

Delayed reproduction: Frozen eggs and (il)liquid capital

Lucy van de Wiel, King's College

As family formation shifts to later ages, the possibility of fertility preservation with frozen eggs becomes increasingly relevant for younger generations of women and the people who love them. Beyond a medical intervention, egg freezing has become a culturally relevant reference point for the reimagination of female fertility as both finite and extendable. Yet this reimagined fertility as freezable in time is shaped by, and contingent on, a broader restructuring of the fertility sector enabled by sizable capital investments. In this talk, I will address the new temporalities, norms, opportunities and pressures that emerge with egg freezing—both for those who use and those who sell these new possibilities. By situating egg freezing within a broader financialisation of fertility, it emerges that the question of delayed reproduction is also one of accelerated accumulation.