

The Department of Anthropology
2009-2010 Colloquium Series
Presents:

Ellen Lewin
University of Iowa

Friday, October 2, 2009
4:00 P.M.
40 Schaeffer Hall

"Consuming (Gay) Fatherhood"

Reproductive behavior and decision making in the United States are situated in a material context that some have called "stratified reproduction" by which the reproductive careers of some are more socially valued than those of others. Gay men who wish to become parents are particularly disadvantaged in this context, as in a system shaped by expectations of conventional gender behavior and heteronormativity they are neither expected to desire fatherhood, nor to deserve to form and maintain families of their own. But as struggles for access to full citizenship have evolved, gay men's desires for fatherhood have become more insistent and the methods by which they may achieve these goals more diverse. This talk will focus on the strategies men deploy to become fathers, and on how these are shaped by their racial and economic positions and as well as by their understandings of the fundamental moral underpinnings of parenthood.

This event is co-sponsored by Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies.

If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact the Department of Anthropology in advance at 335-0522.