

ANTHRO 393-A03 (26345): THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION

Tuesday 6:30-9:30 CLE A306

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Office Hrs: Tues. 2:00-4:00 pm

This course provides you with a critical and cross-cultural perspective on human reproduction. We explore how reproduction is shaped by personal and cultural meaning at the same time that it is embedded in local, national and trans-national politics. We consider men's and women's perspectives on reproduction and give particular emphasis to the ways in which infertility, fertility, pregnancy, and birth intersect with social hierarchies of gender, wealth, ethnicity, sexuality, and ableness. Among the topics addressed through a range of cross-cultural examples are state intervention in fertility and reproduction, family size as a marker of "development," the cultural production of "natural" childbirth, the politics of fetal personhood, meanings of infertility, surrogacy and pregnancy loss, and cultural variation in ideas about procreation, prenatal diagnosis, and abortion. The prerequisite to this course is ANTH 200.

REQUIRED READINGS:

- M. Catherine Maternowska (2006) *Reproducing Inequities: Poverty and the Politics of Population in Haiti*. Rutgers University Press.
- Lisa M. Mitchell (2001) *Baby's First Picture: Ultrasound and the Politics of Fetal Subjects*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Additional readings available on Reserve in the McPherson Library as hardcopies (R) or accessible on-line (E)

COURSE WORKLOAD

Midterm Exam	30%	Feb. 23 (1.5 hours)
Research Paper Topic	--	anytime before Mar.2
Research Paper	35%	March 23
Take home Final Exam	35%	Due April 15

- Your active participation in class is expected. Please do the readings in advance of the class and come prepared to ask and answer questions about them.
- Use the first weeks of the term to read ahead in the two ethnographies.
- The mid-term examination may include definitions, short answer, essay questions, and multiple choice questions. The take-home final exam will test material from the entire course; LMM will hand out essay questions on the last day of class. Requests for make-up exams will only be considered with documentation from a physician/counsellor.
- Research paper guidelines are provided in a separate handout. Browsing the websites and on-line journals listed in this syllabus may help you choose a research topic.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, PLAGIARISM, CHEATING

Students should familiarize themselves with the University's Policy on Academic Integrity <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2006/FACS/UnIn/UARe/PoAcI.html>. Students who plagiarise and/or cheat will receive a failing grade.

EQUITY STATEMENT

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members (Senate resolution, Jan.13, 1999). As part of our commitment to equity, the Department of Anthropology has in place an Equity committee. This Committee is currently reviewing and considering the recommendations of a University report that addresses, in part, the experiences and concerns of gay, lesbian, bisexual, two spirited, transgendered and queer students. If you have concerns regarding this or any other equity issue in the classroom, please contact the Dept of Anthropology for the names of current Equity Committee members.

Useful Websites

- Canadian Perinatal Health Report 2003 <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cphr-rspsc03/index.html>
- Canadian Society of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists <http://www.sogc.org/>
- Canadian Women's Health Network <http://www.cwhn.ca/indexeng.html>
- College of Midwives of British Columbia <http://www.cmbc.bc.ca/>
- Development Gateway <http://www.developmentgateway.org/pop>
- Global Reproductive Health Forum <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/grhf/>
(site is no longer updated but has lots of useful information)
- Midwifery Today <http://www.midwiferytoday.com/>
- Museum of Menstruation <http://www.mum.org/bibliog.htm>
- National Advocates for Pregnant Women
<http://www.advocatesforpregnantwomen.org/>
- Pro-choice Action Network <http://www.prochoiceactionnetwork-canada.org/>
- Reproductive Health Reality Check <http://www.rhrealitycheck.org>
- UN Population Fund <http://www.unfpa.org/>
- World Health Organization- Reproductive Health <http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/>

Let me know if you find other useful sites.

ASSESSMENT SCALE:

Half points are rounded up when the final grade is determined. You will not be permitted to do revisions or additional work to improve your final grade for this course.

