

Newsletter



Volume 17 Issue 1

FALL 2010

CAR News

On Saturday, November 20 from 10:15 - 12:00, the CAR Advocacy Committee, AFA and SANA are proud to present :

"Practicing Activism: A Conversation with Lynn Paltrow"

including remarks by discussants Monica Casper and Linda Layne

The Advocacy Committee of the Council on Anthropology and Reproduction seeks to ensure that anthropologists have a voice in public conversations about reproductive and sexual rights and health. This year we are proud to host a conversation with Lynn Paltrow, Executive Director of the National Advocates for Pregnant Women, an organization that challenges efforts to criminalize pregnancy and motherhood, establish fetal rights under the law, and expand the war on drugs to women's wombs. Paltrow is a reproductive rights lawyer and legal advocate committed to building bridges and aligning agendas across diverse health and social justice movements. Paltrow will discuss the relationship between corporate personhood and fetal personhood initiatives, as exemplified by the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision to recognize corporate personhood under the Constitution by extending First Amendment free

speech protections to corporations seeking to influence elections. Meanwhile, pregnant women have yet to be recognized as full persons under the Constitution, and anti-abortion groups continue to push for recognition of fetal personhood under the Constitution. The 5-4 decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission overturned approximately 100 years of precedents, reminding us that no constitutional precedent is secure. Paltrow will emphasize the intersections of legal and social science activism, focusing on how academic and applied anthropologists can build alliances with local organizers and activists to influence national advocacy and policy work. The goal of this panel is to facilitate collaboration, increase and improve communication about anthropological engagement and to encourage academic and applied anthropologists to exercise a strong, effective voice in public policy.

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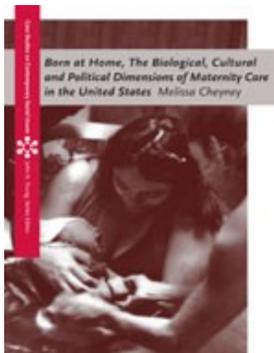
The annual **CAR Business Meeting** is Friday, November 19 from 12:15 - 1:30 pm. Be sure to tell your friends - this is a great opportunity to attract new members.

CAN'T MISS: CAR Reception on Saturday, November 20 from 7 - 9 pm. There will be a cash bar and some nibbles.

The CAR Steering Committee

Chair:	Vania Smith-Oka
Senior Advisor:	Robbie Davis-Floyd
Secretary:	Lauren Fordyce
Newsletter Co-Editors:	Jan Brunson, Diana Santana, Jennifer Aengst
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Paper Prize:	Elise Andaya, Crystal Patil, Claire Wendland, Catherine Maternowska, Jill Fleuriet, Robbie Davis-Floyd
Membership Coordinator:	Sallie Han, Sarah Rubin
Listserv:	Lara Braff
Website:	Sarah Orndorff

New Books

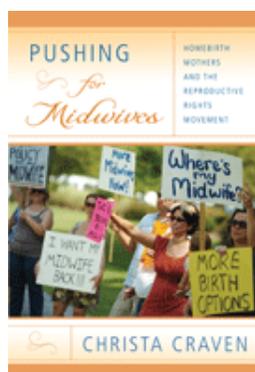


Born at Home: The Biological, Cultural, and Political Dimensions of Maternity Care in the United States

Melissa Cheyney
Wadsworth, Cengage Learning

This is a book about women who choose to give birth at home against the wishes and indeed the interests of established medicine in the United States. It places the issue within the context of the continuing health care crisis in this country and poses surprisingly traditional alternatives to the mechanized and impersonal care delivery that accompanies that crisis and indeed arises from it. It offers an intimate look at an emerging movement that runs counter to established medical practice and yet poses a viable alternative to that practice. The writing is direct, personal and filled with numerous individual accounts. It is designed to inspire discussion, indeed to provoke controversy, and yet is set on sound scholarly principles.

