

# Newsletter

Spring 2010

Volume 16, Issue 2

## Upcoming Conferences of Interest

**March 20th, 2010:** Greensboro, NC  
*Breastfeeding and Feminism 2010: Rethinking Public Health Approaches*

**March 24-27:** Mérida, México  
*Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting: "Vulnerabilities and Exclusion in Globalization"*

**March 26-28, 2010:** Washington DC  
*Women's Health 2010 18th Annual Congress*

**April 11-15, 2010:** Arlington, VA  
*National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA) National Conference*

**May 15-19, 2010:** San Francisco, CA  
*American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Annual Clinical Meeting*

**May 19-22, 2010:** The Hague, The Netherlands  
*European Society of Contraceptive and Reproductive Health 11<sup>th</sup> Congress: "Culture, Communication, Contraception"*

**June 11-17, 2010:** Washington, DC  
*American College of Nurse-Midwives Annual Meeting and Exposition*

## CAR News

### CAR meeting in Mexico

The CAR meeting is set up for noon on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, at the SfAA/SMA meetings in Merida, Mexico. Crystal Patil will be leading the meeting.

### CAR now on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Council-on-Anthropology-Reproduction/297446336469?ref=ts>

Please come and fan us!

### CAR Website

Please check out our CAR website, which has been actively updated by our former chair Sarah Orndorff  
<http://sites.google.com/site/anthrorepro/Home>

### CAR Advocacy

Lynn Morgan and Becca Howes-Mischel (our busy Advocacy committee) have also updated the Advocacy page of the site:

<https://sites.google.com/site/anthrorepro/Home/car-advocacy-committee>

### Who is on CAR Committees?

Chair: *Vania Smith-Oka*

Secretary: *Lauren Fordyce*

Advocacy Committee: *Lynn Morgan and Rebecca (Becca) Howes-Mischel*

Book Prize: *Meg McCullough, Junjie Chen, Elly Teman*

Paper Prize: *Elise Andaya, Crystal Patil, Claire Wendland*

Membership: *Sallie Han (chair), and Sarah Rubin (apprentice)*

Newsletter: *Jen Aengst and Jan Brunson*

Listserv: *Lara Braff*

Website: *Sarah Orndorff*

## Mentorship Column: *Paying it Forward*

From Elly Teman

Postdoctoral Fellow, Penn Center for the Integration of Genetic Healthcare Technologies (Penn CIGHT)  
University of Pennsylvania



Paying it forward. Yes, it is the name of a schmaltzy movie with Haley Joel Osment and Helen Hunt, but the concept is one that I have been privileged to learn through the experience of giving birth to my third baby-and longest labor of love, sweat and tears-my book, *Birthing a Mother*, which is finally being published this month. All I remember from that

movie is that it was a tear jerker about a kid who got involved in a kind of pyramid scheme of doing what we Jews call mitzvahs: one person does a good deed for another and that person goes on to do it for someone else rather than paying the other person back.

Getting my book published was definitely the end result of me being on the receiving end of a mitzvah pyramid scheme. We all feel grateful to our fellow grad students and our mentors after completing our dissertations for their feedback and guidance, but somehow once that dissertation has been approved and our PhD is in hand, we are suddenly, and sometimes very shocked to find, that we are thrust out into the real world. I personally felt like a toddler first learning to walk on my own. I had pretty much known what to do in order to complete the PhD, or at least whom to ask, but the next step was a lot more bewildering than that. So when I sat there with the rejection letters after submitting my book proposal to several publishers, I wasn't sure what to do next.

The universe heard my call. After hearing me out over dinner at the AAAs, Robbie Davis-Floyd literally took me by the hand and marched me around the book exhibit to meet the book acquisition editors of several presses. Having been a reader for my dissertation, she knew my work well, and lucky for me, she believed in it too. From

editor to editor we went, with Robbie introducing me and plugging my book with enthusiasm: "This is Elly and she has a fabulous book about these Israeli surrogate mothers who make surrogacy into a national mission." That was all I needed: that initial introduction to make an awkward self-marketing process a little friendlier and to make my jitters go away. I could take it from there with my well-versed five-sentence blurb.

