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出生前検査とダウン症候群を事由にした養子縁組: 自己責任論と他者養育

| メタデータ | 言語: ja |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| | 出版者: 静岡大学人文社会科学部 |
| | 公開日: 2022-03-07 |
| | キーワード (Ja): |
| | キーワード (En): |
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| URL | https://doi.org/10.14945/00028654 |

Prenatal Testing and Adoption Based on Down Syndrome: Self-Responsibility and Co-parenting

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In this paper, I aim to clarify the current status and experiences of adoptions based on children's disabilities, especially when the child has Down syndrome, to clarify the social position of "parental responsibility" regarding pregnancy, childbirth, and child rearing, as well as the views of parents and children. First, I give a brief overview of the current status of adoptions of children with chromosomal abnormalities (especially Down syndrome) in Japan and abroad. Next, based on the experience of a woman who decided to place her child with Down syndrome for adoption, it is clarified that the woman considers the decision an "ethical issue." Then, through the narrative of a different woman who adopted a child with Down syndrome, I show that there is a punitive logic whereby if a person places a child for adoption, that person must accept "guilt and punishment" for doing so. Finally, I argue that this punitive logic emerges because children are regarded as the private property of their parents in Japan.