



PhD-Project: «Potentialities of CRISPR: An Ethnography of Reproductive Medicine in Switzerland»

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Research all about

The PhD project aims to examine gene-editing procedures (CRISPR/Cas9) in reproductive medicine in Switzerland from an ethnographic perspective. A case study will be used to follow the different discourses, practices and actors involved at the moment of negotiating a (future) use of genome editing in human reproduction.

Research question and focus

The main question is: How are reproductive and gene-editing technologies developed, applied, and discussed daily in IVF and CRISPR laboratories and clinics?

My focus is on the subquestion of how experts negotiate and make futures through the technology of CRISPR.

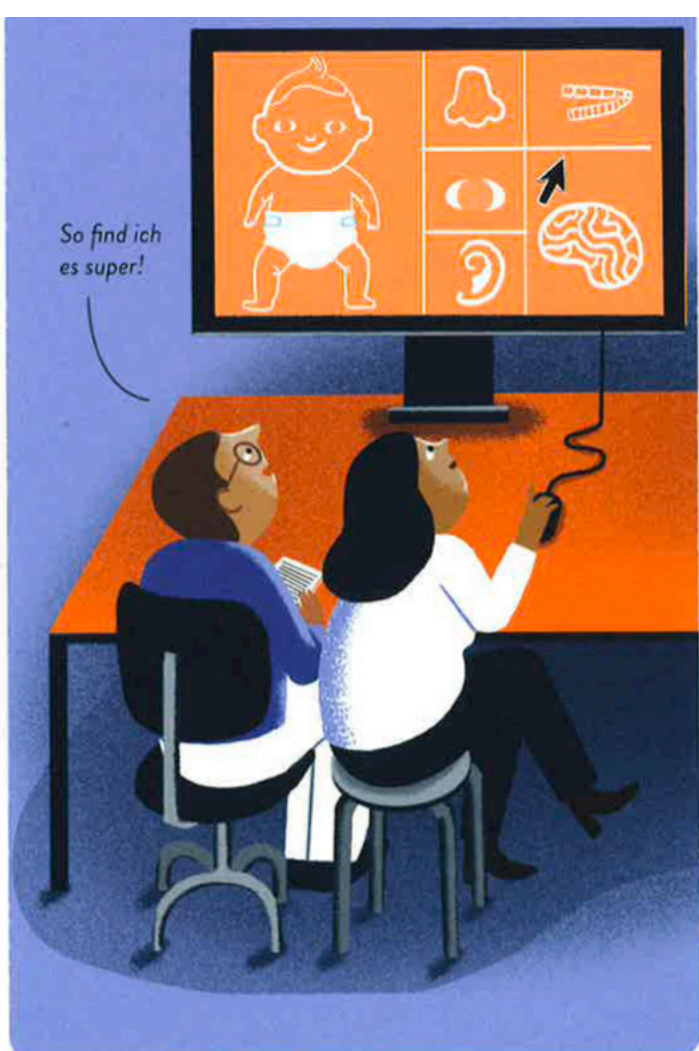


Fig. 1: Häfner, Scheier. 2022, 49.

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URPP Human Reproduction Reloaded | H2R & ISEK UZH

Background

PhD project is embedded in the University Research Priority Program (URPP) «Human Reproduction Reloaded | H2R» which explores the societal impacts and legal implications of human reproduction. This interdisciplinary positioned URPP brings together researchers from six faculties as well as from various disciplines from the humanities, social, medical and natural sciences. This PhD Project is part of the Sub-Project 3 “Ethnography of Human Reproduction and Single Case Studies in Threshold Areas”.

