

# ANTH 4430 6.0 The Anthropology of Reproduction, Personhood, and Citizenship

Fall/Winter  2010 – 2011

**Course Director:**

Dr. Maggie MacDonald  
Founders College 232

**Lecture:**

Tuesday 11:30-2:30  
TEL 1016

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 10-11 am, FC 232

Human reproductive events and experiences are made meaningful through the complex interplay of biology, culture, and society. Powerful institutions within society such as biomedicine, law, and politics, also shape the way people imagine and manage their reproductive lives, as do global economic and development trends. The anthropology of reproduction is a relatively new area of study which has drawn primarily on feminist perspectives on women's health and the body as well as theory and methods in medical anthropology. This course explores the complex relationships between reproduction, personhood, and citizenship through the study of contemporary and historical issues. Drawing primarily on the work of anthropologists, topics will include family planning and maternity care interventions in the name of colonialism and development; state and faith sanctioned uses of new reproductive and genetic technologies in realising goals of nation, citizenship and family; pregnancy and motherhood as “skills of consumption” in North America; the globalisation of the abortion debate through NGO funding policies; family planning and maternity care in contexts of poverty, violence, and migration; the implications of technology for parental and fetal personhood, and birthplace and citizenship issues worldwide.

Students will gain new knowledge in the anthropology of reproduction and deepen their knowledge of theory and methods in anthropology – especially medical anthropology and feminist anthropology -- through the study of such concepts and analytical approaches as stratified reproduction, medicalization, rites of passage, globalization, nationalism, reproductive governance, and political economy of health. Students will also develop their academic skills in critical thinking, independent research, writing, and oral presentation.

**Format:** Lectures, films, class discussion and class presentations

<b>Evaluation:</b>	Presentation on a set of readings	10%
	On-line reading responses (six each term)	20%
	Media/Image discussion (one each term)	10%
	Fall term test	20%
	Winter term essay	20%
	Class Participation	20%

**Required Readings:** The books are available for purchase at York University Bookstore and on Reserve at the Scott Library. All other readings are available on Moodle.

MacDonald, Margaret. 2007. *At Work in the Field of Birth. Midwifery Narratives of Nature, Tradition and Home.* Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press.

Taylor, Janelle. 2009. *The Public Life of the Fetal Sonogram: Technology, Consumption, and the Politics of Reproduction.* New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Maternowska, Catherine. 2003. *Reproducing Inequities Poverty and the Politics of population in Haiti*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Van Hollen, Cecilia. 2003. *Birth on the Threshold. Childbirth and Modernity in South India*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

## **Fall Term Seminar Schedule**

### **Section I: Essential Reading in the Anthropology of Reproduction**

#### **Sept 14: Introduction to the Anthropology of Reproduction**

Read: Syllabus

#### **Sept 21: Classic Debates: The Meaning of Paternity**

Read: Delaney, Carol. 1996. The Meaning of Paternity and The Virgin Birth Debate. *Man* 21(3): 494-513.

Riviere, P.G. 1974. The Couvade: A Problem Reborn. *Man*. 9(3): 423-435.

Ford, CS. 1964. *Comparative Study of Human Reproduction*. New Haven: Yale University Press. (Conception, Pp 34-43).

#### **Sept 28: Classic Debates: Menstrual Taboos**

Read: Gottlieb, Alma. 1988. Menstrual Cosmology among the Beng of Ivory Coast. In Buckley, T and A Gottlieb, (eds.). *Blood Magic*. Berkeley: U of California Press.

Martin, Emily. 1987. *The Woman in the Body*. Boston: Beacon Press. (Chapter 3: Medical Metaphors of Women's Bodies: Menstruation and Menopause, Pp 27 – 53)

#### **Oct 5: Classic Accounts of Childbirth**

Read: Ford, CS. 1964. *Comparative Study of Human Reproduction*. New Haven: Yale University Press. (Childbirth, Pp 55-74).