► Please familiarize yourself with the grading scale used in this course. ◀

Letter	%	Descriptor	Criteria
A+	95-100%	Exceptional	Outstanding comprehension, innovative analysis, original or thought-provoking insight, elegant writing, impressive research.
A	90-94%	Excellent	Very high level of comprehension and application of material, and effective advanced analysis. Statements are well-substantiated. Excellent organization and writing.
A-	85-89%	Very good	Consistently high level of comprehension and application of material; evidence of ability to analyse and critique. Statements are well-substantiated. Very good organization and writing.
B+	80-84%	Above average	Good comprehension of and application of course material. Some evidence of effective analysis. Statements are substantiated, very good organization and writing.
B	75-79%	Somewhat above average	Good comprehension of course material. Some application and analysis is attempted. Statements are substantiated, with some over-generalization. Good organization and clear writing.
B-	70-74%	Average	Some evidence of comprehension of materials; mostly descriptive, rather than analytical/critical work. Passable organization and writing.
C+	65-69%	Adequate	Some evidence of comprehension of materials, but generally weak application and analysis. Some unsubstantiated and over-generalized statements. Weak organization and writing.
C	60-64%	Minimally Adequate	Limited evidence of comprehension; little or no application and analysis. Superficial treatment, statements are unsubstantiated, over-generalised. Weak organization and writing.
D	50-59%	Inadequate	Little or no evidence of comprehension or analysis. Superficial treatment, statements are unsubstantiated, over-generalised. Poor organization and writing.
F	0-49%	Failure	Does not meet minimum standard for comprehension, analysis, documentation, organization or writing. Plagiarism.

Class and Readings Schedule

Week 1: Conceiving Reproduction: Biology, Relationships, Meaning and Power

We introduce anthropological approaches to reproduction with examples of the ways in which childbearing in all societies is a biosocial-biocultural process, diversely interpreted and a key site for reproducing socially significant ideas and relationships.

Readings

- Mitchell, Ch. 1
- E Carole H. Browner. 2001. Situating Women's Reproductive Activities. *Amer. Anthropologist* 102(4): 773-788. READ PAGES 773-775

If you want more:

- Inhorn, Marcia. 2006. Defining Women's Health. *MAQ* 20(3):345-378.
- Trevathan, Wenda. 2003. An Evolutionary Perspective on Authoritative Knowledge. In, Robbie Davis-Floyd and Carolyn Sargent, eds. *Childbirth and Authoritative Knowledge: Cross-cultural Perspectives*. Pp. 80-89

Week 2: Authoritative Knowledge

We introduce and critique Jordan's concept of 'authoritative knowledge' to discuss relationships of power and authority in knowing and managing birth.

Film:

- Jarmel, Marcia and Ken Schneider. 2000. *Born in the USA*. Fanlight, 56 min.

Readings

- Mitchell, *Baby's First Picture*, Ch. 3
- R Jordan, Brigitte 2003. Authoritative Knowledge and Its Construction. In, Robbie Davis-Floyd and Carolyn Sargent, eds. *Childbirth and Authoritative Knowledge: Cross-cultural Perspectives*. Pp. 55-79.
- R Daviss, Betty-Anne. 1997. Heeding Warnings from the Canary, the Whale, and the Inuit: A Framework for Analyzing Competing Types of Knowledge about Childbirth. In, Robbie Davis-Floyd and Carolyn Sargent, eds. *Childbirth and Authoritative Knowledge: Cross-cultural Perspectives*. Pp. 441-473.

If you want more:

- Abel, Emily and Carol Browner. 1998. Selective Compliance with Biomedical Authority and the Uses of Experiential Knowledge. In *Pragmatic Women and Body Politics*. Margaret Lock and Patricia Kaufert, eds. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 310-326.
- Irwin, Susan and Brigitte Jordan. 1987. Knowledge, Practice, and Power: Court-Ordered Cesarean Sections. *Med Anth Quarterly* 1(3):319-334
- Sargent, Carolyn and Grace Bascope. 1996. Ways of Knowing about Birth in Three Cultures. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 10(2): 213-236.

Week 3: Births as Cultural and Political: Technocratic Births

This week and next, we examine contemporary debates among physicians, midwives, and women and men in Canada and the United States over how, where, and with whom women should labour and give birth. We focus on birth as a key site for expressing core cultural ideas and socially significant ideas and relationships.

