

<b>Institution:</b> Middlesex University		
<b>Unit of Assessment:</b> UoA4 Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience		
<b>Title of case study:</b> Psychosocial impacts of reproductive health and wellbeing		
<b>Period when the underpinning research was undertaken:</b> 2000-2020		
<b>Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:</b>		
<b>Name(s):</b>	<b>Role(s) (e.g. job title):</b>	<b>Period(s) employed by submitting HEI:</b>
van den Akker, O.	Professor of Health Psychology	2007-present
Purewal, S.	Research Associate	01/01/2009-30/06/2014
Postavaru, G.	Research Associate	01/09/2014-31/01/2015
Daugidaite, V.	Erasmus RA	01/06/2010-31/05/2011
Payne, N.	Associate Professor	2002-present
<b>Period when the claimed impact occurred:</b> 2013/4-2020		
<b>Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014?</b> Yes		

1. Submission / P.48.48s(f)-3(f) ref 36.5 WBF1 11.04mW ref 583(ut)9 JET( ) JET( ) JET( ) JET( )

3. Daugidaite, Purewal and van den Akker demonstrated second-trimester pregnancy loss is associated with higher levels of stress than first-trimester losses, indicating late detection and terminations for foetal abnormalities are detrimental to the psychological health of the mothers. This directly led to a call for early diagnosis and early terminations to mitigate adverse traumas in women (reference B section 3) providing evidence to the Nuffield Council on Bioethics (2017) report on ethical issues in non-invasive prenatal testing (3 section 4).

4. Purewal and van den Akker reported important individual differences between commercial and altruistic, and between white and non-white oocyte donor, motivations for and attitudes to gamete donation (reference C and D section 3). Our evidence for underlying psychological differences in gamete donations provided critical knowledge for public health recruitment campaigns and informed HFEA policy and the final European Commission report on tissue and organ donation (4 section 4).

5. Payne and van den Akker's large (N=563) survey, commissioned by FNUK, on the psychological impact of treatment for infertility showed that suicidal feelings, detrimental effects on relationships and career prospects were common, impacting upon economic input and stability. Counselling was underused due to additional funding issues. FNUK has informed Government that the evidence provided by our team (reference E, section 3) results in multiple national economic impacts of treatment and also benefitted The Work Foundation (2017) who recommended a specific workplace policy for fertility treatment (5 section 4).

## Impact case study (REF3)



The Law Commission ran a public consultation and round table meeting (01/2019) to gather evidence on the psychosocial, ethical, legal and medical aspects of surrogate motherhood in the UK and abroad, with a view to reform current law. This



Parliamentary debates about inequalities in treatment have now drawn attention to the lack of consideration of the mental distress associated with infertility on the national policy stage, and the impact on wider quality of life, including in terms of employment (House of Commons Library Debate Pack, 2017). Finally, more recent exposure on BBC News (22/04/2020) during the Covid 19 lockdown, advised a larger audience of employers and employees to improve current and future workplace practice strategies and policies.

**Sources to corroborate the impact**

Listed here and all Pdf's attached and numbered.

- (1) Project Group on Assisted Reproduction (PROGAR: BASW)
- (2) Surrogacy Law Commission Report
- (3) Nuffield Report
- (4) ASRM Report
- (5) SRIP workshop Report
- (6) European Commission Report
- (7) Govt. advisory committee Blood, cell and tissue donor selection
- (8) APA resource document
- (9) SRIP workshop report
- (10) The Work Foundation Policy a