Melissa Cheyney, PhD, CPM, LDM, is an Assistant Professor of Medical Anthropology and Reproductive Biology at Oregon State University, and is a Licensed Direct-Entry Midwife in Oregon State. She

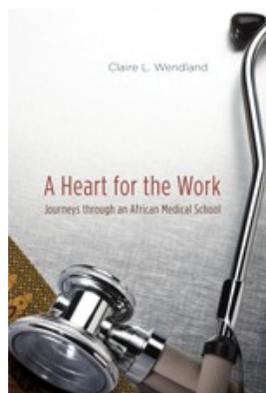


Pushing for Midwives: Homebirth Mothers and the Reproductive Rights Movement

Christa Craven
Temple University Press

With the increasing demand for midwives among U.S. women, reproductive rights activists are lobbying to loosen restrictions that deny legal access to homebirth options. In *Pushing for Midwives*, Christa Craven presents a nuanced history of women's reproductive rights activism in the U.S. She also provides an examination of contemporary organizing strategies for reproductive rights in an era increasingly driven by "consumer rights."

By framing the midwifery struggle through a political economic perspective on reproductive rights, *Pushing for Midwives* offers an in-depth look at the strategies, successes, and challenges facing midwifery activists in Virginia. Craven examines how decades-old race and class prejudices against midwives continue to impact opposition to—as well as divisions within—women's contemporary legislative efforts for midwives. She argues that this recognition is vital for both scholars and activists if they hope to maintain their commitment to expanding reproductive rights for all women.



A Heart for the Work: Journeys through an African Medical School

Claire Wendland
University of Chicago Press

Anthropologists and other social scientists have published many valuable ethnographies of medical training over the past fifty years—but all of the major research was conducted at schools in North America or Western Europe, even though only 15% of the world's medical schools are in those regions.

A Heart for the Work is the first ethnography of medical training anywhere in the global South. The book explores the paths taken by students learning to become doctors in Malawi, where the textbooks they use and the medical knowledge they learn may be very similar to those of American medical students, but both material resources and cultural patterns of healing are very different indeed.

Panels on Reproduction at the AAA Conference

WEDNESDAY

Session Title: WHAT'S NEW ABOUT 'PARENTING'? KINSHIP, POLITICS AND IDENTITY

Session Sponsor: Society for Medical Anthropology

Session Date/Time: Wed., 4:00 PM-7:45 PM

Location: Maurepas, Third Floor, Sheraton

Organizer(s): CHARLOTTE FAIRCLOTH (University of Cambridge)

Chair(s): CHARLOTTE FAIRCLOTH (University of Cambridge)

FRIDAY

Session Title: SEXUALITIES IN 'OUT-OF-THE-WAY' PLACES: TRACING INTIMACIES ACROSS BOUNDARIES

Session Sponsor: Association for Feminist Anthropology

Session Date/Time: Fri., 8:00 AM-9:45 AM

Location: Salon 817 & 821, Eighth Floor, Sheraton

Organizer(s): JENNIFER AENGST (University of California-Davis)

Chair(s): JAN BRUNSON (Bowdoin College)

SATURDAY

Session Title: THE UNFORTUNATE FETUS: A POPULAR DISCOURSE OF REPRODUCTIVE MISFORTUNE

Session Sponsor: Society for Medical Anthropology

Session Date/Time: Sat., 1:45 PM-3:30 PM

Location: Bayside C, Fourth Floor, Sheraton

Organizer(s): AMINATA MARAESA (New York University), LAUREN FORDYCE (University of North Carolina-Asheville)

Chair(s): AMINATA MARAESA (New York University)

SUNDAY

Session Title: REPRODUCTION IN TRANSNATIONAL SETTINGS

Session Sponsor: Society for Medical Anthropology

Session Date/Time: Sun., 8:00 AM-9:45 AM

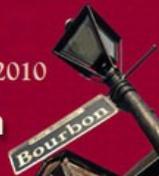
Location: Studio 9, Second Floor, Marriott

Organizer(s): ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM COMMITTEE (AAA)

Chair(s): JONATHAN MAUPIN (Arizona State University)

AAA Annual Meeting
New Orleans, LA • November 17-21, 2010

Meeting Information



Announcements

Also look for:

A special issue of
*Social Science and
Medicine on Loss in
Childbearing*

A special issue of
*Ethos on Mothering
as Everyday Practice*

Nicole S. Berry is excited to announce that *Unsafe Motherhood: Mayan Maternal Mortality and Subjectivity in Post-War Guatemala* is coming out this month!

