sociological Agenda for Exploring Cross-border Reproductive Travel. *International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences*, 4(10): 139-150

Invitations and forthcoming presentations

Lorraine has been invited to discuss the research at the Nuffield Council on Bioethics Human Bodies in Medicine and Research Working Party in London in May.

A team paper 'Travelling abroad for fertility treatment: an exploratory study of UK residents seeking cross-border care' has been accepted for presentation at the EHSRE conference in Rome in June. This will be an excellent opportunity to inform practitioners and academics about the main findings of the project and will do doubt attract media attention.

Two papers will be presented at the International Sociological Association World Congress in July.

The findings will be debated in the context of infertility counselling at a meeting of the International Infertility Counselling Organisation in Munich, 11th September 2010 which has a focus on Globalisation in ART and Its Impact on Psychosocial Care.

Research Summaries

We will be providing summaries of the findings for all participants and for professional audiences. These will also be available on the website at the end of the project: www.transrep.co.uk

Outputs from the project can be viewed at the ESRC Society Today website: www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk

The Transrep project brings together research and practice expertise from Sociology, Social Work, Nursing, Reproductive Science and Health Services Research.

The project is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and runs from March 2009 until August 2010.

The project team

Prof. Lorraine Culley, Principal Investigator, De Montfort University

Dr Nicky Hudson, Senior Research Fellow, De Montfort University

Prof Eric Blyth, University of Huddersfield

Wendy Norton, De Montfort University

Dr Allan Pacey, University of Sheffield

Prof. Frances Rapport, University of Swansea

Project contact details

For all enquires about the project please contact:

Dr Nicky Hudson
Senior Research Fellow
De Montfort University
0.15b Hawthorn Building
The Gateway,
Leicester,

Phone: 0116 2078766
E-mail:
nhudson@dmu.ac.uk

Visit our website: www.transrep.co.uk