The Anthropology of Science, Sex, and Reproduction
2:30-3:55 Tue/Thu, Fall 2010
Adams 114, Bowdoin College

Professor Jan Brunson

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course explores anthropology's critical analysis of approaches to reproductive health and procreation in developed and developing countries. Throughout the course we will acknowledge science as one epistemology among many and explore the hegemonic aspects of science and gender in relation to sex and reproduction. We will examine sex and reproduction as sites of intervention from public health, development, and biomedical specialists, while also considering local constructions and strategies. Topics include cervical cancer, family planning, and new reproductive technologies. Draws primarily from ethnographies.

EVALUATION
This course requires intensive reading, writing, and analysis. Evaluation of student learning will be based on 4 response papers, a research project and presentation, active participation in the classroom, and a final exam. Further details for all assignments will be provided on Blackboard.

- Intellectual Response Papers  40%
  In four 3-4 page papers, students will highlight and respond to a theme or issue raised by the readings in a particular section of the course. Two of the papers must be submitted by October 21st. I am available to discuss drafts.

- Research Project and Presentation  20%
  Each student will sign up for a particular topic on the syllabus, independently research an aspect or extension of the topic that is of interest, and present their findings to the class.

- Class Participation  20%
  Participation is defined as contributing regularly to class discussions with relevant and insightful comments. Students will be given time to engage substantively in class on issues raised in the readings and materials presented by classmates. Preparation for this part of the course involves coming to class with at least three points or comments that you would like to make about the readings for that day along with a copy of the readings. This portion of the grade may include brief exercises and unannounced reading quizzes in class.

- Final Exam  20%
  The final exam will be an opportunity to synthesize and reflect upon the concepts and debates raised and discussed in class.

REQUIRED TEXTS
Adams, Vincanne, and Stacey Leigh Pigg, eds.

Gregg, Jessica

Gutmann, Matthew

Inhorn, Marcia
Maternowska, M. Catherine
Teman, Elly
Wardlow, Holly

An assortment of articles on e-reserve available through Blackboard or the library website
PART I. Introductions and Frameworks

Thursday, Sept 2
- Introductions

Tuesday, Sept 7
- Topic: The anthropology of science
  - Read: “The Anthropology of Science” Franklin
  - Read: “Anthropology and the Cultural Study of Science” Martin

Thursday, Sept 9
- Topic: Frameworks for analyzing reproduction
  - Read: “Sex and Society: A Research Note from Social History and Anthropology” Ross & Rapp
  - Read: a popular news article on reproduction (from the past 3 years)
  - For further reading (optional): “The End of the Body?” Martin

Tuesday, Sept 14
- Topic: Frameworks continued
  - Read: In Sex in Development: “Introduction: The Moral Object of Sex” Pigg & Adams
  - Read: In Sex in Development: “Globalizing the Facts of Life” Pigg

PART II. Sex (without reproduction)

Thursday, Sept 16
- Topic: Moral struggles over contraception
  - Read: In Sex in Development: “The Production of New Subjectivities” Adams & Pigg
  - Read: In Sex in Development: “Moral Science and the Management of ‘Sexual Revolution’ in Russia” Rivkin-Fish
  - Read: In Sex in Development: “Family Planning, Human Nature, and the Ethical Subject of Sex in Urban Greece” Paxson

Tuesday, Sept 21
- Topic: Ideologies of morality and health
  - Read: In Sex in Development: “From Auntie to Disco: The Bifurcation of Risk and Pleasure in Sex Education in Uganda” Parikh
  - Read: In Sex in Development: “‘Ordinary’ Sex, Prostitutes, and Middle-Class Wives: Liberalization and National Identity in India” Dell
  - For further reading (optional): In Sex in Development: “The Creation of Normatives as a Biopolitical Project” Adams & Pigg

