

# **The construction of time, timing and planning – a comparative case study of the social practice of egg freezing in Germany and Israel**

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Technological advancements in reproductive medicine have introduced the new concept of "FREEZING". Nowadays, healthy women are given the possibility to cryopreserve their oocytes in order to prolong their fertility, a procedure known as "social egg freezing". There is an ongoing bioethical academic and public debate on the social and ethical implications of this practice. This socio-empirical research is interested in extending our understanding of the concept of "freezing" in broader contexts, while analyzing it through the prism of 'sociology of time'. Egg freezing constitutes an extremely fascinating paradigm for studying concepts of time, timing, planning and its social-technological manipulation related to modern life science. This research examines the interplay of culture and bioethics in an empirical manner, focusing on experts' positions and using a cross-cultural German-Israeli comparative research framework. The comparison between Israel and Germany is especially interesting since the German regulatory and legal framework regarding new reproductive technologies is rather restrictive, while the Israeli regulation has been identified as extremely permissive. Using qualitative semi-structured interviews with relevant professionals and stakeholders this research aims at (a) Exploring how the bio-medical context of social egg freezing reflects and constructs social standardizations of time in Germany (b) Studying the processes and factors of time, timing and planning in a gender sensitive way- by analyzing different normative implications and time perspectives as reflected in the comparison between sperm and egg freezing and (c) Applying an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural comparative research framework. Thus, this innovative research is expected to enhance the researcher academic competence and the transfer of new knowledge.