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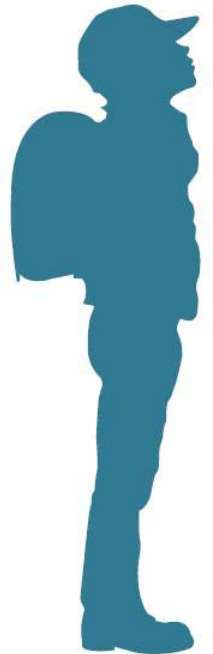
# ***Fertility and Social Stratification Germany and Japan in Comparison***

Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Section 4: Health Care

**“Increasing Childlessness and its  
Solution by Reproductive  
Technologies – A Solution  
Only for the Rich?”**

PowerPoint by  
**Corinna Onnen-Isemann**  
(University of Vechta)



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# Increasing childlessness and its solution by reproductive technologies

Prof. Dr. Corinna Onnen-Isemann  
Tokyo Nov., 7th 2008



# Childless marriages

- 1989                      8.4 %
- 2008                      20.0 %

# Childless women

Year of birth	in %
1935	9
1955	20.5
1965	25
1975	28 ?



# Medical reproductive technology

- The only possibility to achieve the goal set by society

=

to have a family with children of one's own



# Question at issue

„Reproductive technology is a solution against increasing childlessness“



# Social structure of patients

- Mean age women 37,6
- Mean age men 34,5
- Female patients 38551
- All social milieus
- Baby-take-home-rate
  - 16,9 (IVF),
  - 17,1 (ICSI),
  - 22,3 (IVF/ICSI)

Source: DIV 2006

# Kinds of patients

- Primary childless women...
  - had never born a child
- Secondary childless women...
  - had already born a child, can't give birth to another child





# Reasons for the treatment

- Orientation at the female „normal biography“
  - Marriage as presupposition for a family
  - Children cause a partly interruption of employment

# Costs

- Psychological
  - extremely strain during the treatment
- Social
  - different behavior concerning adoption
- Financial
  - expensive for the patients
  - expensive for health insurances

# Theory: Presumption

1. People with higher income tend to be in jobs where they are often used to push through their interest against others. Therefore they can better negotiate with their health insurance about the coverage of costs.
2. People with higher incomes have private health insurances.
3. Reproductive medical treatment isn't financed completely by public health insurances.

# Deduction:

1. People who undergo reproductive medical treatment have more money available than average patients and vice versa: most patients of reproductive medical therapy are rich.
2. If modern assisted reproduction should be a solution against increasing childlessness, and if the use of this technique is increasing as well, we would help single-sided the upper class of our society to fulfill their wish for a child.
3. People with lower money even cannot procreate....