This year at the AAAs in Philadelphia, two women I knew through CAR told me how they were now in the position that I had been: they had a manuscript they wanted to make into a book, but were not sure how to get a publisher interested. It was my turn now. I gave each of them a pep talk about the importance of meeting the acquisition editors at the AAA book exhibit so that they can put a face to your book proposal and so that they can understand why your book is so great by hearing you give them your own five-sentence plug. Then I marched each of them into the book exhibit and took a swirl around the room with them to introduce them to a few acquisition editors, none of whom I actually knew personally, but whose names I could identify. All they needed was that first push into the pool. After giving them a Robbie-worthy introduction to the editor, it was their turn to sink or swim with the rest.

In short, at one time or another we all face that knee-jittering moment when we are standing outside of the book exhibition at the AAAs and know we should be trying to advocate for our manuscript but just need that little push. If you have had your manuscript accepted, remember to take a few minutes at the next AAAs to take another CAR member by the hand and take them into that big foreboding room.

Thank you Robbie for taking me for that spin. I'm paying it forward.

***Thanks to Elly Teman for volunteering to write this month's mentorship column! Please contact Jan or Jennifer if you're interested in writing a column for a future newsletter, or if you have ideas for future column topics***

## Awards & Announcements

Congratulations to **Junjie Chen** and **Mara Buchbinder** for their CAR paper prizes!

**Graduate Student Paper Prize** - This year, Elise Andaya and the Paper Prize Committee were pleased to announce that **Junjie Chen** submitted an excellent, publishable paper and was awarded our Graduate Student Paper Prize. Junjie was offered a certificate from the group as well as a monetary prize in the amount of \$250. His paper was titled "What counts as a Family Line: Reproductive Politics and Class Differentiations in Postsocialist Rural China." The abstract of his paper is included below.



This year, the Paper Prize Committee was so impressed with a second paper that they created a special **Honorable Mention award** that went to **Mara Buchbinder**. Mara was presented with a certificate from the group and a monetary award of \$100. Her paper was titled, "Reproductive Technologies and the Dream of the Perfect Child Revisited: Lessons From Expanded Newborn Screening." A revised version of this paper was just accepted for publication in *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*.



### ***What Counts as a "Family Line"?***

#### ***Reproductive Politics and Class Differentiations in Postsocialist Rural China***

Beginning in 1980, China's stringent population policy resulted in many rural families having daughters as their only children. As legitimate, sole heirs of their families, these "only daughters" seem to challenge villagers' entrenched patrilineal notion of family line succession. Nevertheless, since the 1990s, more and more such families have produced second children for male heirs. This fertility "fashion" has not only restored and but further reinforced the patrilineal gender ideology concerning what "counts" as a "family line."

Drawing on doctoral fieldwork, this paper explores how an emerging consciousness of class distinction has become entangled with villagers' quest for male heirs in the broader context of China's post-socialist transformations. Accordingly, it offers two main contributions. First, seeing reproduction as a nexus that links gender and social inequality, this paper suggests that villagers' awareness of deepening class divides is now reshaping the contours of how the patrilineal gender ideology influences their reproductive practices and the attendant re-configuration of what counts as a "family line." Second, by providing a feminist reading of how the broader category of "class" is articulated through women's bodily experiences of reproduction in their pursuit of a family heir, this paper further enriches developing perspectives on class distinctions in China. Thus, at a more general theoretical level, this paper suggests that feminist studies of the seemingly "feminine" issue of reproduction lie at the very center of social science investigations of the complex processes of political economy, as villagers' reproductive experiences encapsulate China's emerging post-socialist conditions. As such, the paper is inspired by work in feminist anthropology of reproduction that aim to braid discussions of gender and class as linked factors that provide a lens through which cultural norms, individual struggles, and social transformations might be productively viewed and examined.

## Congratulations to **Janelle Taylor!**



*The Public Life of the Fetal Sonogram: Technology, Consumption, and the Politics of Reproduction* (Rutgers U Press, 2008) received the **Eileen Basker Memorial Award** for excellence in the area of gender and health. The award was presented by Virginia Dominguez at the Society for Medical Anthropology awards ceremony, at the 2009 AAA conference in Philadelphia.

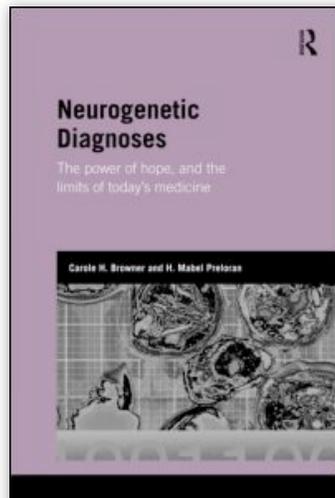
"On Recognition, Caring, and Dementia," an auto-ethnographic essay based in her experiences of caring for her mother who is living with advanced dementia, was the fourth most-downloaded article of 2009 in the Anthrosource database. The essay was published in *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* in December 2008, vol. 22 no. 4 pp. 313-335.

