IVF as a Policy Analogue

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History of IVF

1. Inventing human IVF, 1970s

2. Making IVF routine, 1980s

3. IVF as a platform for innovation, 1980s–
   How concerns were aired and resolved

Focus on UK
Inventing human IVF, 1970s

Robert Edwards and Patrick Steptoe

MRC grant application rejected, 1971

- Risks to women volunteers, infertility low priority
- Risk of abnormalities in any child
- Hostility to publicity

But this crucial to public support

Embryo implants —> Louise Brown, 1978
Making IVF routine, 1980s

One success —> replicated

Controversies in UK —> statutory regulation


Kinship

Access
IVF as a platform

‘Old-fashioned’ or ‘classic’ IVF

Facilitating infrastructure

Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD)

Mitochondrial Replacement
Select recent bibliography

UK
Martin Johnson et al., ‘Why the Medical Research Council …’, Human Reproduction 25 (2010), 2157–74


Johnson & Kay Elder, six papers on work of Steptoe, Edwards & Jean Purdy in Reproductive Biomedicine and Society Online, summer 2015

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