

SERRALUNGA Alessandro

Man and pregnancy: anthropological and sociological aspects of a role in transformation

ABSTRACT

The aim of this thesis is to investigate men's attitude towards pregnancy, that is the complex way from the conception to the birth. It is an investigation that considers man's figure since former to present times and underlines the new role of men in fatherhood and assistance.

The thesis focuses then on the male health care professional (male gynaecologist and obstetrician), who takes care of pregnancy and birth. When and how has this figure originated? Which is its social role?

In order to discover the implications of an ongoing transformation role and to deepen the knowledge of this profession and its operators , a wide bibliographical research has been made. The research has also involved an experimental part through the collection of personal experiences, the involved observation and the analysis of interviews and questionnaires results.

The role of man as an active and present father and as a health care professional is quite unusual in a world that is usually featured by a strong women presence.

History, medicine, anthropology, palaeontology, psychology, research and experience are aimed to better define men's role in pregnancy: these two words seem to be antithetical, but they are tightly related.