In-Vitro Fertilization, Cloning Among Topics To Be Explored in Nov. 6 Talk at Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Helen Bequaert Holmes, coordinator of the research archive at the Center for Genetics, Ethics and Women in Amherst, Mass., will present "Reproductive Technology: A Women-Centered Analysis" Nov. 6 at Cal Poly.

Holmes' talk, at 7 p.m. in Philips Hall in the Christopher Cohan Center, will explore issues that arise when technologies are used to abet and foster childbearing. Holmes will analyze unexamined assumptions and priorities, technological imperatives, power relationships and the profit orientation of such technology-aided procedures as in-vitro fertilization, donor eggs and sperm, contract motherhood and cloning.

According to Holmes, those technologies can lead to some "slippery slopes," especially the temptation to design children.

Holmes earned a doctorate in population genetics from the University of Massachusetts and specializes in feminist analysis of reproductive technologies and the Human Genome Project.

She has received grants from the National Science Foundation, the Science and Society program at the University of Groningen in The Netherlands, the Fulbright Foundation and the ELSI program of the Office of Human Genome Research at the National Institutes of Health.

The free public lecture is sponsored by the Cal Poly Women's Studies office. For more information, contact Women's Studies at 756-1525, by e-mail to womst@polymail.calpoly.edu or online at www.calpoly.edu/~womst.