Fertility, Reproduction and Sexuality
Volume 25
PREGNANCY IN PRACTICE
Expectation and Experience in the Contemporary US
Sallie Han, SUNY College at Oneonta

“The author takes an insightful look at an understudied phenomenon: that of ordinary pregnancy. She rightly notes that much scholarship has documented birth and the medicalization of pregnancy. Not enough attention has been paid to the mundane aspects of pregnancy. While an analysis of the quotidian might seem boring, it is when scholars problematize the everyday (the things we take for granted) that new insights are revealed.”
Miranda Waggoner, Princeton University

Based on rich empirical work, this book examines the everyday experiences that mark pregnancy in the US today, such as reading pregnancy advice books, showing ultrasound “baby pictures” to friends and co-workers, and decorating the nursery in anticipation of the new arrival. These ordinary practices of pregnancy, the author argues, are significant and revealing creative activities that produce babies. This book brings into focus a topic that has been overlooked in the scholarship on reproduction and will be of interest to professionals and expectant parents alike.

July 2013, 192 pages, 6 illus., bibl., index

Volume 24
MILITANT LACTIVISM?
Attachment Parenting and Intensive Motherhood in the UK and France
Charlotte Faircloth, University of Kent

“The cross-cultural dimension is one of the things that make this book unique and especially valuable… Overall, the book is one of an important topic, based on sound research. This is a major contribution to scholarship on parenting, and a compelling study of a subject now in the forefront of public debate.”
Linda Layne, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute / University of Cambridge

Following networks of mothers in London and Paris, the author profiles the narratives of women who breastfeed their children to full term, typically a period of several years, as part of an “attachment parenting” philosophy. The book investigates why, how, and with what implications some of these mothers describe themselves as “militant lactivists” as well as reflects on wider parenting culture in the UK and France. Discussing gender, feminism, and activism, this study contributes to kinship and family studies by exploring how relatedness is enacted in conjunction to constructions of the self.

March 2013, 236 pages, 5 illus., 1 table, bibl., index
ISBN 978-0-85745-758-5 hardback $85.00 / £53.00
FERTILITY, REPRODUCTION AND SEXUALITY

NEW IN PAPERBACK

Volume 21
UNSAFE MOTHERHOOD
Mayan Maternal Mortality and Subjectivity in Post-War Guatemala
Nicole S. Berry, Simon Fraser University

"a compelling account of maternal mortality and maternal health care among indigenous populations in Guatemala" Sarah Pinto, Tufts University

"A finely argued monograph. It does what it sets out to do well: offering valuable insights on a topic of global importance." JRAI

The author examines the diverse meanings and understandings of motherhood, pregnancy, birth and birth-related death among the biomedical personnel, village women, their families, and midwives. These incongruous perspectives, in conjunction with the implementation of such policies, threaten to disenfranchise clients from their own cultural understandings of self. The author investigates how these policies need to meld with the everyday lives of these women, and how the failure to do so will lead to a failure to decrease maternal deaths globally.

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Volume 20
ABORTION IN ASIA
Local Dilemmas, Global Politics
Edited by Andrea Whittaker, University of Queensland, Australia

"This book makes an empirically rich and important contribution to social scientific scholarship on induced abortion practices and will hopefully inspire further studies." Social Anthropology/Anthropologie sociale

"This book is a comprehensive volume on abortion in South and Southeast Asia. Readers will benefit from this informative volume in gaining a bird's eye view of the heated debate and local realities in these regions." Asian Anthropology

"The contributions make it a significantly important reference book for the areas of politics of reproduction, gender, and development, as well as gender, culture, and health. It would be particularly useful in medical anthropology in public health, anthropology and reproductive health, as well as gender and health courses." Medical Anthropology Quarterly

Available, 270 pages, 20 ils, bibl., index

Volume 19
KIN, GENE, COMMUNITY
Reproductive Technologies among Jewish Israelis
Edited by Daphna Birenbaum-Carmeli and Yoram S. Carmeli, both at the University of Haifa

Israel is the only country in the world that offers free fertility treatments to nearly any woman who requires medical assistance. It also has the world’s highest per capita usage of in-vitro fertilization. Examining state policies and the application of reproductive technologies among Jewish Israelis, this volume explores the role of tradition and politics in the construction of families within local Jewish populations. The contributors—anthropologists, bioethicists, jurists, physicians and biologists—highlight the complexities surrounding these treatments and show how biological relatedness is being construed as a technology of power; how genetics is woven into the production of identities; how reproductive technologies enhance the policing of boundaries.