More Information: www.humanreproduction.uzh.ch

CRISPR Process

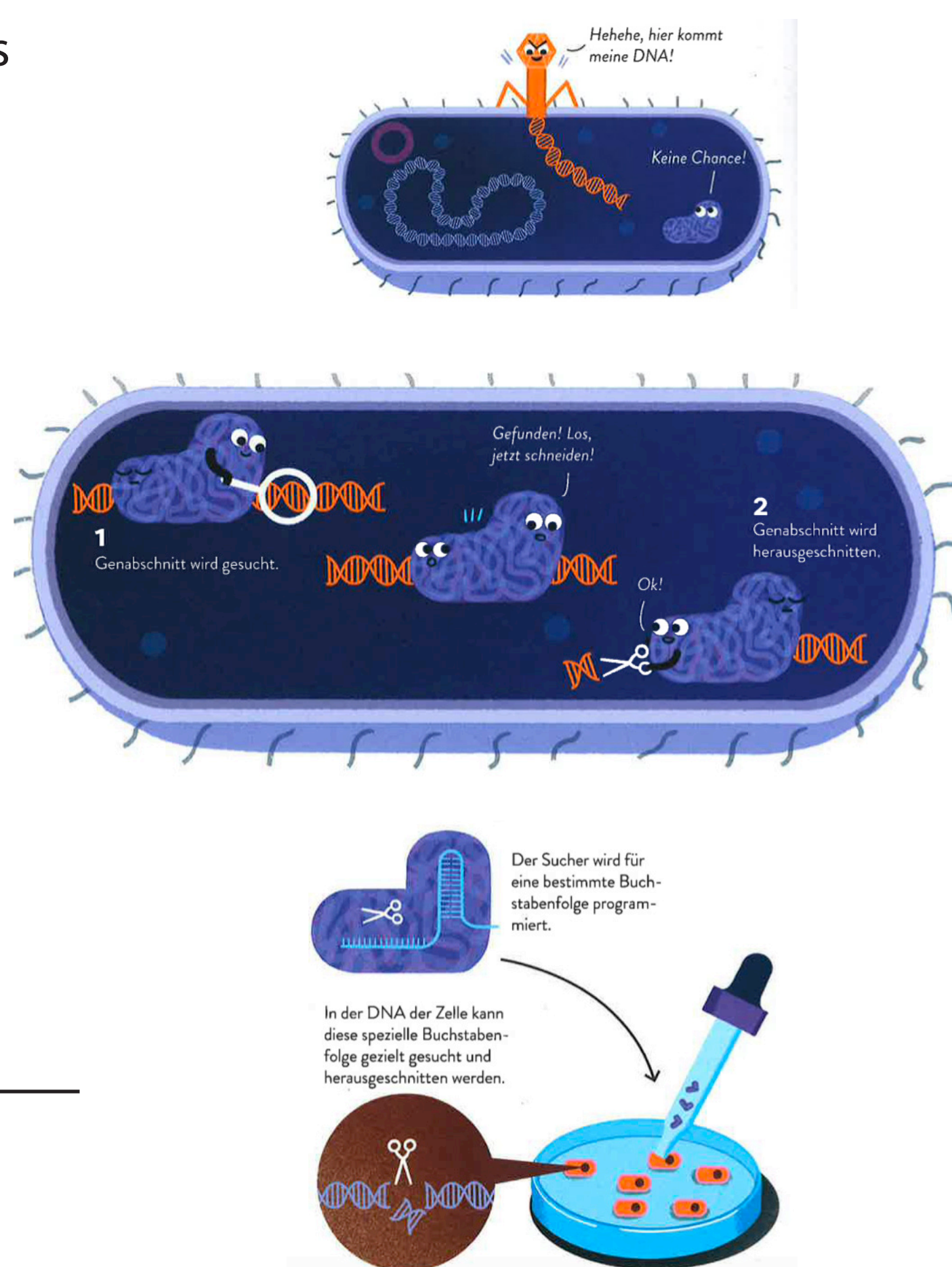


Fig. 2-4: Häfner, Scheier. 2022, 48.

Approach and Research Objectives

Through participant observation and interviews with health care professionals, scientists, including those involved in the URPP H2R, as well as other actors, the PhD project aims to gain insights into the question of how the good life (Robbins 2013), but also possible risk (Beck 1992), is negotiated in reproductive clinics and laboratories in Switzerland through the making and editing of human DNA. The aim is to generate answers to the question of whether and how the scientists involved may play a decisive role (Rapp 1999) in shaping futures as well as inscribing culture in biological processes (Rabinow 1982). Thus, on a theoretical level, it will make a contribution to a current Anthropology of the Future and Good Life.

Literature

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