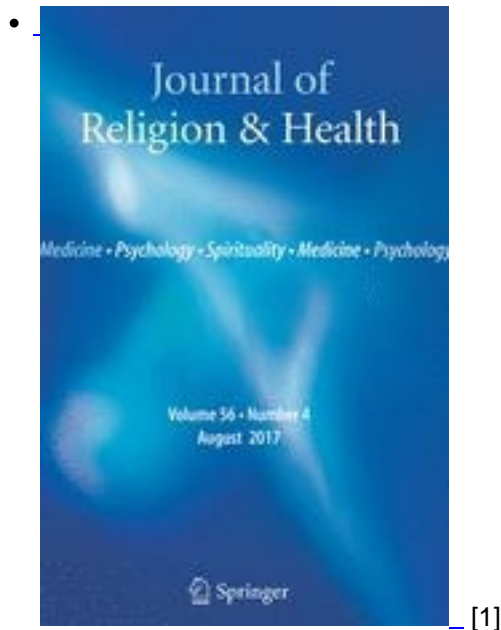


How the Political Becomes Private

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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