



## Male infertility & masculinity

- Emotional and sad discovery
- Questioning masculinity
- Feeling guilty
- Impact on relationship (positive and negative)
- Different processes of acceptance
- Supportiveness: 'emergent masculinities'



## Non-genetic parenthood & 'doing' kinship

- Genetics as unimportant (fatherhood, bonding, role donor)
- Genetics as important ('matching' donor & father, same donor for siblings, threat of donor)
- 'Doing' kinship: pursuing Western norms parenthood & kinship



## Disclosing & normalizing donor conception

- Internationally often secrecy norm
- In NL norm of telling children
- Most told children from young age -> making it part of normality (right to know, avoiding problems)
- Some waiting for 'right time'
- Navigating who to tell
- Telling often more difficult for men

# Pursuing 'normalcy': male infertility, donor conception and 'doing' kinship

Maria Siermann  
Research Master Social Sciences  
University of Amsterdam



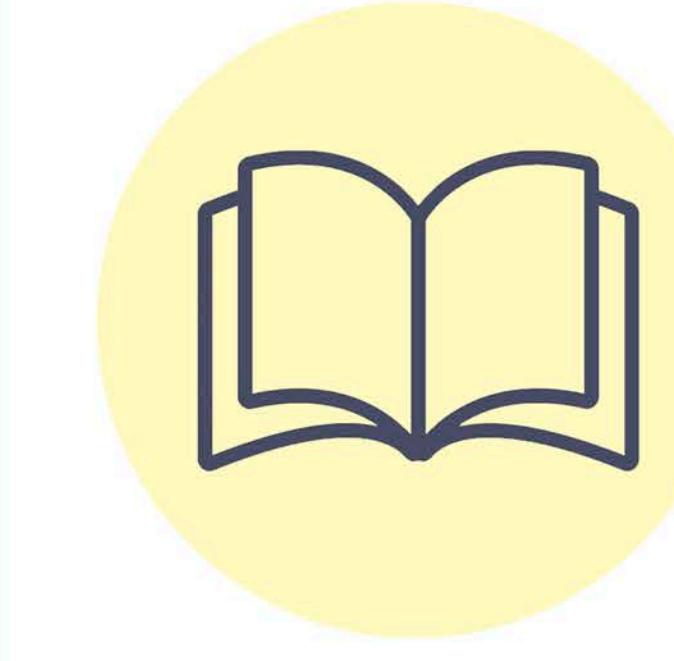
## Context

- The Netherlands
- Donor sperm treatment most common form of third-party reproduction
- Since 2004 only non-anonymous donors allowed
- Commercial donor conception not allowed



## Methods & participants

- Qualitative interviews
- 13 heterosexual couples
- Interviewed separately
- Children born after 2004
- Clinic's sperm bank (8x), commercial sperm bank (4x), known donor (1x)



## Theoretical debates & concepts

- Third-party reproduction
- 'Reproductive navigation' (Van der Sijpt) & 'social navigation' (Vigh)
- Masculinity: 'hegemonic' (Connell) & 'emergent' (Inhorn)
- New kinship studies (Strathern, Franklin) & 'doing' kinship (Thompson)