## New Member Profile

**Zsuzsa Berend** has a Ph.D. in sociology from Columbia University (1994). She is an Adjunct Assistant Professor and has been teaching sociology at UCLA since 1996. She is currently the academic administrator of the departmental Honors program. Other than raising two boys and teaching, her main interest in the last seven years has been a cyber-ethnographic research project on US surrogacy. Focusing on surrogates' stories and exchanges posted on the discussion board of the largest surrogacy website, [www.surromomsonline.com](http://www.surromomsonline.com), her work highlights the meanings surrogates impart to the practice and the ways in which women's understandings inform and shape assisted reproductive practices.



## New Publications

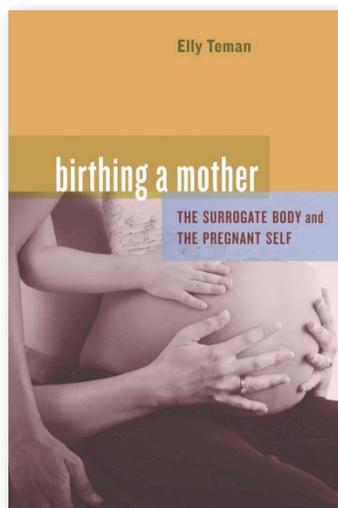


### **Neurogenetic Diagnoses: The Power of Hope and the Limits of Today's Medicine**

By Carole H. Browner, Mabel H. Preloran

As world populations continue to age, the incidence of very common, ultimately fatal neurodegenerative diseases (some of medicine's most puzzling illnesses) will increase exponentially. *Neurogenetic Diagnoses, the Power of Hope, and the Limits of Today's Medicine* explores the diverse impacts and intense meanings of genetic diagnoses for patients suffering from such diseases, and for their family caregivers and clinicians. Through richly-textured, often heart-wrenching longitudinal case studies, *Neurogenetic Diagnoses...* reveals how extremely difficult it can be for patients to obtain a definitive diagnosis for the cause of their symptoms, even with genetic testing; how, with or without definitive diagnoses, patients and family caregivers strive to come to terms with their situations; and how they are aided (or not) in these endeavors by their doctors. The analysis is framed by increasingly sharp social debate over the consequences of decoding the human genome -- and the impact of genetic technology on our lives.

<http://www.routledgepolitics.com/books/Neurogenetic-Diagnoses-isbn9780415563659>



### **Birthing a Mother: The Surrogate Body and the Pregnant Self**

Elly Teman

University of California Press

*Birthing a Mother* is the first ethnography to probe the intimate experience of gestational surrogate motherhood. In this beautifully written and insightful book, Elly Teman shows how surrogates and intended mothers carefully negotiate their cooperative endeavor. Drawing on anthropological fieldwork among Jewish Israeli women, interspersed with cross-cultural perspectives of surrogacy in the global context, Teman traces the processes by which surrogates relinquish any maternal claim to the baby even as intended mothers accomplish a complicated transition to motherhood. Teman's groundbreaking analysis reveals that as surrogates psychologically and emotionally disengage from the fetus they carry, they develop a profound and lasting bond with the intended mother.

<http://www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/11401.php>

## Journal Articles

Zsuzsa Berend. 2010. Surrogate Losses: Understandings of Pregnancy Loss and Assisted Reproduction Among Surrogate Mothers, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, Vol. 24, Issue 2

Elly Teman. Dec. 16, 2009. Surrogacy as a Path to Parenthood, Leading Letter to the Editor, *New York Times*, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/17/opinion/l17surrogate.html>

## Conferences



**Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA)**  
“Vulnerabilities and Exclusion in Globalization”  
Mérida, México  
Society for Applied Anthropology  
70th Annual Meeting  
March 24-27, 2010  
<http://www.sfaa.net/sfaa2010.html>



### Panels about Reproduction at the SfAA Conference

**WED. MARCH 24<sup>th</sup>**

12-1:20 PANEL: *Structuring Families: Rights, Identity, and the State (Uxmal 1)*  
CHAIR: Coralynn Davis

