

**BSA POSTGRADUATE STUDENT REGIONAL EVENT 'REPRODUCTION AND RISK',  
20TH NOVEMBER 2019, COLLEGE COURT LEICESTER**



Hosted by the University of Leicester  
and the British Sociological Association



09.30	Registration and refreshments	
10.00	Introduction	Julia Clark
10.05	Keynote address: <i>Anxious Reproduction and Reproductive Anxiety: How Risk, Uncertainty and Accountability Have Changed the Emotional Landscape of Parenthood</i>	Dr Zeynep Gurtin
10.45	Refreshments	
11.05	Postgraduate presentations	
	<i>"A Controllable Environment": Artificial Wombs and the Discourse of Risk in Pregnancy</i>	Claire Horn
	<i>"The more options the better": balancing choice and reproductive risks in women with Turner Syndrome</i>	Kristine Fearon
	<i>"An unreliable witness": pregnant women, alcohol and the quest for biomarkers within a narrative of risk</i>	Rachel Arkell
11.50	Panel discussion	Claire Horn Kristine Fearon Rachel Arkell
12.20	LUNCH	
13.20	Welcome back	Julia Clark

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13.25	Invited speaker: <i>Making reproductive choices in the context of inherited disease: a complex balance between risks, experiential knowledge and practical constraints</i>	Dr Cathy Herbrand
14.05	Postgraduate Presentations	
	<i>"Obviously you don't want to put your baby at risk:" Negotiating knowledge, risk and control</i>	Leah de Quattro
	<i>Untangling Tongue-tie: Cutting Through the Medicalisation of Breastfeeding</i>	Maria Larrain
14.35	Panel discussion	Leah de Quattro Maria Larrain
14.55	Refreshments	
15.15	<i>Fertile connections</i>	'Open Space' led by Julia Clark
15.45	Closing remarks	Prof Natalie Armstrong
16.00	End	
16.00- 17.00	Wine reception and networking	



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## **Speaker profiles**

### **Rachel Arkell – PG speaker**

**Title:** *“An unreliable witness”: pregnant women, alcohol and the quest for biomarkers within a narrative of risk*

**Bio:** Rachel Arkell is a Research Associate at the bpas Centre for Reproductive Research and Communication. Prior to starting at bpas, Rachel completed both her LLM in Medical Law and Ethics and undergraduate Law studies at the University of Kent, Canterbury. In addition to her research on placing meconium screening within a narrative of risk associated with pregnancy and alcohol, Rachel is currently working on a bioethical and legal analysis of the use of meconium both for epidemiological and diagnostic purposes. In September, Rachel will be starting an SeNSS funded collaborative PhD studentship with bpas at the University of Kent. The title of her project is: ‘Communicating the risk of taking medicines to (potentially) pregnant women post-Montgomery: a Socio-legal exploration.’ Rachel’s main research interests lie in the politics of reproductive justice & bodily autonomy, risk communication regarding reproductive healthcare, and the intersections of civil liberty and religious liberty.

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### **Professor Natalie Armstrong – closing remarks**

**Bio:** A Professor of Healthcare Improvement Research, Natalie is a graduate of the Universities of Warwick (BA), London (MSc), and Nottingham (PhD). A medical sociologist by background, her work uses sociological ideas and methods to understand health and illness and to tackle problems in the delivery of high-quality healthcare. Natalie has been at the University of Leicester since 2008, being promoted to Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor in 2014 and to Professor of Healthcare Improvement Research in 2017. Natalie was the joint lead of the SAPPHIRE Research Group from 2016-2018 and is currently Head of Department of Health Sciences. Natalie’s work covers a number of healthcare topics, although she has a long-standing special interest in women’s and children’s health and in preventative healthcare.

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### **Julia Clark – PG student / host**

**Bio:** Julia is a midwife and current PhD student at the University of Leicester. Julia’s research is an ethnographic study across two UK maternity units exploring the diverse human and non-human elements that influence how care plans are formed following women’s reports of altered fetal movement. This is a collaborative project between SAPPHIRE and TIMMS, with qualitative methods and sociological theory shaping an exploration of this widely recognised risk factor for stillbirth.