Danielle Bessett, Ph.D. is pleased to announce she has new job as Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Cincinnati. Congratulations Danielle!

Jennifer Foster is now part of the Collaborative Alliance to improve maternal newborn health in the Americas by strengthening nursing and midwifery (organized by PAHO). She visited Paraguay and Chile (September 18-29) to explore multi-country research collaborations to improve midwifery services in the Americas.

Christine Morton (Stanford University, California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative) was guest editor for *Midwifery- Special Issue on Safety in Maternity Care* with Jane Sandall (Professor of Women's Health; Programme Director (Innovations) NIHR King's Patient Safety and Service Quality Research Centre; Department of Primary Care and Public Health Sciences; King's College London School of Medicine).

Diana Santana was recently promoted to Associate Regional Director of PPFA's Latin America Regional Office. PPFA works to bridge reproductive health service delivery with advocacy efforts, not only in the US but internationally as well. She is responsible for the Peru country program, and is overseas quite a bit.

Member Publications

Danielle Bessett. 2010. "Negotiating Normalization: The Perils of Producing Pregnancy Symptoms in Prenatal Care." *Social Science & Medicine*. 71(2): 370-377.

Jan Brunson. 2010. "Son Preference in the Context of Fertility Decline: Limits to New Constructions of Gender and Kinship in Nepal." *Studies in Family Planning*. 41(2):89-98.

Christa Craven. 2010. "Downplaying Difference: Historical Accounts of African American Midwives and Contemporary Struggles for Midwifery" (co-authored with Mara Glatzel). *Feminist Studies* (*Re-inventing Mothers* Issue) 36(2):330-358.

Jennifer Foster, Burgos, R, Tejada, C, Caceres, R, Hilliard, R, Chiang, F, Hall, P, Urbaz, M, Perez, L, Nobia, F, Altamonte, A. 2010. "A community-based participatory research approach to explore perceptions of the quality of maternal-newborn health services in the Dominican Republic." *Midwifery*, 26 (5), 504-511.

Tsipy Ivry. 2010. "Kosher Medicine and Medicalized Halacha: An Exploration of Triadic Relations Among Israeli Rabbis, Doctors, and Infertility Patients." *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 37, No.4 pp 662-680.

Christine Morton. "From Childbirth Educator to Doula and Back Again — Trends in the History of Birth Advocacy and Education" as a Guest Blogger on two blogs to reach a cross section of childbirth reform advocates at Science and Sensibility, and feminist researchers at Girl with Pen. Check it out at: <http://girlwpen.com/?p=1910> <scienceandsensibility.org/?p=1537>

Christine Morton also published a book review in *MAQ*, V24 (3) Aug 2010 *DES Daughters: Embodied Knowledge and the Transformation of Women's Health Politics*. Susan E. Bell. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2009. xi + 232 pp.



Mentorship Column

Anthropology and Advocacy

by Wendy Chavkin



Wendy Chavkin MD, MPH is Professor of Public Health and Obstetrics-Gynecology at Columbia University in NY.

She helped found Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health and served as Chair of its Board of Directors and recently helped launch Global Doctors for Choice.

Reproductive health has been so mired in controversy that evidence and scientifically based rational arguments often go unheeded. While reproductive health is particularly fraught, other public health issues are similarly held captive by political contention. In order to effectively intervene in this logjam so that science, evidence and the voices of the affected are heard, I have concluded that one must become a proficient advocate. While I have long “winged it” as an advocate, drawing both upon my technical skills as a public health and ob/gyn physician and the credibility of my professional degree to legitimize my involvement in reproductive health policy issues, I have lately developed an appreciation of advocacy as comprising specific analytic tools and concrete skills. There are empirically derived as well as theoretically based strategies that professionals can employ to achieve their advocacy goals, and specific methods and skills that are integral to effective advocacy. My starting premise is that research results are necessary but often insufficient on their own and that one must engage to ensure that they have traction and contribute to improving people’s lives. Increasingly, anthropologists are embracing advocacy on behalf of, and with, the people they study ^{1,2}.

