

# REPRODUTOPIA: STUDYING LAY ETHICAL PERSPECTIVES ON FUTURE REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Emma Dierickx (2565707) - 21-06-2019 - Supervisors: J.A. Nabuurs, W.L. Willems - Commissioner: Next Nature Network

## BACKGROUND

- **Future Reproductive Technologies (FRT)** are innovations such as the artificial womb and gene editing
- Their impact on society remains **uncertain and ambiguous**
- There is a need for **inclusivity and reflection** in the societal discussion on FRT
- **Lay people's ethical perspectives** on FRT are important for responsible innovation

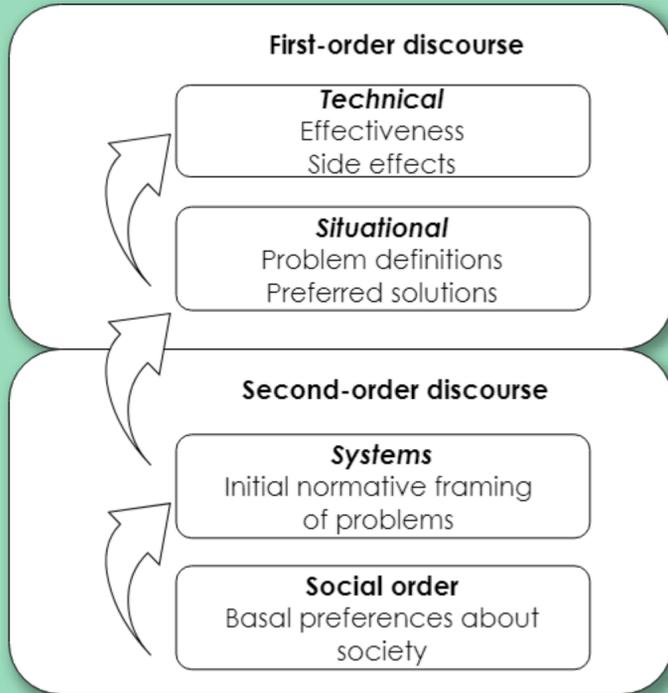
## RESEARCH AIM

To contribute to the inclusive and reflective qualities of Next Nature Network's interactive Reproductopia expo by investigating public perspectives on future reproductive technologies in lay ethics discussions.



## THEORY AND CONCEPTS

- People use **frames of meaning** to make sense of complex issues
- Reflection on frames of meaning occurs on **four different levels**
- Each level of reflection is influenced by the level below it

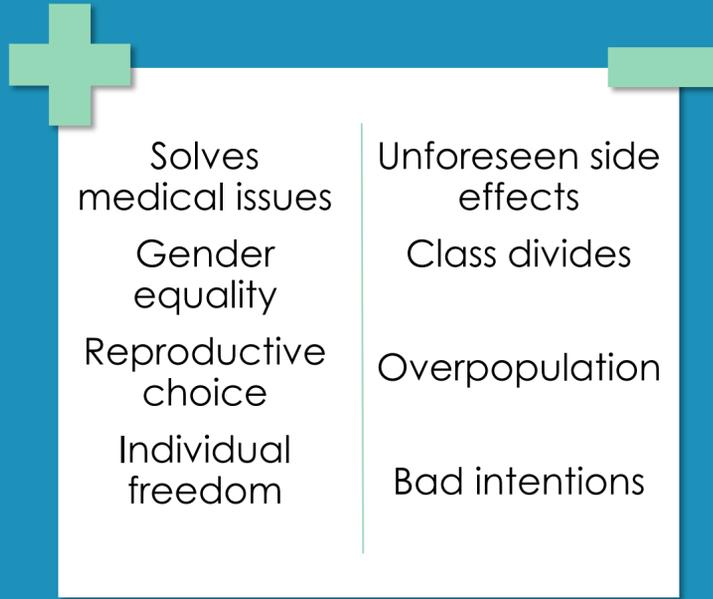


## METHODS

- Five **focus groups**
- 25 participants: different ages, parents and non-parents
- Three **discussion rounds**  
Outcomes of one round serve as input for the next
  - Round 1: First associations
  - Round 2: Reflection on fictional profiles
  - Round 3: Narrative co-creation
- Combination of open and selective coding; **horizontal and vertical analysis**

## KEY RESULTS

FRT as a **double-edged sword**:  
It will be designed to solve issues, but may create new ones



## DISCUSSION

- Co-created **narratives reflected the themes** and levels of discussion
- Different **themes co-occurred** on the same level of reflection
- **Strength: focus group design** with creative dialogue elements
- **Limitation: diversity** of participant sample
- Implication: efforts to enrich the societal discussion on FRT (e.g. Reproductopia) can be made more inclusive and reflective by **incorporating lay people's double-sided views** on FRT