The Path to Parenthood isn’t Always Straight: A Qualitative Exploration of the Experiences of Gestational Surrogacy for Gay Men in Canada – Perspectives of Gay Fathers and Surrogates

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Abstract: The use of gestational surrogacy in Canada has continued to steadily rise over the past decade. Gestational surrogacy has not only provided new reproductive options for heterosexual couples experiencing infertility, but has also yielded new paths to parenthood for gay men. Canada has witnessed an increased number of gay father-headed households since the 2006 enactment of marriage equality. ARTs however continue to be ascribed in both practice and scholarship as biomedical interventions to resolve clinical infertility. This, in turn, has shaped heteronormative practices and policies of fertility care and third-party reproduction. The aim of this presentation is to report on findings from a qualitative study that investigated the experiences of both gay fathers who had pursued gestational surrogacy and gestational surrogates who bore a child for gay men. Implications and recommendations for healthcare, social work and policy will be discussed.