In Germany, an interdisciplinary discussion about the medical possibilities and sociotechnological chances as well as about the ethical legitimacy and political legality concerning sterilizing operations began at the end of the nineteenth century and went on until the early thirties. As a member of the sexological faction, the physician Albert Moll was one of the most prominent representatives of this discussion.

By analyzing the most relevant publications, the paper wants to reconstruct, how Moll positioned himself within the sexological deliberation about the legalization of sterilizing operations as a (either voluntary or compulsory) means on the basis of medical, social, economic, criminological and – especially – eugenic indication. Accordingly, the central questions are:

- What was Moll’s impact on the sterilization movement in Imperial and Weimar Germany until the Nazis enacted the “Law for the Prevention of Hereditarily Diseased Offspring” (“Gesetz zur Verhütung erbranken Nachwuchses”) in 1933?

- Why did Moll not agree with the suggestions about sterilization that his colleague Gustav Boeters brought up in his so-called “Lex Zwickau”?

- Did Moll see any chance to reconcile the possible applications of social engineering by methods of modern eugenics or racial hygiene (e.g., preventing undesirable reproduction of “inferior” or “degenerated” progeny) with the demands of medical ethics?

In order to examine Moll’s contribution to the German sterilization movement during the first third of the twentieth century more detailed, the paper is planned to be arranged as follows:

1.) Introduction; 2.) Albert Moll and the beginning of the sterilization movement in Imperial Germany; 3.) The sterilization dispute between Albert Moll and Gustav Boeters in Weimar Germany; and, 4.) Conclusion

Biography