

**Global Gametes: Reproductive “Tourism” and Islamic Bioethics in the High-tech Middle East**



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The Department of Anthropology and co-sponsors are pleased to welcome to the University of Kentucky Professor Marcia Inhorn as part of its Annual Colloquium Series.

**Abstract:** Assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs), including in vitro fertilization (IVF) and intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) to overcome infertility, are now widely available across the Middle East. Islamic *fatwas* emerging from the Sunni Islamic countries have permitted many ARTs, while prohibiting others. However, recent religious rulings emanating from Shia Muslim-dominant Iran have created interesting avenues for infertile Muslim couples in the new millennium. So-called reproductive “tourism”—or the search for ARTs and donor gametes across national and international borders—is one of these new Middle Eastern phenomena. So is the up-take of ARTs among Middle Eastern men, who suffer from particularly high rates of severe male infertility. Although the Middle East is rarely regarded as a “high-tech” setting, it is a key site for understanding the intersection of technoscience, Islamic bioethics, and modernity, all of which are deeply implicated in the brave new world of assisted reproduction.



This colloquium is co-sponsored by: The College of Arts & Sciences, The Department of Behavioral Science, The Department of Geography, The Department of Psychology, and The International Studies Program.