

# HOW DO DONOR CONCEIVED TEENAGERS PERCEIVE THEIR DONOR?

## DONOR CONCEIVED TEENAGERS

**Adolescence** is a crucial period for young people, particularly as they begin to see themselves as autonomous individuals, separate from their families. For some donor conceived teenagers, this phase often brings **curiosity about their origins and the donor**.

This is why we are interested in understanding how these young people perceive their **donor**.

## METHODOLOGY

To find out more, a team from the Research Chair interviewed **32 young participants** and **46 parents** from heteroparental, soloparental and homoparental families. The young participants were aged between 9 and 17.

## WHO'S THE DONOR?

Young people have a **variety of representations** of the donor: from a purely genetic gift to a generous person who helped their parents to conceive them.



Genetic gift

Generous help for my parents



## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A DONOR AND A FATHER?

For the majority of young people, a donor and a father represent **very distinct roles**. However, this distinction may be less clear-cut for children from single-parent families.

### Donor

A stranger, often absent, who has no affection for the young person.

He has passed on his genetics and origins, but for many young people, he is not a family member.

### Father

An individual who shares the same living environment as the child, takes care of the child's education, and maintains affectionate ties with the child.

## MEETING THE DONOR

Most young people are **curious** about meeting their donor. They may wonder what the donor looks like or what they have in common. However, some young people are **ambivalent** about meeting him for various reasons. They might question what they could gain from it or be concerned about how it might impact them. Others may not want to meet the donor at all, possibly out of fear of hurting their parents' feelings or because they **do not feel a need** to get to know the donor.

Additionally, some worry that meeting the donor could tarnish the idealized image they have of him. They might hope that the donor is **kind and generous**, but fear disappointment if their expectations are not met.

The young people we met have a variety of representations of their donor. For example, young people from two-parent families are more likely than those from single-parent families to use words to designate the donor according to his function (e.g.: donor, progenitor). Nevertheless, the young people we met are comfortable discussing their origins.

