

Health Law, Policy & Ethics Seminar Series

2023-2024



Ethical, Legislative, and Political Responses to Assisted Reproductive Technology and Reproductive Genetic Innovation

Abstract: Many societally accepted techniques, like dialysis, vaccination, and artificial insemination were quite controversial at inception and for decades after. Now-routine treatments like in vitro fertilization (IVF), egg freezing, and organ transplantation, flourished without significant governmental intervention. Despite social and cultural hurdles, the aforementioned medical techniques have today attained overall public acceptance, permissive legal treatment, and even health insurance coverage in some cases.

Unlike those now-routine treatments, medical treatments involving reproductive genetic innovation face intense regulatory barriers. Reproductive genetic innovation, which is the combination of IVF and genetic substitution or modification, is also notable for being accompanied by the continued call of scientists, regulators, and individuals for a “societal discourse.” This workshop considers the influence of politics and morality on the law and regulation. The workshop also analyzes ways to adapt the tools of comparative administrative law and public participation to prescribe methods for a potential societal consultation on reproductive genetic innovation.



Presenter

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Myrisha S. Lewis teaches health law & policy, bioethics, and property. Professor Lewis received her JD from Columbia Law School and her AB from Harvard College. Professor Lewis' research considers how health law, family law, and criminal law respond to scientific innovations. Her monograph, *Subterranean Regulation: Science, Politics, and Reproductive Genetic Innovation*, is under contract with NYU Press.