Jordan, Brigitte. 1993 [1978]. *Birth in Four Cultures*. Waveland Press. (Ch 4 Buscando La forma).

#### **Oct 12: NO CLASS -- Fall Term Reading Week**

#### **Oct 19: Scientific Constructions of Reproductive Biologies**

Read: Martin, Emily. 1987. *The Woman in the Body*. Boston: Beacon Press. (Chapter 4: Medical Metaphors of Women's Bodies: Birth, Pp 54-67)

Davis-Floyd, Robbie. 1988. Birth as an American Rite of Passage. In Karen Michaelson (ed.). *Childbirth in America*. South Hadley, MA: Bergin and Garvey. Pp. 153-172.

## **Section II: Reproductive Rights and Choices**

### **Oct 26: Midwifery in North America**

Film: The Business of Being Born.

Read: MacDonald, Chapter 1, 2 and 3

### **Nov 2: Maternity Care and Cultural Diversity**

Guest Lecture: Nicole Bennett (Registered Midwife) and Nadya Burton (Ryerson Midwifery program)

Read: MacDonald, Chapter 4

Johansen, R. Elise B. 2006. Care for Infibulated Women Giving Birth in Norway. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. 20(4): 516-544.

### **Nov 9: Childbirth as Cultural Survival**

Film: Ikajurti

Read: Van Wagner, V., B. Epoo, J. Nastapoka, and E. Harney. 2007. Reclaiming Birth, Health, and Community: Midwifery in the Inuit Villages of Nunavik, Canada. *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health*. 52(4): 384-391.

### **Nov 16: Consumer Rights and Reproductive Choice**

Read: Behague, Dominique P., Cesar G Victora, Fernando C Barros. 2002. Consumer demand for caesarean sections in Brazil. *BMJ*. 324: 942-948.

Wendland, Claire. The Vanishing Mother. 2006. Cesarean Section and "Evidence-Based Obstetrics". *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. 21(2): 218-233,

### **Nov 23: Technology, Personhood and the Abortion Debate**

Read: Taylor, Ch 1 -4

### **Nov 30 : Reproduction as Consumption**

Read: Taylor, Ch 5.

Layne, Linda. 1999. "I remember the Day I Shopped for your Layette." Consumer goods, fetuses, and feminism in the context of pregnancy loss." In L. Morgan and M. Michaels (eds.). *Fetal Subjects, Feminist Positions*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. Pp. 251-278.

### **Dec 7: Images of Reproduction**

Read: Taylor, Ch 6

- Present and discuss a still or moving image of reproduction from the media, arts, public health.
- Fall term tests handed out. Due in ONE week.

## Winter Term Seminar Schedule

### Section III: Reproductive Governance around the World

#### **Jan 4: Modernising Maternity**

**Read:** Van Hollen. Skim Intro, read Chapter 1 and 2 closely.

#### **Jan 11: Reproduction in Zones of Poverty and Conflict**

Read: Maternowska, Ch 1, 2 and 3

Giacaman, L., Wick, H., Abdul-Rahim, L Wick, 2005. The politics of childbirth in the context of conflict: policies or de facto practices. *Health Policy*. 72 (2), pg. 129-139

#### **Jan 18: Discourses of Family Planning**

Read: Maternowska, chapters 4-6

#### **Jan 25: Population Policy in China**

Read: Greenhalgh, Susan. 2003. Planned Births, Unplanned Persons: "Population" in the Making of Chinese Modernity. *American Ethnologist* 30(2): 196-215.

Anagnost, Ana. 2004. Maternal Labor in a Transnational Circuit. J Taylor, L Layne and D. Wozniak (eds). *Consuming Motherhood*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. Pp. 139-167.

#### **Feb 1: Reproducing Nations**

Read: Kanaaneh, Rhoda. 2002. *Birthing the Nation: Strategies of Palestinian Women in Israel*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 23-80.

