

representations of same-sex parenting in the Neapolitan context. Among other methodologies, 4 focus groups were carried out with university and high school students, teachers and social workers. Each focus group lasted 1 hour and half and was conducted by 1 clinical psychologist and 1 observer. In each group, it emerged the idea that a child with same-sex parents presents greater social and psychological difficulties compared to children with heterosexual parents. A further issue emerged from the groups was that the cultural context constitutes a problem because of strong cultural stereotypes which makes societies not ready to welcome these new forms of families yet. These results suggest that it is necessary to implement preventive interventions within educational contexts aimed at promoting a culture of differences and at improving a correct knowledge about “new families”, to overcome associated stereotypes and prejudices.

**THE DESIRE OF PARENTHOOD. CORRELATION BETWEEN
CO-PARENTAL INTERACTIONS AND THE ROMANTIC
RELATIONSHIP QUALITY AMONG ITALIAN SAME-SEX
COUPLES**

**Marina Miscioscia(1), Alessandro Taurino (2), Paolo Roberto Pagone
(1), Caterina Marcellan (1), Alessandra Simonelli (1)**

(1) Department of Developmental Psychology and Socialization, University of Padua

(2) Department of Education, Psychology, Communication, University of Bari Aldo Moro

In several longitudinal studies, co-parental interactions have been formerly observed during the pregnancy, demonstrating how these interactive dynamics can predict the quality of family interactions with the presence of the baby. Cooperation between the parents during the first year after childbirth is the most predictive factor of the best future adjustment of the baby during the school age and social and affective development.

In the last years, research focused on such interactive dynamics recognisable during the process of transition to parenthood; nevertheless, these studies pointed out features regarding a particular type of family defined as “traditional”, formed by a mother, a father and their biological children. Thanks to the development of the medicine concerning the medical assisted procreation, nowadays parenthood is accessible by gay and lesbian couples as well; gay and lesbian parenting is becoming a reality increasingly relevant also in Italy. Couple satisfaction, co-parental interactions and intuitive parental competences have been evaluated among a sample formed by 45 stable heterosexual, gay and lesbian couples without a child that want to become parents in the future. We used the systemic approach by the prenatal Lausanne Trilogue Play, a semi-naturalistic role-play: this tool involves in a cooperative task the two “parents” and a doll, which represents the child-to-be. Couple satisfaction has been evaluated with the Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS Spanier, 1976).

Preliminary data suggest that there are no differences between the three groups regarding co-parental intuitive competences and that a higher cohesion between the couple involves a better cooperation between the partners.