

RHEA Activities This Week: Panel Debate On 'Positionality' & RHEA Research Seminar!

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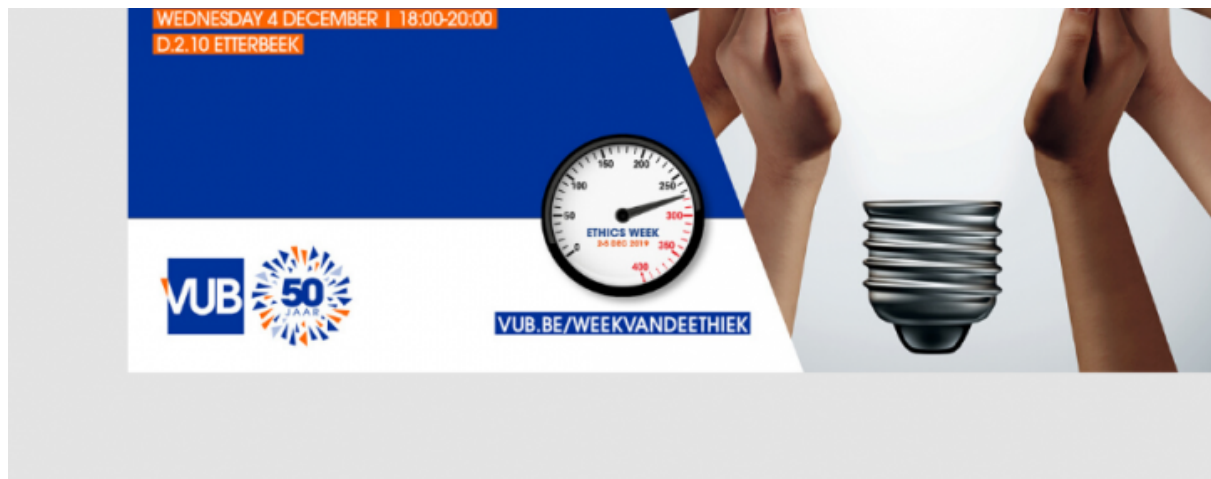


GENDER, DIVERSITY
& INTERSECTIONALITY
RESEARCH CENTRE

This week: RHEA members participate in a panel session organised in the framework of the VUB Ethics Week and you can join for a RHEA Research Seminar with Michiel De Proost on the topic of 'social egg freezing'. More information below!

PANEL SESSION "TAKE A POSITION! POSITIONALITY AND
DIVERSITY IN RESEARCH
(VUB Ethics Week 2019)





As researchers, we want our discoveries to help people – but what assumptions do we make about the people involved in our projects? And can we overcome those assumptions?

Every research project involves a small army of people – not just research participants, but research assistants, students, and the people who might ultimately use the research results. Despite our best intentions, it's difficult to avoid making assumptions about the people involved. Sometimes those assumptions can even be dangerous: for example, car crash test dummies are based on male bodies, which means car safety neglects the needs of half the population.

This session looks at how we as researchers can deal with the (inevitable) assumptions we make based on our own social positions and our relationship to the people we work with. Our panellists will each pose a dilemma based on their experience of working with people, and the audience will get the chance to help construct a solution.

This is an interdisciplinary session: researchers from different faculties will be involved.

Presentations by:

- Michiel De Proost (PhD Philosophy & Moral Sciences)
- Eva Vergaert (PhD Gender & Diversity)
- Pieter Smets (Dr. in Sport Sciences)

Moderated by:

- Prof. Dr. Gily Coene

Please register [HERE!](#)

**RHEA Research Seminar with Michiel De Proost:
"It gives me a false form of reassurance or control': an
empirical ethical approach of social egg freezing"**

Thursday 5th December - VUB, Pleinlaan 5, PL5.5.61. - 12.30h-14h



A growing number of healthy women in different countries are freezing their eggs to anticipate declining infertility. The international scientific community and the media commonly describe this process by the term 'social freezing'. Compelling ethical debates about this topic often focus on issues such as reproductive autonomy and gender equality. Despite some opposition due to the lack of effectiveness and the promotion of

false hope, social freezing rapidly grew into a regular procedure in several clinics. Furthermore, there is little empirical evidence of those who can access this fertility industry to support the range of views that have been expressed regarding the ethical aspects and social impact of this technology.

In this presentation I will present the preliminary findings of my qualitative research with women who are interested in social egg freezing. I focus on how the women in this study understood choice and how their moral understandings are influenced by gender norms, genetic thinking, temporality and life planning. Finally, I reflect on the alignment of these experiences with a relational conception of autonomy and reproductive justice.



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