

The “Affected” Post-Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis Embryo¹

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Introduction

The meaning of “health” is constructed from a variety of perspectives, including biomedical, social and political, and in a variety of sites, including human bodies and natural environments. In this chapter we suggest that the human embryo is one such site. At first glance the *in vitro* embryo is not an obvious location from which to examine such constructions; however, we contend that an increasing focus on biomedical determinations of the “health” of the human embryo (Mykitiuk and Nisker, 2008b; Van Wagner, Mykitiuk and Nisker, 2008) is significant not only in the application to human embryos themselves, but also in terms of our broader understanding of “health” in relation to existing adults and children.

New technologies and research initiatives are shaping the way in which we look at the embryo and what we look for (Mykitiuk and Nisker, 2008b; Van Wagner, Mykitiuk and Nisker, 2008). Conventionally, the term “embryo” denotes the product of fertilisation of a human oocyte by a human sperm generally until eight weeks’ development (Warnock, 1984). Numerous groups and individuals have attempted to characterise and describe the human embryo from perspectives such as

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