

## Notions of '*Wunschkind*/*Vansh*<sup>1</sup>' expressed in Prenatal Diagnosis and Selective Abortions in Germany and India

Rapidly advancing reproductive technologies are offering more and more specialised techniques and options of prenatal and pre-implantation diagnosis for identifying genetic attributes of the child(ren) before birth such as; PGD, PND and NIPD. These technologies, meant for therapeutic purposes are also being used for selective abortions. These advances have driven societal and scholarly reactions prompting multidisciplinary ethical discourse and regulatory responses. This workshop is part of the DFG funded research project examining the notion of '*Wunschkind*/*Vansh*' in this context in Germany and India. The comparative approach in this research brings out differences between two nations as well as the converging factors bringing forth the understanding that no geographical boundaries can remain in complete isolation and is affected by the globalization of reproductive technologies. This workshop aims at disseminating results of the study in order to initiate a gender-disability discourse on feminist, expressivist, and social justice perspectives among experts working on similar issues from Europe and Asia.

**Date** 13th - 14th September 2017, Heidelberg, Germany.

**Venue:** International Academic Forum Heidelberg (IWH),  
Hauptstrasse, 242, D-69117 Heidelberg, Germany.  
Tel: +49 (0) 62 21 54 36 90,  
Website: [http://www.iwh.uni-hd.de/index\\_engl.html](http://www.iwh.uni-hd.de/index_engl.html)

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As an outcome of the workshop, we plan a book publication. Participants may contribute with your chapters. For any further queries please contact: [sheela.saravanan@uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:sheela.saravanan@uni-heidelberg.de), [vssarav@gmail.com](mailto:vssarav@gmail.com)

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<sup>1</sup> *Wunschkind* and *Vansh* are the commonly used local expressions in Germany and India. *Wunschkind* in German language means 'desired children'. In India, a lineage or an inheritor is referred to as '*Vansh*' or '*Waaris*'.

## Programme

**13<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Time	Speakers	Title
9.30-9.45	Sheela Saravanan & William Sax	Welcome & Introduction
9.45-10.30	Jyotsna Gupta, International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, Netherlands.	Reprogenetic Technologies: From Desired Babies to Designer Babies.
10.30-11.00	Tea	
Chair	Karin Polit, Department of Anthropology, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg.	
11.00-11.45	Rizwan Parwez, Girls Count, New Delhi.	Gender-biased Sex Selection and Sex Selective Elimination in India: Implications and Ground Realities.
11.45-12.30	Sheela Saravanan, Alicia Finger, Jonas Wachinger & Poonam Kamath, Department of Anthropology, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg.	Embodied Notions of Wunschkind/Vansh in Germany and India in the Context of Prenatal Diagnosis and Selective abortions.
12.30-14.00	Lunch	
Chair	Charlotte Ullrich, Department of General Practice and Health Service Research, University of Heidelberg.	
14.00-14.45	Tushti Chopra, Law Professional, New Delhi, India.	Impact of Prenatal Diagnosis Techniques on Rights of Unborn Child: A study from disability perspective.
14.45-15.30	Marion Albers, Faculty of Law, University of Hamburg, Germany.	Legal Situation of Prenatal and Pre-Implantational diagnosis in Germany from a Human Rights Perspective.
15.30-16.00	Tea	
Chair	Sheela Saravanan, Department of Anthropology, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg.	
16.00-16.45	Kathrin Braun & Sabine Könninger, Institut für Politische Wissenschaft Leibniz Universität, Hannover.	Governing Non-invasive Prenatal Testing in Germany: Fundamental Questions and Fragmented Responsibility.
16.45-17.30	Eva Sänger, Institute of Sociology, Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany.	Beyond informed choice in medical maternity care in Germany – prenatal decision making from a praxeographic approach.
19.00	Dinner Venue (will be finalised and sent to all by email on 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017)	

**14<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Chair	Julia Inthorn, The Institute for the History, Theory and Ethics of the Medicine of Unimedizin Mainz.	
9.30-10.15	Renate Klein, Co-founder of FINNRAGE, Women's Studies at Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia.	The Exploitation of Fear: How <i>Wunschkind/Vansh</i> have to be Perfect.
10.15-10.45	Tea	
10.45-11.30	Erich Griessler & Mariella Hager, Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna.	The Political Discussion and Clinical Practice of Prenatal Diagnostics in Austria - A Qualitative Analysis.
11.30-12.15	Silja Samerski, Institut für Ethnologie und Kulturwissenschaft, Universität Bremen, Germany.	The Decision Trap: Pregnancy, Prenatal Tests and the Transformation of Autonomy.
12.15-13.30	Lunch	

13.30 - 14.30: Discussion on the book publication.