

Reviewer's report

Title: Antenatal Screening and the Gendering of Genetic Responsibility

Version: 1 **Date:** 3 June 2007

Reviewer: Mario Meriardi

Reviewer's report:

General

The author presents a protocol for a qualitative study on perceptions of women and their partners in relation to antenatal screening.

The scientific rationale for the study is well stated and the study results will be interesting for health practitioners, researchers and policy makers, as well as for the general public.

I have only few comments about the methodology as listed below.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The methods section should describe more in detail the semi-structured interviewing methodology. It would be important to know if the methodology has been previously used and what is its validity. In addition, it would be important to know how data related to each of the five stated objectives would be obtained.

The author proposes a sample size of 20 women and partners. It would be important to state how this sample size was determined.

The author proposes to recruit 10 couples in each of two populations which differ by socio economic status. In addition, it is indicated that women recruited will be at least at 17 weeks gestation, between 18 and 40 years old and with different parity. I would suggest to elaborate more on the recruitment process and on how the above mentioned characteristics will be taken in account at the time of recruitment. Will they work as exclusion/inclusion criteria and there will be any stratification by those variables at entry in the study?

Because the study is investigating a very subjective matter, I was wondering if there will be any plan to avoid or take into account self selection and respondent biases.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.