Some obvious questions include the definition of advocacy and the role of the expert in advocacy – in your case, the anthropologist. The World Health Organization defines advocacy as “Speaking up, drawing attention to an issue, winning the support of key constituencies in order to influence policies and spending, or bring about change” I would emphasize SYSTEMIC change and thus distinguish it from education, interventions or research. Clearly one has to start with identifying the problem, formulating your long-term goal to redress it, the range of possible solutions and the more immediate objectives, together with clarity about the target of your advocacy. In order to proceed you must understand who is affected and how, and who are the key players and forces affecting the issue.

Advocacy is a messy undertaking and necessitates collaboration. One has to understand both those likely to support and to oppose your position and appreciate the ways in which potential allies might complement or frustrate some of your approaches. This implies developing an awareness of the varied contributions different actors can make to effective advocacy, while simultaneously refining your vision of the role of the anthropologist/ researcher.

In order to keep focus on your niche contribution as expert, you thus have to:

- analyze the local political context, actors and institutions, all of which your anthropological orientation equips you to do well;
- identify key message points that support your goal and that are based on your world of ethnographic data and participant observation;
- translate this technical knowledge into layperson language for collaborators and target audiences.

The process involves frequent re-assessments, the ability to regroup after setbacks – which are guaranteed to occur- and the patience to sustain involvement in a long-term process. This process requires honest self assessment as well – both of your role and skill as an “expert” and of your private likes, fears, hesitations that affect your ability to contribute cleanly – to whatever degree you decide.

Let me conclude by mentioning an advocacy project in which I am collaborating with anthropologists. I have helped launch Global Doctors for Choice (GDC) which is a new initiative, a global network of physicians trained to advocate for reproductive health care. GDC’s organizational objectives are to: provide doctors with skills-based hands-on training in the technical and conceptual tools required to participate effectively in debates related to science, evidence and human rights as they relate to the politically contentious domain of reproductive health care; collaborate with key national, regional and local organizations to identify opportunities for doctor advocacy (with medical organizations, NGOs and legal associations); establish a global network of support and exchange for physicians who engage in reproductive health advocacy; and serve as a comprehensive resource center (a databank) of key doctor strategies and authoritative medical position statements.

GDC is concerned about clinicians who refuse to provide legal services like abortion and contraception, citing “conscientious refusal”. We have been working with several anthropologists who have

Mentorship Column Cont...

been conducting research in three countries where this is a salient concern as it has led to very limited access for patients: Poland, Ireland, Brazil. They have used familiar anthropologic tools and rigorous study designs to help us understand the motivations, worldviews, and factors associated with this phenomenon. They have informed GDC about their findings and testified directly to regional bodies considering regulatory responses.

I fear that I have made the advocacy process sound onerous and grim – in fact, I find it completely exhilarating to contribute my technical and research skills towards the immediate, complicated, frustrating and very real world.

¹ Kellett, P Advocacy in Anthropology: Active engagement or passive scholarship? Durham Anthropology Journal 2009 Volume 16(1) 2009: 22-31

² CAR Advocacy Statement.

Mentoring at the AAA Meeting

An invitation from Linda Layne:

This year we are experimenting with something new—mentoring at the AAA meetings. Some other organizations, like the Society for Social Studies of Science, do this for their members. One of the nicest things about working in the anthropology of reproduction is how supportive others in this field are. This session is a way of formalizing that support. Members at any stage in their careers can ask for advice. Those who are more experienced pass on what they've learned to those who are at an earlier stage. This can mean that members who have recently complete their PhD offer help to those who are still in grad school, or that tenured professors offer advice on promotion and tenure.

We have reserved space for a mentoring session Thursday from 12:15-1:30. Check the program for location. If you would like to be mentored, and/or would be willing to mentor, please let me know as soon as possible (preferably by Nov 1) by filling out and returning this form to Linda Layne, laynel@rpi.edu. Even if you are not available at that particular time, and are interested in participating in either role (or both), let me know by filling in the following.

1st Annual CAR Mentoring Session Sign-up Form

Name

Desired Role: Mentor Mentee Both (If you are requesting mentoring, please include your c.v.)

