

Hannah JONES: Choosing Parents who are choosing parenthood - Is the nature of social parenthood cyclical?

This poster is part of a wider study into the legislative construction of the modern social parent who employs assisted reproductive technologies.

The development of women's rights in the early 1900's occurred parallel to the legislative extension of parental rights for mothers. This was linked to changes to social parenthood through the enactment of the Guardianship of Infants Act 1925.

Comparatively, the last decade has witnessed the formalisation of rights and legislative recognition of same sex relationships. This has occurred in conjunction with changes to social parenthood created by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008.

Social parenthood is balanced between public demonstrations of responsibility and legal models of the family, both of which are reflections of, and initiated by social change. Therefore can this change be regarded as a cyclical process and does social change initiate this or is it a natural evolution of legislative models?