**Diana Edwards:** “Human Rights and American Adoption”

**Erin Slinker Tomasic:** “Intercountry Adoption and International Law: Bridging the Gap between Multilateral Legal Instruments and Local Contexts”

**Catherine Chmidling:** “Budgeting Charity: A Historical Perspective on a Midwestern Orphanage”

**Coralynn Davis:** “Im/possible Lives: Gender, Class, Self-fashioning, and Affinal Solidarity in Modern South Asia”

3:30-5:20 PANEL: *Anthropologies of Reproduction, Part 1 (Chichen Itza 2)*  
CHAIR: **Bryan Bayles**

**Bryan Bayles:** “Clinical Implications of a Tojolab’al Maya Language of Healing”

**Hollie Fuhrmann:** “Preventing Unintended Pregnancy: Why Not EC?”

**Meredith Jackson:** “Blending Tradition and Biomedicine: How Women Think about Pregnancy in a Developing Region”

**Kelsey Otis, Dan Grossman, Melanie Pena, Diana Lara, Maggie Veatch, Denise Cordova, Beverly Winikoff, and Kelly Blanchard:** “Women’s Experiences with Self-Inducing Their Own Abortions in Boston, New York City, San Francisco, and on the Texas-Mexico Border”

5:30-7:30 PANEL: *Anthropologies of Reproduction, Part 2 (Chichen Itza 2)*  
CHAIR: **Bryan Bayles**

**Susanna Snyder:** “Birthing Voices of Grief: The Role of Doulas in the Adoption Process”

**Debra Peltó:** “¿Cómo los Vas a Mantener, Si No es Solo de Darles de Comer?: Family Planning and the Political Economy of Migration among Mexicans in New York”

**Gisele Maynard-Tucker:** “Sub-Saharan Africa: Unmet Need for Family Planning Integration”

**Mabel Ezeonwu:** “Maternal Birth Outcomes: Processes and Challenges in Anambra State, Nigeria”

## THURS. MARCH 25<sup>th</sup>

3:30-5:20 PANEL: *Negotiating Inclusion and Exclusion of Reproductive Technologies in Local Contexts of Men and Women’s Reproduction, Part 1 (Uxmal 1)*  
CHAIRS: **Crystal Patil and Vania Smith-Oka**

**Crystal Patil and Elizabeth Abrams:** “Localization of the Biomedical Model of Childbirth in Rural Tanzania”

**Colleen Supanich:** “Parallel Points of Contention: The Utilization of Biomedical Prenatal Care by Guatemalan Mayan Immigrants in Palm Beach County, Florida”

**Alyshia Galvez:** “The Fruit of Their Labor: Pregnancy, Childbirth and Narratives of Immigrant Aspiration among Mexicans”

**Maya Vaughan-Smith:** “(Re)Conceiving Conception: Practicing Biotechnologically Assisted Reproductive Technologies (BARTs) and the ‘New’ Fertility Transition in Ghana”

**Nicole D’Errico:** “Born in Violence: The Consequences of Sexually Violent Conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo”

**Vania Smith-Oka:** “It’s Like Giving Birth in a Private Hospital”: Analyzing the Connection between Technology and Low-income Women’s Perceptions of Birth Outcome

5:30-7:20 PANEL: *Negotiating Inclusion and Exclusion of Reproductive Technologies in Local Contexts of Women's and Men's Reproduction, Part 2 (Uxmal 1)*

CHAIRS: Vania Smith-Oka and Crystal Patil

**Kristin Wilson:** "Not Trying: Reconceiving the Motherhood Mandate"

**Nicky Hudson:** "Negotiating the Community Context: British South Asian Women, Stigma, Agency and Assisted Reproductive Technologies"

**Zeynep Gurtin-Broadbent:** "In Pursuit of Excluded Medical Practices: Turkish Patients Seeking Donor Gametes"

**Lorraine Culley and Nicky Hudson:** "Globalizing Biomedicine: Creating Babies across Borders"

**Raywat Deonandan:** "The Ethical Dimensions to Reproductive Tourism"

## SAT. MARCH 27<sup>th</sup>

12-1pm: **Council on Anthropology and Reproduction Business Meeting** (Uxmal room)

1:30-3:20 PANEL: *Women's Bodies, Women's Choices, and the Politics of Reproduction: A Cross-Cultural Analysis (Regency 4)*