Sargent, Carolyn and D. Cordell. 2003. Polygamy, disrupted reproduction, and the state: Malian migrants in Paris, France. *Social Science & Medicine*. 56: 1961-1972.

#### **Feb 8: Reproducing Nations, Cont'd**

Read: Inhorn, Marcia. 2006. "He Won't Be My Son: Middle Eastern Muslim Men's Discourses of Adoption and Gamete Donation." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 20(1): 94-120

Nahman, Michal. 2006. Materializing Israeliness: Difference and Mixture in Transnational Ova Donation. *Science as Culture*. 15(3): 199 - 213.

#### **Feb 15: Where to be Born? Childbirth and Citizenship**

**Read:** Willen, Sarah S. 2005. Birthing "Invisible" Children: State Power, NGO Activism, and Reproductive Health among "Illegal Migrant" Workers in Tel Aviv, Israel. *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*. 1(2): 55-88;

Castañeda, Heide. 2008. Paternity for Sale: Anxieties over “Demographic Theft” and Undocumented Migrant Reproduction in Germany. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. 22(4): 340-359.

**Feb 22: Reading Week – NO CLASS**

**Mar 1: Reproductive Tourism**

Film: Making Babies in India

Read: Pande, Amrita. 2010. Commercial Surrogacy in India: Manufacturing a Perfect Mother-Worker. *Signs*. 35 (4): 969-992

Inhorn, Marcia and Pasquale Patrizio. 2009. Rethinking Reproductive Tourism as Reproductive Exile. *Fertility and Sterility*. 92(3): 904-906

**Mar 8: Winter Term Essay workshop**

**Mar 15: “Counting down” and “Scaling up” to Millenium Development Goal 5**

Read: Sontag, Susan. 1977. *Regarding the Pain of Others*. New York, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux. (Chapter 6 and 7)

Malkki, Liisa. 1996. Speechless Emissaries: Refugees, Humanitarianism, and Dehistoricization. *Cultural Anthropology*. 11(3): pp. 377-404.

**March 22: The Tragedy of Maternal Mortality**

Film: Dead Mums Don't Cry

Read: Van Hollen, Chapter 4, 5 and Conclusion

**Mar 29 LAST CLASS!**

- **Images of Reproduction:** Present and discuss a still or moving image of reproduction from the media, arts, public health.
- Hand in Winter Term Essays

## Supplementary Texts

Allen, Denise Roth. 2004. *Managing Motherhood, Managing Risk. Fertility and Danger in West Central Tanzania*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Davis-Floyd, Robbie et al. (eds). *Birth Models that Work*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Davis-Floyd, Robbie, and Carolyn Sargent, (eds.) 1997. *Childbirth and Authoritative Knowledge*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Davis-Floyd, Robbie. 1992. *Birth as an American Rite of Passage*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Devereux, George. 1948. Mohave Indian Obstetrics. *American Imago*. [5](#):95-139

Sarah Franklin and Celia Roberts (2006) *Born and Made: An Ethnography of Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Ginsburg, Faye, and Rayna Rapp, (eds.).1995. *Conceiving the New World Order*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Klassen, Pamela. 2002. *Blessed Events. Religion and Childbirth in America*. Princeton University Press.

Martin, Emily. 1987. *The Woman in the Body*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Taylor, Janelle, Linda Layne and Danielle Wozniak. (eds.). *Consuming Motherhood*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Thomas, L. 2003. *Politics of the Womb. Women, reproduction, and the State in Kenya*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Ram, Kalpana and Jolly, Maragret. 2004. *Borders of Being: Citizenship, Fertility, and Sexuality in the Pacific*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Rapp, Rayna. 2000. *Testing Women, Testing the Fetus: The Social Impact of Amniocentesis in America*. New York: Routledge.

Spencer, RF. 1949. Introduction to primitive obstetrics. *CIBA symposium*. 11(3): 1158.