Le séminaire

Rencontre avec Robert Klitzman, Professeur de psychiatrie, Directeur des masters de bioéthique Université Columbia, New York

14h Introduction
Fabrice Gzil, codirecteur de l'Espace éthique Ile-de-France
Martin Dumont, responsable de la Chaire de philosophie de l'Hôtel-Dieu
Since the first "test tube baby" was born over 40 years ago, In Vitro Fertilization and other Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ARTs) have advanced in extraordinary ways, producing millions of babies. An estimated 20% of American couples use infertility services to help them conceive, and that number is growing. Such technologies permit thousands of people, including gay and lesbian couples and single parents, to have offspring. Couples can now transmit or avoid passing on certain genes to their children, including those for chronic disease and, probably sometime soon, height and eye color as well. Prospective parents routinely choose even the sex of their future child and whether or not to have twins. The possibilities of this rapidly developing technology are astounding—especially in the United States, where the procedures are practically unregulated and a large commercial market for buying and selling human eggs is swiftly growing. New gene-editing technology, known as CRISPR, allows for even more direct manipulation of embryos' genes.

As these possibilities are increasingly realized, potential parents, doctors, and policy-makers face complex and critical questions about the use—or possible misuse—of ARTs. Designing Babies confronts these questions, examining the ethical, social, and policy concerns surrounding reproductive technology. Based on in-depth interviews with providers and patients, Robert Klitzman explores how individuals and couples are facing quandaries of whether, when, and how to use ARTs. He articulates the full range of these crucial issues, from the economic pressures patients face to the moral and social challenges they encounter as they make decisions which will profoundly shape the life of their offspring. In doing so, he reveals the broader social and biological implications of controlling genetics, ultimately arguing for closer regulation of procedures which affect the lives of generations to come and the future of our species as a whole.
investigation. Robert Klitzman thus interviewed 45 IRB leaders and members about how they make decisions. This book reveals what Klitzman learned, providing rare glimpses into the conflicts and complexities these individuals face, defining science, assessing possible future risks and benefits of studies, and deciding how much to trust researchers -- illuminating, more broadly, how we view and interpret ethics in our lives today, and perceive and use power.

Programme et plan d'accès

La conférence est gratuite en accès libre, à l'Espace éthique/Île-de-France, hôpital Saint-Louis AP-HP.