

Rosanna Hertz (Un)anticipated Families: The Internet, Sperm Donor Siblings and Teenage attempts to become Kin

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UMass Amherst | Thompson 919 - Rossi Room



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What does it mean to children to be a donor sibling? What is it like to be a parent who discovers four, six, or even a dozen children who share half the DNA of one's own child? Do shared genes make you family? Do these teens find anything in common?

This talk is based upon interviews with donor conceived children and their parents who have decided to connect on the Internet and the social organization they try to form.

Rosanna Hertz is the Classes of 1919-1950 Professor of Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies at Wellesley College. Her research focuses on issues related to families, work and gender. She writes about how people manage to stitch together the fragments of their lives to make something whole. She is the author of "Single by Chance, Mothers by Choice: How Women are Choosing Parenthood Without Marriage and Creating the New American Family (Oxford, 2006)".