Rank

Research Area/s

Mentoring Issue/s

Days attending Meeting: W Th F S S

Contact info while at the meetings:

Email

Cell phone

**Participate in
the new
mentoring
session at the
AAA meeting**

Job Notices:

Research Assistantship in Maternal Health

Kim Gutschow is looking for a 1-2 year research assistant (RA) to start in April of 2011. The RA will be based in Germany and India (Ladakh), with shorter trips (1-2 months) to the US possible. The RA will help design and implement a baseline study of maternal deaths and near misses using verbal autopsies and facility based reviews using verbal autopsies, facility based reviews, and other ethnographic methods to better assess maternal mortality in rural India. The RA will also serve as a Teaching Assistant in the Medical Anthropology Program at the University of Goettingen from April-July each year.

Qualifications desired include:

- * some background in medical anthropology or public health
- * interest in qualitative methods
- * some experience with both qualitative and quantitative research methods in maternal health and/or global health
- * Tibetan, Ladakhi, or Hindi is desirable but not necessary (German is not required)

The position will provide the following benefits:

- * Salary of 1500-1800 Euros/month
- * Health benefits
- * Funding to pursue an MA or PhD at the University of Goettingen in its departments including Center for Modern Indian Studies or the Institute of Ethnology (MA and PhD programs in Anthropology). For more information on these programs see my website at Goettingen University.
<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/184980.html>

Please write Kim.Gutschow@Williams.edu to find out more. If interested, please submit CV, publication list, other relevant information.



Feminist Gender & Sexuality Studies and the Department of Anthropology

DEADLINE: by November 1, 2010

Feminist, Gender, & Sexuality Studies (FGSS) and the Department of Anthropology seek to make two joint tenure-track appointments beginning July 2011. Ph.D. in Anthropology and critical engagements with feminist, gender, and /or sexuality/queer theory required.

To apply send a letter of interest, graduate transcript, c.v., three letters of reference, article-length writing sample demonstrating your fit for the joint position, and two sample syllabi (one an undergraduate introduction to FGSS and a second in feminist theory) to:

FGSS/Anthropology Search Committee
391 Uris Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853-7601

*Applications from women and minority candidates are especially welcome.
Cornell University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.*

COUNCIL ON
ANTHROPOLOGY
AND
REPRODUCTION

Co-Editors:
Jan Brunson
Diana Santana
Jennifer Aengst

[http://sites.google.com/
site/anthrorepro/](http://sites.google.com/site/anthrorepro/)

CONFERENCES of INTEREST

October 28-29, 2010 Lisbon, Portugal
Panic and Mourning
Website: <http://www.panicandmourning.wordpress.com>

October 30-31, 2010 Sydney, NSW, Australia
Too much, too little and different: The sexual possibilities of the new millennium.
Website: <http://www.assertnsw.org.au>

November 17-21, 2010 New Orleans, Louisiana
109th American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting
Website: <http://www.aaanet.org/meetings/>

November 22-23, 2010 Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Innovations in Gender, Sex, and Health Research
Website: <http://www.f2fe.com/IGH/2010/Conference/>

November 27-28, 2010 Frankfurt, Germany
RE-IMAGINING GENDER AND POLITICS: TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST INTERVENTIONS
Website: <http://www.politik-und-geschlecht.de/index.html>

November 30-December 3, 2010 Barcelona, Spain
II INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE THE TEXTS OF THE BODY: GENERATING BODIES
Website: http://cositextualitat.uab.cat/en/novetats.php?_reg=10

December 1-3, 2010 Madrid, Spain
IV International Symposium on Assisted Reproduction
Website: <http://www.simposiofundaciontambre.com>

February 11-12, 2011 Brighton, East Sussex, United Kingdom
18th Annual Lesbian Lives Conference: REVOLTING: BODIES, POLITICS & GENDERS
Website: <http://arts.brighton.ac.uk/lesbian-lives>

February 24-25, 2011 Oslo, Norway
The Costs of Children
Website: http://www.reconproject.eu/projectweb/portalproject/OsloFeb11_CallPapers.html

March 29-April 2, 2011 Seattle, WA
SfAA 2011: Expanding the Influence of Applied Social Science
Website: <http://www.sfaa.net/sfaa2011.html>

Sept 15-17, 2011 Los Angeles, CA
Reproductive Health 2011
Website: www.arhp.org/2009abstracts
Abstract deadline: Friday, Feb. 25th 2011

