

## On gametes and guidelines: A symposium for exploring the use of interdisciplinary and empirical bioethics to inform the regulation of reproductive technologies

17 - 18 February 2014  
The Brocher Foundation, Geneva

**You are invited to attend a Symposium, hosted by the Brocher Foundation, exploring the use of interdisciplinary and empirical bioethics to inform the regulation of reproductive technologies.**

**Registration is 150CHF. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Attendees will need to cover their own travel and accommodation costs. Registration is through the Brocher website (see below).**

*In the field of reproductive medicine, there is a growing body of empirical data on the experience of the stakeholders (patients, professionals, and children) in gamete donation, embryo disposition decisions, genetic testing, etc. These data can influence (ethical) guidelines for the practice of assisted reproductive technologies proposed by both national as well as international professional organizations (such as the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology). For example, when the UK Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority was drawing up its recommendations on sex selection of embryos for social reasons they took into account evidence about public opinion, and used public opinion to inform their thinking. In some of these studies, the empirical data gathered is intended to offer more than a description of attitudes and practices. It takes the use of these data one step further when the purpose is to develop, challenge or refine agreements or theoretical concepts that lie at the basis of concrete rules and guidelines. This symposium will bring together many of those authors, working in different European countries, together for the first time, with the aim of sharing insight and experience, and working towards the development of an agenda for empirical research that can inform the regulation of reproductive technology. The need for an inter-European forum is becoming increasingly evident given the rising levels of reproductive tourism within Europe and the rapid development of new technologies.*

### Speakers include:

Juliet Tizzard, Wybo Dondorp,  
Pascal Borry, Sheryl van der Poel,  
Lucy Frith, Veerle Provoost,  
Jonathan Ives, Tabitha Freeman, ,  
Bjorn Hoffman, Marta Spranzi,  
Søren Holm, Guido Pennings.

Please contact Dr Jonathan Ives ([j.c.ives@bham.ac.uk](mailto:j.c.ives@bham.ac.uk)) or Dr Veerle Provoost ([veerle@provoost.org](mailto:veerle@provoost.org)) with any queries.



# Additional Information

The Brocher Foundation is located on the Eastern edge of Lake Geneva.

Fondation Brocher  
Route d'Hermance 471  
CP 21 CH - 1248 Hermance  
Switzerland



## Local accommodation (recommended by Brocher):

### Hotel Longemalle (preferential rate: 250 chf)

13 Place Longemalle, CH-1204, Genève  
+41 (0)22 818 62 62  
[www.longemalle.ch/en.php](http://www.longemalle.ch/en.php)

### Hotel Bel-Esperance (rate: +/- 120 chf)

Genève, Rue de la Vallée  
1 +41 22 818 37 37  
[contact@hotel-bel-esperance.ch](mailto:contact@hotel-bel-esperance.ch)  
<http://www.hotel-bel-esperance.ch/>

To register, please visit the Brocher Foundation website:

<http://fondation-brocher.ch/fr/events/67/on-gametes-and-guidelines-a-symposium-for-exploring-the-use-of-interdisciplinary-and-empirical-bioethics-to-inform-the-regulation-of-reproductive-technologies>

or contact Dr Jonathan Ives ([j.c.ives@bham.ac.uk](mailto:j.c.ives@bham.ac.uk)) or Dr Veerle Provoost ([veerle@provoost.org](mailto:veerle@provoost.org)).

## Registration will be open from mid-November 2013

# Meeting Programme

|                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Day 1</b>                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                              |
| 09.00                                                                                     | Welcome and Introduction<br>Jonathan Ives and Veerle Provoost                                                                                                |
| <b>From empirical data to organizational guidelines: An exploration of concrete cases</b> |                                                                                                                                                              |
| 09.20                                                                                     | Juliet Tizzard. The role of empirical research in Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) policy making.                                         |
| 09.50                                                                                     | Wybo Dondorp. Example from the Netherlands: Exploring citizens' support for allowing embryo research: the malleability of stakeholder views.                 |
| 10.20                                                                                     | <i>Coffee break</i>                                                                                                                                          |
| 10.40                                                                                     | Pascal Borry. Integrating the empirical and the normative in policy making on direct-to-consumer genetic testing.                                            |
| 11.10                                                                                     | Sheryl van der Poel. Experiences from the Reproductive Health Coordinator of the WHO (WHO Reproductive Health Guidelines).                                   |
| 11.40                                                                                     | Plenary discussion.                                                                                                                                          |
| 12.10                                                                                     | <i>Lunch break</i>                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Using empirical data for normative reflection on reproductive medicine.</b>            |                                                                                                                                                              |
| 13.10                                                                                     | Lucy Frith. Symbiotic empirical ethics: a practical methodology applied to sperm donation.                                                                   |
| 13.40                                                                                     | Veerle Provoost. The use of (unfounded) empirical claims in the donor anonymity debate: a systematic review of the empirical grounds for the identity claim. |
| 14.10                                                                                     | Tabitha Freeman. Redefined families: Donor anonymity and the best interest of the child.                                                                     |
| 14.40                                                                                     | <i>Coffee Break</i>                                                                                                                                          |
| 15.00                                                                                     | Guido Pennings. Alternative methods for the recruitment of gamete donors.                                                                                    |
| 15.30                                                                                     | Structured plenary discussion starting with a summary of the discussion of the day.                                                                          |
| 16.00                                                                                     | Group discussions: What are the challenges? Research agenda priority setting.                                                                                |
| <b>Day 2</b>                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Taking the next step: Using empirical research data for/in policy making</b>           |                                                                                                                                                              |
| 8.55                                                                                      | Short introduction of the day.<br>Jonathan Ives and Veerle Provoost                                                                                          |
| 09.00                                                                                     | Bjorn Hofmann. Empirical outcome data on PGD: What we know, what we do not know, and what we do not want to know.                                            |
| 09.30                                                                                     | Marta Spranzi. Example: Public consultation and anonymity in egg and sperm donation in France.                                                               |
| 10.00                                                                                     | <i>Coffee Break</i>                                                                                                                                          |
| 10.20                                                                                     | Søren Holm. Update of the guidelines of the empire project: The use of empirical research findings for policy.                                               |
| 10.50                                                                                     | Jonathan Ives. Pragmatism, policy and practice: the ethics of compromise in interdisciplinary ethics research.                                               |
| 11.20                                                                                     | Structured plenary discussion: what are the lessons learned? What are points to address in the future?                                                       |
| 11.50                                                                                     | Veerle Provoost and Jonathan Ives.<br>Lessons learned and recommendations formulated.                                                                        |
| 12.00                                                                                     | Lunch and goodbye                                                                                                                                            |