Parental (in)equality and the genetic link in lesbian families

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**Objective:** In this qualitative study, we investigate how lesbian couples experience and deal with the difference in genetic relatedness in their family. **Background:** Previous research showed that lesbian couples handle the difference with regard to genetic relatedness by, for instance, creating a narrative about physical resemblances or by focusing on the social bond and its influence on children. **Methods:** The findings are based on qualitative in-depth interviews with 10 lesbian couples who had at least one donor-conceived child aged 7–10. **Results:** The difference with regard to the genetic link brought up complex and context-specific experiences for these parents. Generally, the genetic link was described as irrelevant: equality between both parents was presented as a given. However, some experiences of difference due to the presence of one genetic link were found. In these accounts, the genetic link was described as a valuable extra that created an inequality between them as parents. **Conclusion:** The findings show that these mothers have a complex attitude towards genetic relatedness.
Reference: