ABSTRACT

STORIES OF CREATION IN THE CRYO BANK

Stine Adrian, Tema Genus, Linköping University

Presented at Gender and Power in the New Europe, the 5th European Feminist Research Conference
August 20-24, 2003 Lund University, Sweden

In November 2001 the Danish Sperm Bank, Cryos International Ltd. opened an independent affiliation in the United States called Scandinavian Cryobank. The new sperm bank enables Americans to choose a Scandinavian sperm donor from Cryos International Ltd. via the American affiliation. Cryos International Ltd. has previously had difficulties marketing the sperm in the US, due to differences between American and Danish legislation and medical practices. By analyzing and comparing the sperm banks web pages and interviews carried out with employees, the paper explore how stores of creation and virtual babies are created, narrated and formed by scientific and commercial discourses in the North American and Danish cultural context. It will question how conceptions of gender, ethnicity, nationality and normality and illness are constructed. Hereby the paper will open up for discussions on the sliding relations between the material and semiotic, fiction and facts the virtual and material in the stories of creation of the virtual babies.