Advances in reproductive technology combined with social and cultural change are leading more people to have children with outside help. Career pressures cause women and men to delay parenting, while growing acceptance of single and same-sex parents means that more and more people are building their families in non-traditional ways. As the number of those parenting outside the dominant domain increases, some of the stigma historically connected to sperm and ovum donation is beginning to lift. Parents are talking openly with children about their origins, donor offspring are seeking out their once-anonymous donors, and the Donor Sibling Registry enables donor families to find their half-siblings and form new kinds of kinship bonds.

What does this mean for psychotherapists? It’s no longer whether you’ll work with a family affected by assisted reproductive technology, but when...

This full-day workshop will explore the psychological impact of reproduction with outside parties on parents, children, and known donors, particularly during the early years, as the identity of “parent” evolves. Participants will learn about

- the 21st century birth story
- Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART): what is it and who uses it?
- the family circle -- shifting the paradigm for therapists
- medical infertility versus social infertility
- why it’s hard to take the sex out of reproduction
- the non-biological parent: issues of possession and bonding
- the developmental tasks of donor offspring: Who am I and to whom do I belong?
- ART comes out of the closet: talking to kids about their birth origins
- the role of the non-biological lesbian mom
- transgender parenting
- dispelling myths about ovum donation
- using a gestational carrier
- the impact of gender, race, and class

This workshop will prepare therapists of all theoretical orientations and specializations to support their clients who turn to outside parties to have children.
OCTOBER 11th SCHEDULE

Morning
8:30 Registration
9:00 Introductions
9:15 The Art of the ART Family: Family Circle Replaces Oedipal Triangle, Diane Ehrensaft, Ph.D.
10:30 Morning Break
10:45 A Role By Any Other Name: Transition to Parenthood for Lesbian Non-Biological parents, Janet Linder, Ph.D., L.C.S.W.
12:00 Lunch

Afternoon
1:00 Panel Discussion: Building Families With Others: Personal and Professional Reflections
2:45 Afternoon Break
3:00 Round Table Discussion Groups
3:30 Closing Conversation: Implications for Therapists

SPEAKERS

Diane Ehrensaft, Ph.D.
Diane Ehrensaft, Ph.D. is an associate professor at the University of California San Francisco in the Department of Pediatrics and a developmental and clinical psychologist in the San Francisco Bay Area. She specializes in research, clinical work, and consultation concerning parents, children, and child development in assisted reproductive technology families. She has lectured, published, and served as an expert witness on this topic both nationally and internationally, and is the author of the book, “Mommies, Daddies, Donors, Surrogates” (Guilford Press, 2005), as well as “Fatherhood Fantasies in Donor Insemination Families” (Studies in Gender and Sexuality, 2000). “Just Molly and Me, and Donor Makes Three” (Journal of Lesbian Studies, Fall 2008), “When Baby Makes Three or Four or More” (Psychoanalytic Study of The Child, 2008, Vol. 63), “The Stork Didn’t Bring Me” (Journal of Infant, Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy, 2008, 4:2), “The Birth Other in Assisted Conception” (in A Psychodynamic Understanding of Modern Medicine, edited by Maureen O’Reilly-Landry), and “Oedipal Circles and Family Complexes” (Psychoanalytic Inquiries, in press). She is a founding member of the Reproductive Technology Research Group at the Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California and a member of the mental health professional group of The American Society for Reproductive Medicine.

Janet Linder, Ph.D., LCSW
Janet Linder, Ph.D, LCSW, is a licensed clinical social worker with a 30-year practice in San Francisco and the East Bay. She is on the faculty of the Women’s Therapy Center and The Psychotherapy Institute. Janet’s dissertation and research centers on lesbian non-birth mothers and parents during the transition to parenthood. She has taught and presented at various educational institutes in the Bay Area. Janet is a mother, stepmother, and a husband-wife.

PANEL MEMBERS

Mark Bronnenberg, LCSW
Mark Bronnenberg, LCSW is a licensed clinical social worker in private practice with offices in San Francisco and Berkeley. Since 2002, he has served as the Associate Director at The Psychotherapy Institute. He received his MSW in 1987 from Hunter School of Social Work in New York. Previous work experiences have included AIDS Coordinator for outpatient mental health services, St. Vincent’s Hospital, NYC, and Clinical Director, New Leaf Services, San Francisco. With his husband David, Mark is the father of a 14-year-old daughter, who lives with her two moms.

Carrie Eichberg, PsyD
Dr. Carrie Eichberg is a graduate of Tufts University and California School of Professional Psychology and currently lives in Boise, Idaho. She is a licensed psychologist in private practice specializing in reproductive psychology. Dr. Eichberg counsels clients regarding a variety of reproductive issues including infertility, third party reproduction, including donor conception and gestational surrogacy, miscarriage, and grief and loss issues. She conducts psychological evaluations for reproductive centers, donor agencies, and surrogacy agencies. Recently she organized a national conference on contemporary ethical dilemmas in reproductive medicine. Dr. Eichberg is also the Boise clinical director for A Home Within, a national non-profit serving the mental health needs of children in foster care. She is a member of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine, the Idaho Psychological Association and the American Psychological Association. She is a National Health Service Provider in Psychology and holds the Certificate of Professional Qualification in Psychology.

Margaret Benson Thompson, LMFT
Margaret Benson Thompson, LMFT has a private practice in Oakland where she works relationally with children, adolescents, individual adults, couples, and families. She brings to her clinical philosophy and applications over twenty years of practicing Qigong (integrating mind, body, spirit, psyche). She has presented and consulted with community clinics, schools, and nonprofits on cultural resilience, family therapy with African Americans, therapy with mixed-race clients, lesbians of color, healing from sexual assault, and training psychotherapy interns. Her most important political act is parenting a free Black child despite the racist, sexist, hetero-centric conditions of living as people of color in America.

Willy Wilkinson, MPH
Willy Wilkinson, MPH is an award-winning writer and public health consultant who has pioneered social and public health access since the early days of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. A dynamic and engaging speaker who is recognized widely for his expertise in transgender issues, he has trained and advised close to 300 community health organizations, businesses, and educational institutions on how to provide equal access for LGBT populations. Willy is the recipient of the 2014 Transgender Law Center Vanguard Award; his memoir Born on the Edge of Race and Gender: A Voice for Cultural Competency is forthcoming. Learn more at www.willywilkinson.com.

Joelle Ehre, LMFT
Joelle Ehre, LMFT is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in private practice in Oakland, where she works with adult individuals and couples. She is a member of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (mental health professional group) and RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association. Joelle has a special passion for helping people deconstruct dominant discourses about what it means to be a parent.

MODERATOR

Willy Wilkinson, MPH