

Reproductive Technology and Changing Perception of Parenthood around the world

“If there is no humanity without language, nor can there be a society without parenthood. But what does it mean to be a parent?” This question from Claude Levi-Strauss is at the heart of this international and multidisciplinary study analysing the upheavals to legal family ties currently being brought about by biomedicine. As a result of the heady advances in new biomedical practices, a number of questions concerning parenthood need to be addressed. Who will be the legal father and mother of a child when infertile men and women are able to procreate? Will the child still have two parents of different sexes, or could it sometimes have three, or even four?

What about the emergence of the concept of parenting and of the role of DNA testing in determining parentage?

Legal experts, philosophers and sociologists from twenty countries with different cultures debated these issues, among many others, during the fifth workshop of the *Réseau universitaire International de Bioéthique* (RUIB – International University Network on Bioethics). Stemming from these debates, the articles brought together in this collection explore the extent to which new biomedical practices have revolutionised access to parenthood in these countries. There can be no doubt that because this topic touches on sexuality, the body and reproduction – different concepts in different cultures – one conclusion stands out: although the life sciences have now won, at least in part, control of the imparting of life, the effects of biomedicine on the legal structure of the family differs considerably from one country to the next. A rapprochement between the various systems studied would be most welcome.

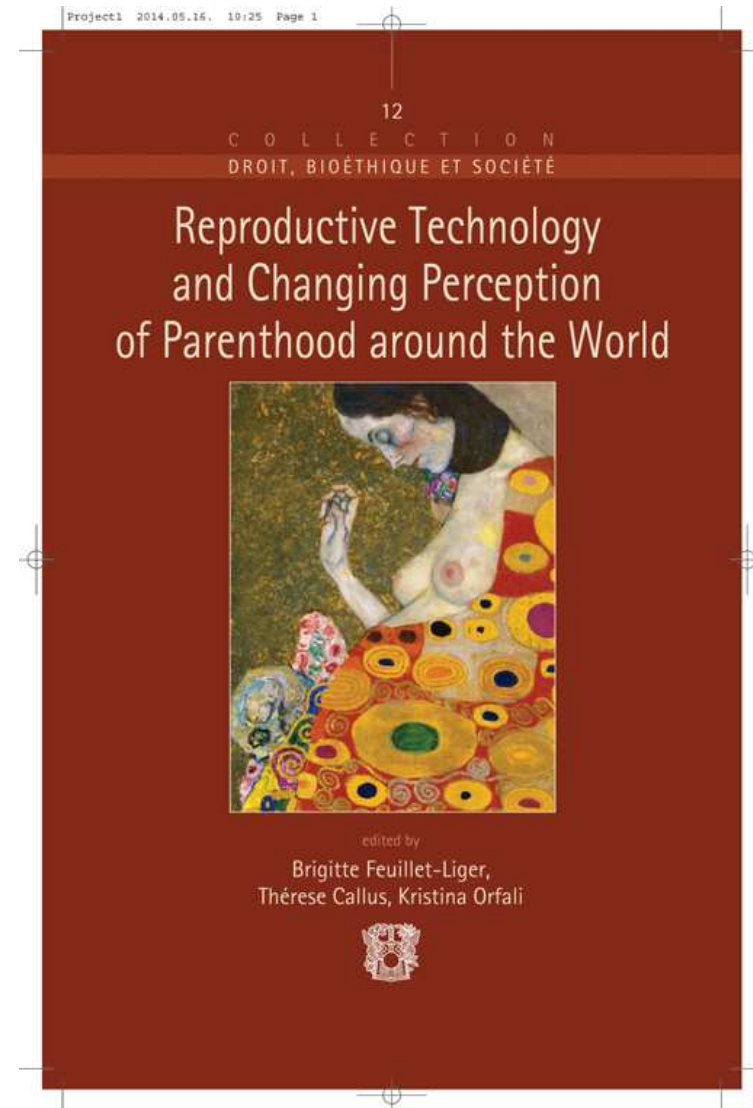
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The impact of biomedicine on parenthood in Germany or the obsession of the biological truth, Françoise FURKEL, Professor Emerita at the Franco-German legal Centre of Sarre University, Germany.

