

› Venue

Johannisstraße 4
Raum JO102
48143 Münster

› Organisation

Projekt A05 „Zwischen Privatheit und öffentlicher Debatte:
Reproduktionsentscheidungen in Deutschland und den
USA in der zweiten Hälfte des 20. Jahrhunderts“
(Prof. Dr. Isabel Heinemann, Dr. Claudia Roesch)

SFB 1150 „Kulturen des Entscheidens“
Bergstraße 29a | 48143 Münster
sfb1150@uni-muenster.de
0251/83-28336

www.kulturen-des-entscheidens.de

› Reproductive Decision Making in Comparative Context

Workshop | 07.-09.09.2017



Bildnachweis: March for Life in Washington, D.C.
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› Reproductive Decision Making in

Comparative Context

The workshop will explore reproductive decision making in five different countries [US, West Germany, Sweden, Ireland, and the Soviet Union] in the 1970s and onward. The conditions of women's reproductive autonomy underwent a significant shift in the early 1970s. As a result of the second wave feminist movement, a number of countries decriminalized abortion. In addition, the introduction of modern contraceptives such as the IUD and the birth control pill significantly changed women's ability to control reproduction and space childbearing. But these changes were highly contested. Liberal reform did not occur uniformly across different countries. And even in the most liberal settings the relaxation of laws governing birth control and abortion precipitated powerful conservative backlashes.

This conference will explore how – in this period of significant social change – women were perceived as moral decision makers. We are asking: Under what conditions were women considered able to make moral decisions regarding

reproduction? When and under what pretense did women gain or were denied reproductive decision-making? How did others [family members, health care providers, clergy, the state etc.] claim the right to decide on behalf of women? What role did moral arguments play in relation to abortion, adoption, and contraception? This volume is the first to compare the conditions of women's reproductive decision making in different political and religious contexts. Case studies in this volume analyze communist and post-communist Soviet Union, catholic Ireland, and democratic countries with varying legacies of state control of reproduction [Sweden with a long history of state control in reproduction, the US with strong pro-life challenges to legal abortion, West Germany as a welfare state struggling with its Nazi legacy]. This comparative approach allows us to draw on the differences and continuities as political and religious contexts influence understanding of women's reproductive decision making during the 1970s and 80s.

Papers discussed at the conference will be published in a special issue of the *Journal of Modern European History* in early 2018 (after peer review).

› Programme

Friday, September 08, 2017

9.15 Panel 1: USA I: Abortion Care as Moral Work
Johanna Schoen, Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ

10.45 Coffee Break

11.15 Panel 2: USA II: Abortion and Adoption as the two Poles
of Reproductive Decision Making in the 1980s
12.45 **Isabel Heinemann, Münster University**

13.00 Lunch: ESG Student Union

15.00

15.15 Panel 3: Sweden: No Backlash for Swedish Women?
Abortion in Sweden 1975-2000
Lena Lennerhed, Södertörn University, Stockholm

16.45 Coffee Break

17.15 Panel 4: Ireland: Wrong for All Womankind: Anti-Abortion
– Discourses in Ireland, 1967-1983
18.45 **Cara Margo Delay, College of Charleston, Charleston SC**

19.00 Dinner: A2 am See

Saturday, September 09, 2017

9.00 Panel 5: West Germany: Pro Familia and the Reform of
Abortion Laws in West Germany, 1967-1983
Claudia Roesch, Münster University

10.30 Coffee Break

10.45 Panel 6: Abortion Travels: An International History
Leslie Reagan, University of Illinois, Urbana IL

12.15 Final Comment
Mie Nakachi, Hokkaido University, Japan

12.30 Concluding Discussion

12.45

13.00 Lunch: Royals & Rice