



WIC Hybrid Colloquium

Ambivalent ideals and discordant intentions: A cognitive interview study of the fertility desires of sexual and gender minorities

Wednesday, 13 November 2024
11:00 – 12:00 (CET)



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Abstract:

Declining fertility has prompted growing attention to unrealized fertility, when people have fewer children than they desire. This study interrogates the meaning and measurement of unrealized fertility by comparing the goals of straight/cisgender and sexual and gender minorities (SGM), a group that experiences significant barriers to pregnancy and parenthood. Drawing from cognitive interviews with 31 U.S. adults, I analyze participant responses to survey questions about their fertility ideals and intentions, paying particular attention to moments of uncertainty and contradiction and perceived barriers to childbearing. Relative to straight/cisgender participants, SGMs were more often ambivalent in their fertility ideals and, when they desired a(nother) child, were less likely to intend to have one. Findings offer insight into the survey measurement of unrealized fertility; because fertility constraints impact goals (not just outcomes), more comprehensive measurement is needed.

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About the presenter:

Kathleen Broussard is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of South Carolina. Prior to joining the faculty at USC, she received her PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. Her core research agenda describes the social determinants of reproductive health desires, behaviors, and experiences. She employs a diverse set of methodological tools, including surveys, interviews, and content analysis, to understand how social institutions and technologies shape people's preferences for and experiences of contraception, abortion, pregnancy, and parenthood.

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