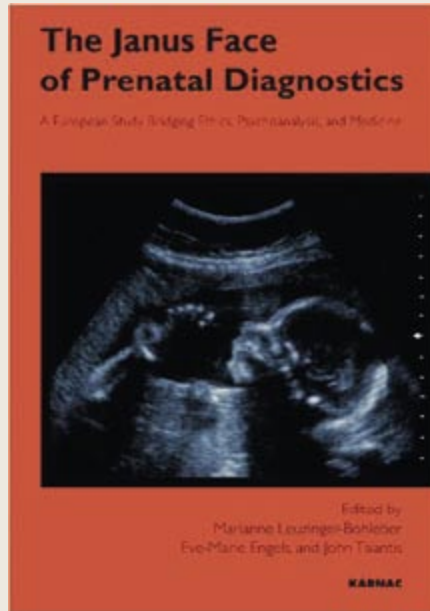


Research Project:

Ethical Dilemmas due to Prenatal and Genetic Diagnostics - EDIG

Supported by the EU (016716-EDIG)



seduction. Are we „playing God“ more and more, as many contemporary critical authors of modernity are claiming?

In a large research project, supported by the EU, this topic was studied in a field that is particularly sensitive: prenatal and genetic diagnostics. Achievements in genetic research produce ethical dilemmas which need to be subject of reflection and debate in modern societies. Denial of ambivalences that ethical dilemmas arouse constitutes a threat to societies as well as to individual persons. The EU wide study "Ethical Dilemma Due to Prenatal and Genetic Diagnostics", investigated these dilemmas in detail in a field which seems particularly challenging: prenatal diagnostics (PND). PND data regarding abnormalities confronts women and their partners with ethical dilemmas regarding: life and death of the unborn child, responsibility for the

unborn child, for its well being even with abnormalities, possible suffering, and desires for a healthy child, the right to know and to decide about its life, and the right not to know

Short summary of the study

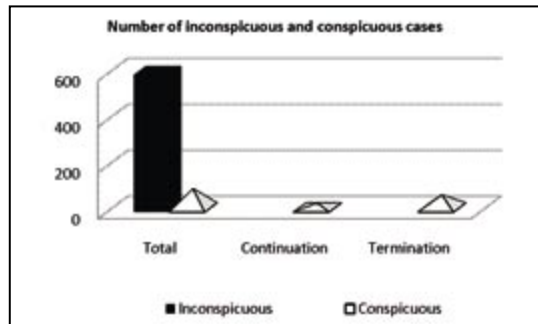
The study describes existing care systems in prenatal diagnostics in Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Sweden and the UK. Data were collected in two sub-studies. Study A recruited two groups of couples (positive or negative PND (prenatal diagnostics), n=1813). Experiences with PND have been explored by questionnaires and interviews. Results have been discussed in interdisciplinary research groups. Substudy B interviewed psychoanalysts and their long-term patients who showed severe psychopathologies as reactions to the dilemmas mentioned. Results of the study help to further discuss on possible protective and risk factors for women/couples undergoing PND in the different EU countries. The influence of personal, institutional and societal factors on coping with these dilemmas have been discussed by experts in ethics, philosophy, medicine and psychoanalysis.

The enormous developments in modern technology in the life sciences in the twentieth and present centuries confront us more and more with new facets of a Faustian

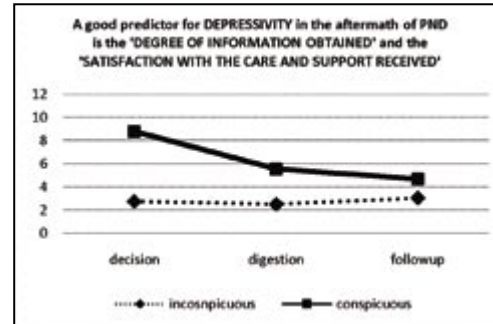
regarding abnormalities confronts women and their partners with ethical dilemmas regarding: life and death of the unborn child, responsibility for the

Some results:

$N_{Total} = 1813$ ($N_{female} = 1213$ and $N_{male} = 600$) were investigated. $N_{inconspicuous} = 598$ and $N_{conspicuous} = 82$ (cf. graph 1).



Graph 1: Cases



Graph 2: predictors