The impact of biomedicine on parenthood: the discrepancy between assisted reproductive technology and the establishment of parentage in Belgian law, Geneviève SCHAMPS, Director of the Centre of medical and Biomedical Law, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium.

The impact of medicine on parenthood and sexual identity in Spain, Verónica SAN JULIAN, Full Professor of Civil Law, Faculty of Law, University of Navarra, Spain and Javier NANCLARES VALLE, Associate Professor, Doctor of civil Law, Faculty of Law, University of Navarra, Spain.

The impact of biomedicine on parentage in French Law: reconceiving parentage, Francis KERNALEGUEN, Professor at the University of Rennes 1 (IODE, UMR CNRS 6262), France.

Assisted reproductive technology: forcing a rethink of parenthood in Greek Law, Penelope AGALLOPOULOU, Professor Emerita at the University of Piraeus, Greece.

Reconciling traditional families with in vitro assistance: the hungarian legal framework on kinship in the light of biomedical intervention, Judit SÁNDOR, Professor of Law, Director of the Center for Ethics and Law in Biomedicine (CELAB), Central European University, Budapest, Hungary.

Changing conceptions of parenthood in English law, Thérèse CALLUS, Associate professor, University of Reading, United Kingdom.

Swiss law in the area of the individualisation of parenthood, Dominique MANAI, Professor at the Faculty of Law of Geneva University, Switzerland.

The limited impact of biomedicine on parenthood in Tunisia, Amel AOUI-MRAD, Professor at the Faculty of Law and Political Science of Tunis, Tunisia.

Biomedicine and parenthood in Turkish Law, Saibe OKTAY-ÖZDEMİR, Professor at Istanbul University, Faculty of Law, Section of civil law and law of obligations, Turkey and Gulen SINEM TEK, Research Fellow at Bahcesehir University, Faculty of Law, PhD Student at Istanbul University, Turkey.

Biomedicine and parentage law in Canada: between boldness and restraint, Dominique GOUBAU, Professor at the Faculty of law of the University of Laval, Quebec City, Canada.

The Wild West of parentage determination: Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) in the USA, Marsha GARRISON, Suzanne J. § Norman MILES Professor of law, Brooklyn Law School, New York, USA.

Biomedicine as a source of plurality of family forms in Brazil, Maria-Claudia CRESPO-BRAUNER, Professor at the Federal University of Rio Grande - Researcher at CNPQ/MCT, Brazil and Anderson Orestes CALVALCANTE LOBATO, Professor at the Federal University of Rio Grande, Brazil.

Biomedicine and parentage in Chile, Carmen DOMINGUEZ HILDAGO, Professor of civil Law, Director of the UC Family Centre, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Chile.

Impact of the development of medically assisted reproduction on the law of parentage in Japan, Shinichiro HAYAKAWA, Professor of Law, Department of Advanced Social and International Studies in Faculty of Liberal Arts, University of Tokyo, Member of the Board of Legislative Council for Japanese Ministry of Justice, Japan.

The impact of assisted reproductive technology on parenthood: reflections from China and Taiwan, Yao-Ming Hsu, Associate professor, College of law, National Cheng-Chi University Taipei, Taiwan.

The role of the family: an economist's perspective, Pierre-André CHIAPPORI, E. Rowan and Barbara STEINSCHNEIDER Professor of Economics, Columbia University, New York, USA.

The challenges of the new reproductive technologies: how kinship enters politics, Jean-Hugues DÉCHAUX, Professor of sociology at the University Lyon 2, Director of the Centre Max Weber (UMR CNRS 5283), France.

The contested terrain of surrogate motherhood, Kristina ORFAL, Associate Clinical Professor of Bioethics in Pediatrics, Columbia University, New York, USA.

The anthropological issue of motherhood surrogacy, David LE BRETON, Professor of sociology at Strasbourg University, Member of the University Institute of France, France.

What does it mean to be a mother in this age of assisted reproductive technology?, Pierre LE COZ, Professor of philosophy at the Faculty of Medicine, Marseille, (UMR 7268 ADES/CNRS/EFSA Aix-Marseille University), France.

Concluding thoughts, Françoise DEKEUWER-DÉFOSSÉZ, Emeritus Professor, Honorary Dean at the University of Lille 2, Professor at the Catholic University of Lille, France.