

Abstract for **The 18th Nordic Demographic Symposium**

Infertility treatment in Denmark – Consequences for the family history – **Lene Tølbøll Blenstrup**, *Department of Sociology and Social Work, Aalborg University*; **Matthew Pirritano**, *Medical Services Initiative (MSI), Orange County California*; **Brennan Peterson**, *Chapman University, California*.

Children born after fertility treatment constituted 10 per cent of children born in Denmark in 2010 and a total of 13,700 women initiated at least one round of so-called high technological treatment, while 16,200 women initiated a round of insemination. Fertility treatment thus plays a significant role in maintaining the present Danish level of total fertility of 1.8 children per woman. However, the women are affected by the invasive treatment, and the couples who undergo the treatment, may experience distress in their relationship, just as not all couples get the child, they wished for. Analyses are based on questionnaire data from the COMPI-cohort, including 2,250 men and women initiating treatment in one private and four public fertility clinics in 2000-2001. They all completed questionnaires at the initiation, after one and after five years. This presentation focuses on the family histories of 1,027 couples undergoing fertility treatment in Denmark, emphasizing the course of their histories regarding childbearing and relationship dissolution in the five years subsequent to initiating treatment. Focus is placed on determining how the couples experience the infertility and which consequences the treatment has for the relationship between the partners within the couple. Analyses focus on the intensity in the wish for a child, the level of infertility related stress, coping strategies used and the significance of the infertility on the couples' relation. The main focus of this presentation is thus to describe how and to what extent selected characteristics of couples and their relationships influence their subsequent family history.