Available, 344 pages, bibl., index

Volume 18
ASSISTING REPRODUCTION, TESTING GENES
Global Encounters with New Biotechnologies
Edited by Daphna Birenbaum-Carmeli, University of Israel, Haifa, and Marcia C. Inhorn, Yale University

"This book provides good and interesting reading for all who want details of the cultural significances, religious and political impacts of ARTs as experienced by people of different ethnicity and religious background. Most importantly, this volume conveys the complexities of introducing and implementing ARTs in different cultures and political settings. It also brings to forth the meaning of reproduction in societies, the price and value of human life." Anthropological Notebooks

Following the routinization of assisted reproduction in the industrialized world, technologies such as in vitro fertilization, preimplantation genetic diagnosis, and DNA-based paternity testing have traveled globally and are now being offered to couples in numerous non-Western countries. This volume explores the application and impact of these advanced reproductive and genetic technologies in societies across the globe. By highlighting both the cross-cultural similarities and diverse meanings that technologies may assume as they enter multiple contexts, the book aims to foster understanding of both the technologies and the settings. Enhanced by cross-cultural perspectives, the book addresses the challenges that globalization presents to local understandings of science, technology, and medicine.

Available, 344 pages, bibl., index
Fertility, Reproduction and Sexuality

Volume 13

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Edited by Sandra Samford, University of Toronto, and James Leach, University of Aberdeen

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Ethnobiology Letters

The genealogical model has a long-standing history in Western thought. The contributors to this volume consider the ways in which assumptions about the genealogical model—in particular, ideas concerning sequence, essence, and transmission—structure other modes of practice and knowledge-making in domains well beyond what is normally labeled “kinship.” The detailed ethnographic work and analysis explore how these assumptions have been built into our understandings of race, personhood, ethnicity, property relations, and the relationship between human beings and non-human species. In doing so, this volume brings fresh new perspectives to bear on contemporary theories concerning biotechnology and its effect upon social life.

Volume 14

European Kinship in the Age of Biotechnology
Edited by Jeanette Edwards, Manchester University, and Carles Salazar, University of Lleida, Spain

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Journal of Anthropological Research

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Volume 15

Kinship and Beyond
Edited by Christine McCourt, Thames Valley University

Nomination for the Car Prize for the Most Notable Recent Edition Devoted to the Anthropology of Reproduction

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“This book is consistently well written, the ethnographic data are rich, and anthropological concepts and perspectives are successfully used to provide important insights into the meaning of time in relation to childbirth.” JRAI

“Childbirth is an eurudite and lively collection of writings by some of the most creative and innovative authors around on the theme of time and childbirth. Drawing on anthropological and sociological perspectives, the authors have created a unique praxis which embodies theory and ethnographic empirical work. Chris McCourt has created a truly original book which will be on the ‘must read’ list for scholars, practitioners and all those with an interest in the meaning of birth in society today.”

Jane Sandall, King’s College

Available, 280 pages, 7 ill., biblog., index
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Volume 16

Islam and New Kinship
Reproductive Technology and the Shariah in Lebanon
Morgan Clarke, University of Cambridge

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“The genealogical model has become such a prominent feature of much recent anthropological work on kinship... In this richly ethnographic text, the most familiar problems produce the most unusual answers... Each chapter brilliantly combines kinship as a matrix with kinship as a tool, using ethnographic examples that leap off the page.” Journal of Anthropological Research

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Sociology of Health and Illness

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American Ethnologist

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"...the authors provide innovative ethnographic data and analysis." American Ethnologist

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Editor: Christine McCourt, City University London

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