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## **ENGLISH SUMMARY OF DOUBLE THESIS**

The special thing about pregnancy is the experience of giving a human being its own space, nourishment and protection through many months, in order to finally give birth.

In any society, at any time, a fraction of the population will be in a "2-in-1-body" situation. This can be characterized as the most normal of all human exceptional conditions.

In this double thesis, which has been submitted to Historical Institute V, Roskilde University Center, "Kvinder på tværs" department, it is argued that the social body experience which comes with pregnancy and birth, deserves protection by society, but that in Denmark it is difficult to identify any such socially oriented perspective.

In the Western World, intervention based on a medically oriented pregnancy perspective has resulted in the prevention of many deaths among mothers and babies over the past 50 years. In future, however, the medically oriented perspective will hardly be able to protect the social body experiences of pregnancy from being seriously disturbed, and at worst destroyed by growing biomedical research interests in the pregnancy material. First and foremost this is a matter of genetics connected with the international efforts to map the human genome (the supranational organization of geneticists, Human Genome Organization, HUGO). At the same time it is a matter of research interest in the environmental effects to which the pregnant woman is or has been exposed, as well as biomedical research interest in the effects to which the pregnancy material is exposed by its environment, i.e. the pregnant woman reduced to environment (according to David J.D. Barker's so-called programming hypothesis).

In "Jordemoderfaglig teori & metode I" it is established that a socially oriented perspective of pregnancy does exist in the Danish midwife profession, but there is no unity among the midwives to give it high priority. Thus it becomes relevant to consider whether the midwives are letting women down.

Further more it is shown that the authorities, who should support the potential of the midwife profession, have instead chosen a position which prevents the midwives from maintaining and developing the socially oriented perspective of pregnancy. In this way, the midwives are forced to practice subversive activities, and one may wonder why no significant protests can be heard from the midwife profession. Even though for the past 20 years Danish midwives have worked in midwife-centers, where each center-midwife is authorized to deal with the entire professional area - in a medical as well as a social perspective of pregnancy.

In addition, Danish midwives are considered to have especially favorable conditions for distinguishing between procreative and pathological aspects, as midwife training always has been and will continue to be independent, not requiring previous nursing training. It can be stated that in 1997 the basis of modern research in the theory and methods of the midwife profession have scarcely been established, and further more that midwives do not seem to be interested. Midwives have certainly only taken very few initiatives to further such research.

In "Jordemoderfaglig teori & metode II" an attempt has been made to create such a basis, partly based on "Jordemoderfaglig teori & metode I", and partly based on a seven month pilot project at

the Danish Midwife School in 1991-92, which revealed massive difficulties in creating an overview of the problems which would arise through research in and development of theories and methods of the midwife profession. At a minimum, theory and methods of the midwife profession had to think up provisions against various kinds of fragmentation of the pregnancy perspective, especially the fragmentation, arising from conception being possible outside the body (ectogenesis).

In the thesis the present results of the work on developing theory and methods of the midwife profession are expounded. These are:

- limitation to theories of care and a critical attitude towards concepts of learning and education because of the special "2-in-1-body" situation arising in pregnancy and birth,
- incipient development of a conceptional apparatus,
- establishment of goals for the midwife work after a survey of the kernel of the midwife profession: Support for the change of form taking place at birth - formless to bodily existence (breathing),
- outline of four communication models: 1) The midwife speaking, 2) the birth process speaking, 3) the situation speaking, 4) birth conversation, and the assumption that combining models 4) and 1) will have a woman-friendly emergency delivery assistance and midwife assistance as a result.
- Criticism of methods of preparation for pain-free birth, including a survey of rites-of-passage theory and reference to integrated respiration theory (IRT) as a basis for midwife scientificity.

It is concluded that the research work on developing theory and methods of the midwife profession should be continued, mono- as well as crossscientifically. It is proposed historyco-scientifically to test the assumption that the Danish law of "pregnancy hygiene" of 1945, which still forms the basis of midwifery in Denmark, was passed on a background of negative eugenic thought. Further more to test the assumption that in vitro fertilization and other forms of assisted fertilization are similarly expressions of eugenic thought - nowadays not on a background of political responsibility but according to the discretion of the doctors at the fertilization clinics.

It is the general opinion that women now represents the weaker part in human reproduction (the field of nativity) because of the complexity of the social pregnancy perspective, comprising the complexity of the question of the emergence of life and humanity, and thus because of the multiplicity of the theme, the thesis has drawn support from various theoreticians. One of them states: We desperately need a phenomenology of pregnancy and birth which, without reducing the phenomena, can inform us of what is particular for these phenomena (Lena Kjems, 1996).

"Jordemoderfaglig teori & metode II" presents and links historical material from the medical, social, legal and verbal fields to illuminate a possibility that future research in the practice of pregnancy will be able, logically and humanely, to overcome the fragmentation of the pregnancy perspective.

While the essence of "Jordemoderfaglig teori & metode I" is a description of the field of midwifery, "Jordemoderfaglig teori & metode II" is a description of pregnancy as "procreative engineering". The description involves 2 individuals existing together in a "2-in-1-body" situation. While "procreative engineering" is only a small part of "social engineering", it is also the pre-condition. Previous descriptions of the procreative field have resulted primarily in knowledge of the child. As the child alone is not however the central object of the profession of midwifery, midwives cannot restrict themselves to the child. There are two existences in the "2-in-1-body" situation.