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# The Anthropology of Obstetrics and Obstetricians

### The Practice, Maintenance, and Reproduction of a Biomedical Profession

#### **Editors:**

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Obstetricians are the primary drivers of the research on and the implementation of interventions in the birth process. In many countries, they are also primary drivers of violence, disrespect, and abuse during the perinatal period. Yet there is little social science literature on obstetricians themselves, their educational processes, and their personal rationales for their practices. These ground-breaking collections fill that gap by officially creating an "anthropology of obstetrics and obstetricians" across countries and cultures including biopolitical and professional cultures—so that a broad and deep understanding of these maternity care providers and their practices, ideologies, motivations, and diversities can be achieved.

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Part I addresses obstetric violence and systemic racial, ethnic, gendered, and socio-structural disparities in obstetricians' practices in the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru, and the US. Part II examines decolonizing and humanizing obstetric training and practice in the UK, Russia, Brazil, New Zealand, and the US. Part 3 presents the ethnographic challenges that the chapter authors in the first two volumes faced in finding, surveying, interviewing, and observing obstetricians in various countries.

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