Thursday, Sept 23
- Topic: Agency and the body
  - Read: “Resistance and Embrace: Sudanese Rural Women and Systems of Power” Gruenbaum
  - Read: In Wayward Women: Introduction, Chapter 1
Tuesday, Sept 28
- Topic: Agency and the body continued
- Read: In *Wayward Women*: Chapters 2-3

Thursday, Sept 30
- Read: In *Wayward Women*: Chapters 4-5

Tuesday, Oct 5
- Read: In *Wayward Women*: Chapter 6, Conclusion

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**PART III. Population Politics and Family Planning**

Thursday, Oct 7
- Topic: Scholarly approaches to studying family planning
- Read: In *Reproducing Inequities*: Forward, Chapters 1-3

FALL BREAK

Thursday, Oct 14
- Topic: International and local politics
- Read: In *Reproducing Inequities*: Chapters 4-7

Tuesday, Oct 19
- Topic: The role of the state
- Read: “Controlling Births and Bodies in Village China” Greenhalgh
- Read: “China’s One-Child Policy and the Empowerment of Urban Daughters” Fong
- For further reading (optional): “Polygamy, disrupted reproduction, and the state: Malian Migrants in Paris, France” Sargent

Thursday, Oct 21
- Topic: Sexuality and agency
- Read: In *Virtually Virgins*: Chapters 1-6

Tuesday, Oct 26
- Topic: Meanings of cervical cancer
- Read: In *Virtually Virgins*: Chapters 7-11

Thursday, Oct 28
- Topic: Masculinity
- Read: In *Fixing Men*: Chapters 1-4

Tuesday, Nov 2
- Read: In *Fixing Men*: Chapters 5-8

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**PART IV. Technologies of Pregnancy and Birth**

Thursday, Nov 4
- Topic: Obstetrical ultrasounds
- Read: “Image of Contradiction: Obstetrical Ultrasound in American Culture” Taylor
- Read: “Sonography and Sociality: Obstetrical Ultrasound Imaging in Urban Vietnam” Gammeltoft

Tuesday, Nov 9
- Topic: Genetic testing
- Read: “Accounting for Amniocentesis” Rapp
- Read: “Perfecting Society: Reproductive Technologies, Genetic Testing, and the Planned Family in Japan” Lock
- Recommend: “Provisional Normalcy and ‘Perfect Babies’” Press et al

Thursday, Nov 11
- Topic: Birth and risk (Guest speaker: Midwife)
- Read: “Traditional Birth Attendants in Rural North India” Jeffery & Jeffery
- Read: “Analysis of a Dialogue on Risks in Childbirth” Kaufert & O’Neil

Tuesday, Nov 16
- Topic: Technologies of birth
- Read: “Invoking Vali: Painful Technologies of Birth in South India” Van Hollen
- Read: “The Vanishing Mother: Cesarean Section and ‘Evidence-Based Obstetrics’” Wendland

PART V. Reproduction (without sex)

Thursday, Nov 18
- Topic: Heteronormativity in reproduction
- Read: “Alternative Kinship, Marriage, and Reproduction” Levine
- Read: “Negotiating Conception” Mamo

Tuesday, Nov 23
- Topic: Surrogacy
- Read: In Birthing a Mother: Chapters TBA

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Tuesday, Nov 30
- Read: In Birthing a Mother: Chapters TBA

Thursday, Dec 2
- Topic: New Reproductive Technologies (NRTs)
- Read: In Local Babies, Global Science: Prologue, Chapters 1-3

Tuesday, Dec 7
- Read: In Local Babies, Global Science: Chapters 4-6

Thursday, Dec 9
- Topic: Conclusions
- Read: In Local Babies, Global Science: Chapters 7-10

FINAL EXAM: Take-home essay exam, respond to two other students’ exam essays on the blog
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<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title and Reference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wendland, Claire</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>The Vanishing Mother: Cesarean Section and &quot;Evidence-Based Obstetrics&quot;. Medical Anthropology Quarterly 21(2):218-233.</td>
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