

Greil authors article on 'Frustrated Fertility'

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Dr. Arthur L. Greil, professor of sociology in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at Alfred University, is one of four co-authors of an article, "Frustrated Fertility: Infertility and Psychological Distress Among Women," published in the Journal of Marriage and Family. Greil, along with Julia McQuillan and Lynn White, both of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and Mary Casey Jacob of the University of Connecticut Health Center, co-authored the paper, which is based on a study of a random sample of 580 women from the Midwest, testing the hypothesis that "women who have experienced infertility (will) report higher psychological distress." Approximately a third of the women reported that they had experienced fertility problems (problems conceiving and carrying a pregnancy to full term) at some point in their lives, although the majority of those who had experienced problems did have biological children. The researchers concluded that "Infertility, combined with involuntary childlessness (including biological and social) is associated with significantly greater distress," saying that women who experience fertility problems are at greater risk of psychological distress. The social and psychological problems arising from infertility are a long-standing research interest of Greil's, who is author of a book, *Not Yet Pregnant*, which was published by Rutgers University Press in 1991. For *Not Yet Pregnant*, Greil interviewed couples who had not been able to have children to assess the differing attitudes between men and women about infertility. For women, Greil concluded, infertility is seen as a personal catastrophe, while men tended to view childlessness, regardless of the cause, as "my wife's problem." He also observed that the couples viewed infertility as a "medical problem to be solved," and regarded themselves not as permanently childless, but rather, as "not yet pregnant."