

## How the Political Becomes Private

# How the Political Becomes Private: In Vitro Fertilization and the Catholic Church in Poland

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### Abstract

The Polish debate on in vitro fertilization (IVF) is extremely heated and highly politicized. The hierarchs of the Catholic vehemently oppose the use of IVF. In this text, I present the Church's approach to IVF. Basing on the documentary film, *Three Conversations about Life*, and ethnographic research, as well as an analysis of Vatican documents and official statements of Polish bishops, I show how the positions of clergy might influence private lives. I indicate series of tensions associated with the "politics of morality" of the Catholic Church and the daily lives of people, who have children thanks to IVF.

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