Readings

- Mitchell, Ch. 3&4
- E Davis-Floyd, Robbie. 2001. The Technocratic, Humanistic, and Holistic Paradigms of Childbirth. *Intl. J. of Gynaecology & Obstetrics* 75(S5-S23, Nov). On-line at <http://www.davis-floyd.com/userfiles/TECHNOCRATIC%20HUMANISTIC%20AND%20HOLISTIC.pdf>
- E Van Hollen, Cecilia. 2003. Invoking Vali: Painful Technologies of Modern Birth in South India. *Med Anth Quarterly* 17(1):49-77.

If you want more:

- Armstrong, Elizabeth. 2000. Lessons in Control: Prenatal education in the hospital. *Social Problems* 47(4):583-605.
- Gawande, Atul. 2006. The Score: How Childbirth went Industrial. *The New Yorker* (Oct.9): 59-67.
- Leavitt, Judith Walzer. 1980. Birthing and Anesthesia: the Debate over Twilight Sleep. *Signs* 6:147-164.

Week 4: Births as Cultural and Political: Midwifery and "Natural" Childbirth

We will discuss the resurgence of midwifery in North America, the social construction of "natural" childbirth, and the meanings and politics of place in childbirth.

Readings

- E MacDonald, Margaret. 2006. Gender Expectations: Natural Bodies and Natural Births in the New Midwifery in Canada. *Medical Anthro Quarterly* 20(2):235-256.
- R De Vries, Raymond et al. 2009. The Dutch Obstetrical System: Vanguard of the Future in Maternity Care. *In*, Robbie Davis-Floyd, et al, eds. *Birth Models that Work*. Berkeley: Univ. of Calif Press. Pp. 31-54
- E Janssen PA, Saxell L, Page LA, et al. 2009. Outcomes of planned home birth with registered midwife versus planned hospital birth with midwife or physician. *CMAJ* 181(6-7):377-83.

If you want more:

- Cheney, Melissa. 2008. Homebirth as Systems-challenging Praxis: Knowledge, Power, and Intimacy in the Birthplace. *Qualitative Health Research* 18(2): 254-267.
- Craven, Christa. 2007. A Consumer's Right to Choose a Midwife: Shifting Meanings for Reproductive Rights Under Neoliberalism. *Amer. Anthropologist* 109(4):701-712.
- Davis-Floyd, Robbie et al, eds. 2009. *Birth Models that Work*. Berkeley: Univ. of Calif. Press.
- deJonge, A. et al. 2009. Perinatal mortality and morbidity in a nationwide cohort of 529688 low-risk planned home and hospital births. *BJOG* DOI:10.1111/j.1471-

0528.2009.02175.x.

- Johnson, Kenneth and Betty-Ann Daviss. 2005. Outcomes of Planned home births with certified professional midwives: large prospective study in North America. *Brit Med Jour* 330(18June): 1416-1419.
- MacDonald, Margaret. 2009. *At Work in the Field of Birth: Midwifery Narratives of Nature, Tradition, and Home*. 2008. Vanderbilt Univ. Press.

Week 5: Technology in Trans-national Circulation: Fetal Imaging

Using the example of ultrasound fetal imaging, we discuss ways in which biomedical reproductive technology and practice have been accepted by and/or imposed upon people in diverse cultural contexts.

Readings

- Mitchell, *Baby's First Picture*, Ch. 2, 5, 6, and 7
- E Ivry, Tsipy. 2009. The Ultrasonic Picture Show and the Politics of Threatened Life. *Med Anth Quarterly* 23(3): 189-211.

If you want more:

- Draper, Jan. 2002. "It was a real good show": The Ultrasound Scan, Fathers and the Power of Visual Knowledge. *Sociology of Health & Illness* 24(6): 771-795.
- Palmer, Julie (2009) The Placental Body in 4D: Everyday practices of non-diagnostic sonography. *Feminist Review* 93: 64-80.

Week 6: Stratified Reproduction

"Stratified reproduction" (Ginsburg and Rapp 1995:3) highlights the ways in which the reproductive lives of some groups are de-valued and subjected to increased social surveillance and control. Social hierarchies of gender, economics, ethnicity, sexuality and ableness mean "some categories of people are empowered to reproduce and nurture, while others are disempowered" (Ginsburg & Rapp 1995:3). Specific examples for discussion include low income women, Indigenous populations, school age pregnancy, same-sex parents, and women and men in prison.

