

Conference:

Making Babies: Towards a child-centred view of Assisted Human Reproduction

Buswells hotel, Molesworth St, Dublin 2

Saturday, December 5, 2009

2.00pm to 4.30pm

Admission free

Chair: John Waters

"Science has given us something new: families that are designed, from the start, to have only a single parent; to have quite a few parents; to have two parents, only one of whom is biologically related to the child, the other of whom is not biologically related, with a third party out there who is biologically related, but often, unknown...parental roles are being divided up and divvied out, outsourced and re-shuffled and even deleted."

Lisa Mundy, "Everything Conceivable: How Assisted Reproduction is changing men, women and the world"

THE Assisted Human Reproduction (AHR) industry is of growing concern to regulators, ethicists and members of the public. The Government will soon be deciding upon a regulatory framework for the industry. The Iona Institute is concerned that any such framework be as child-centred as possible and move away from the current adult-centred perspective.

This conference will discuss how this may be best achieved and will look at such issues as sperm and egg donation and the growing tendency to use AHR techniques such as IVF to separate children deliberately from their natural parents, from mothers and fathers and the often painful consequences of this. The consequences are increasingly apparent from the testimony of the thousands of 'donor-offspring' who are now adults.

The half-day conference will also see the launch of The Iona Institute position paper on this subject which is written by columnist Breda O'Brien.

Admission is free but the number of places is limited. Please let us know if you are coming by emailing info@ionainstitute.ie or phoning 01 6619 204.

Conference Schedule

2.00: Towards a child-centred view of Assisted Human Reproduction

Breda O'Brien

3.00: A Catholic view of Assisted Human Reproduction

Dr John Murray

3.40: AHR: The view of those who are ‘donor-conceived’

Dr Joanna Rose

4.10: Questions and closing remarks

4.30 Close

Speakers

Breda O’Brien is a teacher and columnist with The Irish Times.

Dr John Murray a lecturer in moral theology at Mater Dei Institute

Dr Joanna Rose is herself donor-conceived and is a leading campaigner for the rights of other donor-conceived children and adults.

Chair

John Waters is a writer and columnist with The Irish Times.

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