

University of Groningen

Understanding childlessness

Verweij, Renske

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STELLINGEN/PROPOSITIONS

belonging to the thesis

Understanding childlessness

Unravelling the link with genes and the socio-environment

1. Many women expect to become a mother up to high ages, yet remain childless (Chapter 2)
2. Higher educated and working women more often remain childless, but not because they want to remain childless (Chapter 2)
3. Understanding postponement of childbearing requires more than studying age at first birth (Chapter 3)
4. Not (yet) owning a house or having a permanent contract are reasons why people postpone childbearing (Chapter 3)
5. Genes play a role in remaining childless, but influence men and women differently (Chapter 4)
6. Polygenic risk scores will rapidly increase in predictive power given the current steep increases in GWAS sample size (Chapter 5)
7. Given the rapid technological advances and ubiquity of (big) data in the field of human genetics, high speed and endurance are needed to stay ahead of the curve.
8. Genes and environment do not independently influence childlessness but are related and difficult to separate (Chapter 5)
9. Even with fine-grained data on fertility desires, intentions and outcomes it is difficult to distinguish between voluntary and involuntary childlessness (Chapter 2)
10. Zoals mijn moeder altijd zegt: van uitstel komt afstel.

Renske Marianne Verweij