Readings:

- E Davis, D. (2009) The Politics of Reproduction: The Troubling Case of Nadya Suleman and Assisted Reproductive Technology. *Transforming Anthropology* 17(2): 105-116.
- E Paltrow, Lynn. 2006. Punishing Women for their Behaviour During Pregnancy. Access under "Publications"->"Articles and Reports" at <http://www.advocatesforpregnantwomen.org/>

If you want more:

- E Murphy, Sheigla and Paloma Sales. 2001. Pregnant Drug Users. Access under "Punishment of Pregnant women" → "Race and Class" at <http://www.advocatesforpregnantwomen.org/>
- R Shellee Colen. 1995. "Like a Mother to them': Stratified Reproduction and West Indian Childcare Workers in New York." In, Faye Ginsburg and Rayna Rapp, eds. *Conceiving the New World Order*, pp. 78-102.

Week 7: Reading Break---No Class

Week 8: Midterm Exam Tonight

Readings: None.

Film: Dhanraj, Deepa. 1991. *Something Like a War*. Women Make Movies. 52 min.

Week 9: Global Politics of Reproduction: Maternal Mortality

A woman in Africa has a one in 16 chance of dying from pregnancy-related causes; the risk to women in wealthy countries is one in 2,800 (<http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/>).

We examine political, economic and social factors which contribute to maternal deaths during pregnancy and childbirth and discuss both hospitalization and traditional birth attendants as strategies to make childbearing safer for women in low-income countries.

Readings:

- Maternowska, Ch. 1 and 2
- E Matthew Dudgeon and Marcia Inhorn. 2004. Men's influences on women's reproductive health. *Social Science and Medicine* 59(7):1379-1395.

Week 10: Population and Contraception I

This week and next we discuss the global politics of "overpopulation." We examine the historical and social construction of "over population," the inequitable global distribution of contraceptive methods and consider population control as a form of state- and industry-sanctioned violence.

Readings

- Maternowska, Ch. 3 and 4

If you want more

- Clarke, Adele. 2000. Maverick Reproductive Scientists and the Production of Contraceptives, 1915-2000+. *In*, Bodies of Technologies: Women's Involvement with Reproductive Medicine. A.R. Saetnan, N.Oudshoorn, and M. Kirejczyk, eds. Pp. 37-89.
- Douglass, Carrie. 2005. *Barren States: the Population "Implosion" in Europe*. Oxford: Berg Books.
- Greenhalgh, Susan. 2003. Planned Births, Unplanned Persons: "Population" in the Making of Chinese Modernity. *American Ethnologist* 30(2): 196-215.
- Gutmann, Matthew. 2005. Scoring Men: Vasectomies and the Totemic Illusion of Male Sexuality in Oaxaca. *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry* 29(1): 79-101.
- Kanaaneh, Rhoda. 2002. *Birthing the Nation: Strategies of Palestinian Women in Israel*. Berkeley: U. Calif. Press.
- Roberts, Dorothy. 1997. The Dark Side of Birth Control. *In*, Killing the Black Body. Vintage Books. Pp. 56-103.
- Wynn, L.L. and James Trussell. 2006. The Social Life of Emergency Contraception in the United States. *Med Anth Quarterly* 20(3):297-320.

Week 11: Population and Contraception II

Continuing our discussion of population control, we focus on Haiti in order to explore the intersections of stratified reproduction and population control. We focus in particular on the ways in which poverty and gender inequity profoundly shapes reproduction.

Readings

- Maternowska, Ch. 5, 6, and 7

Week 12: Reproductive Struggles: Abortion

Tonight we consider abortion care in diverse settings, contested meanings and politics of abortion, abortion care, sex-selection and abortion, and reproductive rights.

Readings

- Mitchell, *Baby's First Picture*, Ch. 7 & 8
- E Oaks, Laury. 2002. "Abortion is part of the Irish Experience." *Women's Studies International Forum* 25(3):315-333.
- E Browner, Carole H. 2001. Situating Women's Reproductive Activities. *Amer. Anthropologist* 102(4): 773-788.

