

## CALL FOR BOOK CHAPTER CONTRIBUTIONS

### **Body Politics and Reproductive Governances: “Flesh”, Technologies and Knowledge**

Edited by Corinna Sabrina Guerzoni and Claudia Mattalucci

*Body Politics and Reproductive Governances: “Flesh”, Technologies and Knowledge* focuses on the body and on reproductive governances (Morgan & Roberts 2014). “Reproductive governance refers to the mechanisms through which different historical configurations of actors – such as state institutions, churches, donor agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) – use legislative controls, economic inducements, moral injunctions, direct coercion, and ethical incitements to produce, monitor and control reproductive behaviors and practices” (Morgan and Roberts, 2012: 243). Thinking about the politics of the body and the government of reproduction through the prism of bodily materiality, in its interactions with technologies and knowledge, this book provides a privileged point of view on theoretical debates of a wider scope concerning gender and the person, the legitimacy of scientific knowledge, neoliberalism, the relations between churches and states, social movements, sexual and reproductive rights, etc.

In the last decade, technology diffusion on human practices, assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) and the emergence of new family configurations have caused deep transformation on body’s and kinship’s imageries. The different ways to make bodies and relationships are at the core of heated political, scientific and moral debates. Claims for recognition of reproductive rights not only concern contraception and abortion, but also the conflicting “rights” to have a child through ARTs or to have “sure” parents; to have access to the genetic origins and be informed about facts and subjects involved in the procreative process or to have a “natural family”; to choose among different family arrangements or to have a “proper” family with a mother and a father, etc.

As highlighted by the French sociologist Dominique Memmi (2014), starting from the ‘90s the material body has become a major concern for the political arena. New practices and rituals have been administrated by different actors focus on flesh (the unborn, the dead body, reproductive fluids and substances, etc.) affecting the subjective experiences of reproductive bodies and relatedness. The body is a cultural and historical phenomenon beyond its biological and material dimension. The studies on the body have brought out a privileged aspect of the body related to the political arena in where on the body countless battles are fought (De Lauretis 1996; Butler 1993; 1997; Pandolfi 2003). We want to give a privileged space on the battles that take place on the body regarding reproductive health, substances,

flesh, and body materiality. In this sense, the body becomes an object of interest to analyze how practices related to reproductive governance shape it and redraw its boundaries. Studying the body means paying attention to its subjectivity, to its experiences, its practices, and corporeality to highlight how reproductive governance works on bodies and how bodies respond to this sophisticated intertwining of forces.

This volume explores the body's growing centrality (Memmi 2014) and the power of medical, professional and lay practices (Boltanski 2005) within the field of human reproduction, as "practices are fully entangled with political economic processes" (Morgan and Roberts *Ibidem*, p. 244). Chapters address the issues of abortion, sterilization, "natural" childbirth, surrogacy, pregnancy loss, IVF, disability, and gay parenting focusing both on the mechanisms through which reproductive behaviors are shaped and controlled and on the bodily materiality.

Papers are invited for the following themes:

- Assisted Reproductive Technologies
- Abortion.
- Pregnancy loss.
- Childbirth.
- Sterilization.
- Surrogacy.

Submissions are invited from across the social sciences, gender & sexuality studies. The volume does not focus on a specific area, but on practices and bodies. For this reason, we are particularly interested in receiving contributions from all over the world.

Interested contributors are invited to send a 1000 words long abstract by 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 to [claudia.mattalucci@unimib.it](mailto:claudia.mattalucci@unimib.it) and [corinna.guerzoni@gmail.com](mailto:corinna.guerzoni@gmail.com)

We are already in contact with Dr. Petra Nordqvist (Manchester University) and Professor Nicky Hudson (De Montfort University), Editors - [Emerald Studies in Reproduction, Culture and Society](#).

### **Important deadlines**

Abstract submission by 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019

Full chapter submission by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Resubmissions (after peer review) by 31<sup>st</sup> June 2020

Your chapter (of maximum 8000 words, including references and notes) will be peer reviewed by experts in your field and you might be asked to revise and resubmit your chapter.

## **About the Editors**

**Corinna Sabrina Guerzoni** is an Adjunct Professor in Anthropology at Istituto Europeo di Design (IED) in Milan – Italy, and a Postdoctoral Researcher at Western Fertility Institute (California). In 2016, she was a Visiting Researcher at San Diego State University, Department of Women’s Studies (California). In 2017, she obtained her Ph.D. in Cultural and Social Anthropology at Milano-Bicocca University (Italy).

**Claudia Mattalucci** is an Assistant Professor and a Researcher at the University of Milan- Bicocca, where she teaches Anthropology of Kinship and Gender. After completing the Scuola di Alti Studi in Sciences of Culture at the Fondazione Collegio San Carlo in Modena, she obtained a scholarship from the Fyssen Foundation in Paris. She has worked on missions and missionary ethnography and on the anthropology of the body. Over the last eight years she has been working on abortion and pregnancy loss in Italy.

**Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us should you have questions with regard to the call or your submission.**

Kind Regards,

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