

**Lived Realities of Solo Motherhood,
Donor Conception and Medically
Assisted Reproduction**

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Lived Realities of Solo Motherhood, Donor Conception and Medically Assisted Reproduction

By

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

To all the women who participated in this study

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About the Author

Tine Ravn, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at the Danish Centre for Studies in Research and Research Policy, Department of Political Science at Aarhus University. Her work broadly concerns the relationship between science and society with a particular focus on the social, legislative and ethical aspects of medical biotechnologies, research integrity/research ethics and public engagement with science and technology. She has a particular interest in assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs), solo motherhood, kinship and identity. Together with good colleagues, she has co-authored the book *Social Theory: a Textbook* published by Routledge.

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Overall, this is a book about life trajectories and how one is to navigate them, when no well-defined maps of life are available; when there is only the most basic coordinates and greater landmarks but no master cartography to be found. Some routes are, however, more well travelled than others. Embarking upon solo motherhood through donor conception as a particular route to motherhood is not one such well-travelled path and new strategies for and in life have to be explored. I am exceedingly grateful to the women in this study, for choosing to share their life stories with me and for giving me an insight into the lived realities of solo motherhood through donor conception. Their honest, personal, detailed and vivid narratives have formed the basis of this book and they deserve to be read in full with all the depth, complexity and richness that characterize them. Still, I hope my selection, analysis and representation will do them justice and also demonstrate individual life story integrity and profundity.

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