

Contents

Introduction	9
Opening up anonymity	12
Changing donor conception	14
Empirical basis and comparative angle	17
Overview of the book's chapters	19
1. Contextualising donor conception and anonymity	23
1.1 Regulating donor conception	24
1.2 'Identifying' current research practices and themes	34
1.3 Situating anonymity	42
1.4 Knowing kinship	49
2. Research and analysis	57
2.1 Sample composition and (re)negotiating anonymity	58
2.2 Online recruitment for offline research	65
2.3 Overview of data collection	69
2.4 Analysis, writing and representation	73
3. The right to know	
Arguments, histories, debates	79
3.1 International human rights law and the right to know	80
3.2 (Inter)national law, private lives and the need for information in the UK	88
3.3 From maintenance claims to personality rights: The German debate	92
3.4 Moving away from secrecy and anonymity: Lessons learnt from adoption	97
3.5 When you just want to know: Anonymity and the right to make a choice	102
3.6 The right to be told and the duty to disclose: Debating birth certificates	107
3.7 Recapitulation	112
4. Public stories and new networks	
Donor-conceived activism	115

4.1	Seeing the truth, telling the truth: The fight for real families	116
4.2	"Just one of many ways": Taking a stand for normality	121
4.3	The stories of others: Finding information, validation and community online	126
4.4	Conceiving Spenderkinder: Donor-conceived activism in Germany	134
4.5	Recapitulation	146
5.	Micropolitics of not-knowing	
	Imagining continuities and relations	147
5.1	Half a family tree: Lost identities and recreated continuities	148
5.2	Truth will out: Retrospective reasoning and feeling the truth	154
5.3	Similar relations: Generational flows and curious continuities	160
5.4	Scanning for similarities: Active not-knowing and unfinished relations	167
5.5	Recapitulation	172
6.	When the cat has been let out of the bag	
	Managing kinship trouble	173
6.1	Who knew what and when: Broken trust and foreign children	175
6.2	Who should know what: Relations between concealment and revelation	181
6.3	Sibling trouble: Similar relations, uneven knowledge	186
6.4	The offspring's children: Managing intergenerational relations	191
6.5	Recapitulation	200
7.	Connections you might (not) make	
	Mandatory and voluntary registers	203
7.1	Opening the register: Managing information and expectations	205
7.2	Guidelines, judgment, googling: The de-identification of information	209
7.3	Non-identifying information and "knowing the donor as a person"	215
7.4	"I might never find out": Removing anonymity, re-moving uncertainty	221
7.5	(In)voluntary siblings: searching and hoping for lateral kinship ties	224
7.6	Matching probabilities: Voluntary registers and DNA testing	237
7.7	Recapitulation	242
8.	Infrastructuring DNA	
	Commercial genetic testing	245
8.1	Relationship ranges, ethnicity estimates: Measuring kinship and ancestry	248
8.2	Digital DNA: Working out relationships and infrastructuring information	254
8.3	Having to try: Anonymity and inevitable choices	264
8.4	Waiting for DNA: More matches, more hope, more frustration?	271
8.5	Recapitulation	278
9.	Conclusion	281

References	297
List of abbreviations	329
List of figures	331
Acknowledgements	333

