



EGGS, SPERM, AND BEING A PARENT

Ethics: Bioethics (Fall 2014)

Laura Guidry-Grimes

BEING A PARENT: ACCOUNTS

- **Geneticist** – genetic basis
- **Labor-based** – serving in the relevant role
 - **Gestational** (one type)
- **Intentional & voluntarist** – taking the actions necessary for procreation with full intention of bringing at least one child into the world
- **Causal** – causally responsible, regardless of intentions
- What do you see as benefits or pitfalls of these different accounts of how someone becomes a parent with all the relevant claims and responsibilities?

SOME DEBATES



On sperm donation



On egg donation



Strengths and weaknesses to the positions offered?

→ Moral preferability of what's "natural?"

→ Long-term repercussions for family structure, society?

GROUP WORK:

OUTLINE SOME POINTS OF ETHICAL CONTENTION

- **Sperm donation**

- Informed consent
- Screening
- Disclosure of information about donor
- Rights of genetic fathers
- Privacy
- Eugenics
- ...others?

- **Egg donation**

- Informed consent
 - Coercion, inducement
- Screening
- Disclosure of information about donor
- Rights of genetic mothers
- Privacy
- Eugenics
- ...others?

CONTRAST & COMPARE

- Consider the following:
 - Relevant moral responsibilities of different parties
 - What might be *morally problematic* and *morally beneficial* about the different reproduction options
 - To what extent *analogies can and cannot be drawn*
- Abortion (in different circumstances)
- Surrogacy (traditional or gestational)
- Sperm & egg donation

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE

- Parenthood, SEP:
 - <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/parenthood/#BecPar>



**QUESTIONS?
COMMENTS?**