If you want more

- Gerber, Elaine Gale. 2002. Deconstructing Pregnancy: RU486, Seeing "Eggs," and the Ambiguity of Very Early Conceptions. *Med Anth Quarterly* 16(1):92-108.
- Ginsburg, Faye. 1987. Procreation Stories: Reproduction, Nurturance, and Procreation in the Life Narratives of Abortion Activists. *American Ethnologist* 14:623-636.
- Kligman, Gail. 1995. Political Demography: The Banning of Abortion in Ceausescu's Romania. *In*, Faye Ginsburg and Rayna Rapp, eds. *Conceiving the New World Order*, pp. 234-255.
- Latimer, Heather. 2009. Popular Culture and Reproductive Politics: *Juno, Knocked up*, and the Enduring Legacy of *The Handmaid's Tale*. *Feminist Theory* 10(2): 211-226.
- Paxson, Heather. 2002. Rationalizing Sex: Family Planning and the Making of Modern Lovers in Urban Greece. *Amer. Ethnologist* 29(2): 307-344.

Week 13: Reproductive Struggles: Infertility, IVF and Surrogacy

Meanings of childlessness are considered as are the social, cultural and material practices of attempting to reproduce through *in-vitro* fertilisation and surrogacy.

Readings

- E Inhorn, Marcia. 2000. "He Won't Be My Son": Middle Eastern Muslim Men's Discourses of Adoption and Gamete Donation. *Med Anth Quarterly* 20(1): 94-120.
- R Kahn, Susan. 2000. Rabbis and Reproduction: The Uses of NRTs among Ultra-orthodox Jews in Israel. *In*, Marcia Inhorn and Frank von Balen, eds. *Infertility around the Globe*, pp.283-297.
- E Vora, Kalindi. 2009 Indian Transnational Surrogacy and the Disintegration of Mothering Work. *Anthropology News* (Feb.): 9-11.

If you want more:

- Feldman-Savelsberg, Pamela (1994) *Plundered Kitchens and Empty Wombs: Fear of*

- Infertility in the Cameroonian Grasslands. *Social Science and Medicine* 39: 463-474.
- Hayden, Cori. 1995. Gender, Genetics, and Generation: Reformulating Biology in Lesbian Kinship. *Cultural Anthropology* 10(1): 41-63
 - Luce, Jacquelyne. 2010. Beyond Expectation: Lesbian/Bi/Queer Women and Assisted Conception. Toronto: U. Toronto Press.
 - Mamos, Laura. 2007. *Queering Reproduction: Achieving Pregnancy in an Age of Technoscience*. Durham: Duke University Press.
 - Markens, Susan. 2007. *Surrogate Motherhood and the Politics of Reproduction*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
 - Ragoné, Heléna. 1994. *Surrogate motherhood: Conception in the Heart*. Denver: Westview Press.
 - Sandelowski, Margarete. 1991. Compelled to Try: The Never-Enough Quality of Conceptive Technology. *Med Anth Quarterly* 5:29-47.
 - Teman, Elly. 2003. The Medicalization of "Nature in the "Artificial Body" Surrogate Motherhood in Israel. *Med Anth Quarterly* 17(1): 78-98.

Week 14: Prenatal Diagnosis and Reproductive Loss

We finish the course with anthropological analyses of pregnancy loss, the birth of infants with significant problems of health and development, and of child fostering and adopting.

Readings

- E Gammeltoft, Tina. 2007. Prenatal Diagnosis in Postwar Vietnam: Power, Subjectivity and Citizenship. *American Anthropologist* 109(1):153-163.
- R Landsman, Gail. 1999. Does God Give Special Kids to Special Parents?: Personhood and the Child with Disabilities as Gift and as Giver. In, L. Layne, ed. *Transformative Motherhood*, pp. 133-165.

If you want more:

- Ivry, Tsipy. 2006. At the Back Stage of Prenatal Care: Japanese Ob-Gyns Negotiating Prenatal Diagnosis. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 20(4): 441-468.
- Rapp, Rayna. 1988. Chromosomes and communication: The Discourse of genetic counseling. *Medical. Anthropology Quarterly* 2:143-157
- Rapp, Rayna. 2000. Extra Chromosomes and Blue Tulips: Medico-Familial conversations. In, Margaret Lock, Allan Young, and Alberto Cambrosio, eds. *Living and Working with the New Medical Technologies*. Cambridge Univ. Press. Pp. 184 - 208.