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**Leah de Quattro – PG Speaker**

**Title:** *"Obviously you don't want to put your baby at risk:" Negotiating knowledge, risk and control*

**Bio:** Leah is in the second year of a PhD at the Centre for the History of Science Technology and Medicine at the University of Manchester. Beginning with a Masters-level pilot study, her research explores how women use collective practices to co-produce birth knowledge. Previously, Leah studied music subcultures in Liverpool and Salvador for an anthropology degree at Boston College. She also has spent the past sixteen years as a member of a worker co-operative grocery in South Manchester.

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**Kristine Fearon – PG speaker**

**Title:** *"The more options the better": balancing choice and reproductive risks in women with Turner Syndrome*

**Bio:** Kriss Fearon is a doctoral researcher at the Centre for Reproduction Research at De Montfort University, Leicester. Her work focuses on the way women with Turner Syndrome and mothers of girls with Turner Syndrome approach reproductive choices.

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**Dr Zeynep Gurtin – Keynote speaker**

**Title:** *Anxious Reproduction and Reproductive Anxiety: How Risk, Uncertainty and Accountability Have Changed the Emotional Landscape of Parenthood*

**Bio:** Zeynep is a Lecturer in Reproductive Health at the Institute for Women's Health, UCL. She is a reproductive sociologist, focusing on the socio-cultural aspects of assisted reproduction and later motherhood. Her current research examines single women's fertility options, including egg freezing and solo motherhood, and women's experiences of motherhood after 40.

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**Dr Cathy Herbrand – Invited speaker**

**Title:** *Making reproductive choices in the context of inherited disease: a complex balance between risks, experiential knowledge and practical constraints*

**Bio:** Cathy Herbrand is a Reader in Medical Sociology at De Montfort University and the Deputy Director of the Centre for Reproduction Research. She completed her PhD in Sociology from the Université libre de Bruxelles, and has previously held posts at King's College London, London School of Economics and Political Science, and the University of Ottawa. Her research interests lie in the sociological and anthropological study of new family forms, biotechnologies, health and genetics, with a particular focus on reproductive decision-making and patients' needs. Her current work explores the interactions between scientific progress, policies and patients' lives, by analysing the social and ethical issues surrounding mitochondrial donation techniques.

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**Claire Horn – PG speaker**

**Title:** *"A Controllable Environment": Artificial Wombs and the Discourse of Risk in Pregnancy*

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**Bio:** Claire Horn is a final year PhD candidate at Birkbeck School of Law. Her dissertation "Gestation Beyond Mother/Machine: Legal Frameworks For Artificial Wombs, Abortion, and Care," uses a comparative analysis of the impact of ectogenesis on abortion law in the UK, US and Canada to argue for abortion decriminalization and affirmative protections to abortion access ahead of the development of artificial womb technologies. Claire's research is funded by the Ronnie Warrington Graduate Teaching Fellowship and the Canadian Centennial Scholarship Fund. Twitter: @clairemlhorn

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**Maria Larrain – PG speaker**

**Title:** *Untangling Tongue-tie: Cutting Through the Medicalisation of Breastfeeding*

**Bio:** Maria Larrain is a practicing paediatric osteopath and MSc in Medical Anthropology at UCL where she graduated with distinction. Her interest in ankyloglossia came from her clinical experience where she saw a dramatic increase in babies with the diagnosis of 'tongue-tie' since 2010. She has a patient base in both the Haredi Jewish and non-Jewish population of Stoke Newington and Stamford Hill. She observed that Haredi mothers rarely reported tongue-tie despite high lactation rates and hypothesised a sociocultural explanation which led her to examine the phenomenon through a medical anthropological lens. Maria is expanding her research into mothers' experience of breastfeeding and frenotomy in their babies in a PhD at UCL Anthropology department.



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**PREPARATORY READING**

Almeling R. (2015) Reproduction. *Annual Review of Sociology* 41, 423-442

Faircloth C. & Grtin Z. B. (2017) Fertile Connections: Thinking across Assisted Reproductive Technologies and Parenting Culture Studies. *Sociology*, 1-18.