CHAIR: **Cynthia Ingar**

**Cynthia Ingar:** "Andean Women's Reproductive Health, Their Agency and the "Culture of Fear" in Peruvian Public Health"

**Jennifer Hale-Gallardo:** "Tlajcuiloaj! Tlajcuiloaj! Write it Down!: Embodied Agency and the Politics of Reproduction in Rural, Indigenous Mexico"

**Janet Dunn:** "Religion and Reproduction in Northeastern Brazil"

**Chen-I Kuan:** "Gender Politics of Cesarean Births in Taiwan"

**Melissa Cheyney and Paul Qualterre-Burcher:** "Reducing Political Barriers to Choice in Birth Setting: An Experimental Model for Traversing the Home/Hospital Divide"

DISCUSSANT: **Patricia Hammer**

# Calls for Submissions

## **Globalized Motherhood: a Short Story Collection**

Editor: Wendy Chavkin MD,MPH,  
Publisher Feminist Press at City University of New York

*Debby lives on Manhattan's upper West side. She is the 41 year old mother of 4 month old twins conceived via a Hungarian IVF clinic, and of 3 year old Lindsay, adopted from a Chinese orphanage at 11 months of age.*

*Basha lost her job in Poland when she became pregnant and could not find another. So she left her 7 month old son with her grandmother and left Poland. She now works off the books as a nanny in London for Gemma and Erik who have a 2 year old.*

*Gita lives outside of Bangalore and is the married mother of two. She has never had a Pap test. She is undergoing hormonal stimulation of ovulation so that she can donate ova to her sister who has not become pregnant in five years of marriage.*

These stories signify a world in flux about the most intimate of human connections, a world wide open to a host of possibilities for reconfiguring family and parenthood, and perhaps of liberating women from the constraints of reproductive biology. The physical, emotional and caring aspects of motherhood are separable in new ways, pushed by demographic shifts, bio-technological innovations and global travel of babies, women, body parts, information, and technologies.

This is a call for submission of literary works: contemporary short stories, memoirs, and creative nonfiction that convey the transformation of motherhood in the globalized moment. Short fiction and creative non-fiction offer the chance to illuminate these experiences and to vividly present the voices of those affected. We are looking for short stories and memoirs primarily in English, although it may be possible to translate some works; previously published work is welcome.

We are particularly, but not solely, interested in the inter-relationship of transnational adoption, reproductive "tourism" (transnational travel for treatment, gametes or uteri) and women's migration to do nanny work, which together comprise the globalization of motherhood. This will be an anthology directed at a general audience for whom the issue of motherhood-in-flux particularly resonates: those adopting and relinquishing babies; those traveling to obtain IVF, ova or "surrogates" and those selling body parts and services; those dependent on and ambivalent towards nannies caring for their children and those working as nannies who have left their own children and home behind.

**Wendy Chavkin** is Professor of Clinical Public Health and Obstetrics/Gynecology at Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health, and College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City. She has written extensively about women's reproductive health issues for over two decades and was a 2004 recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship for research on comparative policy responses to declining birth rates. From 1994 to 2002 she was Editor-in-Chief of The Journal of the American Medical Women's Association and Associate Editor for Women's Health of the American Journal of Public Health. She has edited three volumes: *Double Exposure: Women's Health Hazards on the Job and at Home* (Monthly Review Press 1985), *Where Human Rights Begin: Health, Sexuality and Women in the New Millennium* (with E Chesler, Rutgers University Press 2006), *The Globalization of Motherhood: Deconstructions and Reconstructions of Biology and Care* (with JM Maher, Routledge Press forthcoming 2010)

The Feminist Press at the City University of New York is an independent nonprofit literary publisher that promotes freedom of expression and social justice. The Press aims to publish exciting writing by women and men who share an activist spirit and a belief in choice and equality. Founded in 1970, the FP began by rescuing "lost" works by writers such as Zora Neale Hurston and Charlotte Perkins Gilman, and has since been bringing works from around the world to North American readers, and seeking out innovative, often surprising books that tell a different story.

### **Please submit to:**

Wendy Chavkin : [wc9@columbia.edu](mailto:wc9@columbia.edu)  
Gloria Jacobs : [GJacobs@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:GJacobs@gc.cuny.edu)

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Council on Anthropology and Reproduction  
c/o Jennifer Aengst  
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