

Volkswagenstiftung

Children in Between: Transnational Surrogacy in the Time of Covid-19

Abstract

The Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions introduced to 'flatten the curve' of infections, are having serious consequences for people all over the world. One of these is the fate of children born within transnational surrogacy arrangements, of their parents, and of the surrogates who carried them, in the time of lockdowns and closed borders. Children continue to be born in 'reproductive hubs' such as California or Ukraine, but due to the current travel restrictions, their commissioning parents from all over the world are unable to pick them up and bring them home. These children are either temporarily taken care of by legally appointed guardians (e.g. in the US), or by nannies and nurses in deserted hotels or holiday flats (e.g. in Ukraine).

This collaborative research project (with Anindita Majumdar, Indian Institute of Technology, and Heather Jacobson, University of Texas Arlington) focuses on the effects lockdowns and closed borders are having on the children, surrogates, and parents involved in surrogacy arrangements in the US, Ukraine, and India. It thereby contributes to a better understanding of the ethical issues concerning commercial surrogacy in times of crisis.

Schlagworte

Transnational surrogacy; cross-border reproductive care; assisted reproductive technologies; children; infertility