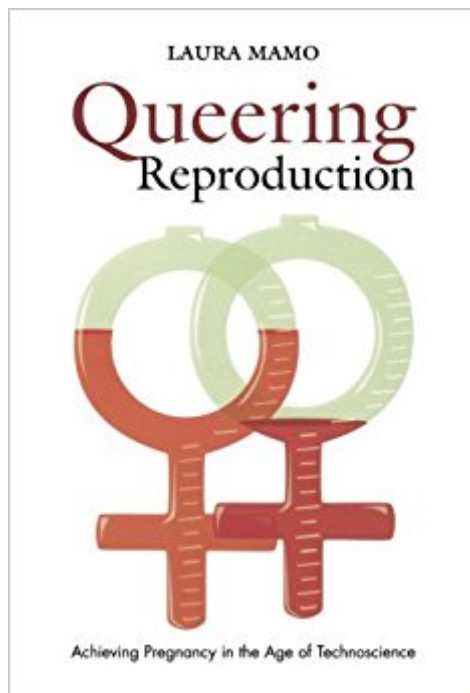




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Queering Reproduction: Achieving Pregnancy In The Age Of Technoscience



Synopsis

Originally developed to help heterosexual couples, fertility treatments such as in vitro fertilization and sperm donation have provided lesbians with new methods for achieving pregnancy during the past two decades. *Queering Reproduction* is an important sociological analysis of lesbians' use of these medical fertility treatments. Drawing on in-depth interviews with lesbians who have been or are seeking to become pregnant, Laura Mamo describes how reproduction has become an intensely medicalized process for lesbians, who are transformed into fertility patients not (or not only) because of their physical conditions but because of their sexual identities. Mamo argues that this medicalization of reproduction has begun to shape queer subjectivities in both productive and troubling ways, destabilizing the assumed link between heterosexuality and parenthood while also reinforcing traditional, heteronormative ideals about motherhood and the imperative to reproduce. Mamo provides an overview of a shift within some lesbian communities from low-tech methods of self-insemination to a reliance on outside medical intervention and fertility treatments. Reflecting on the issues facing lesbians who become parents through assisted reproductive technologies, Mamo explores questions about the legal rights of co-parents, concerns about the genetic risks of choosing an anonymous sperm donor, and the ways decisions to become parents affect sexual and political identities. In doing so, she investigates how lesbians navigate the medical system with its requisite range of fertility treatments, diagnostic categories, and treatment trajectories. Combining moving narratives and insightful analysis, *Queering Reproduction* reveals how medical technology reconfigures social formations, individual subjectivity, and notions of kinship.

Book Information

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"Queering Reproduction: Achieving Pregnancy in the Age of Technoscience, makes enormous claims for how new reproductive technologies 'are changing the categories on which theories of sex and gender have been built' (189). And [Mamo] achieves something almost as miraculous as pregnancy: she proves her claims and does so using theoretically sophisticated and beautifully accessible language. Mamo builds her terrific array of theoretical insights on a raft of interviews with thirty-six lesbians in various stages of achieving pregnancy. Together, this material clarifies how lesbian practices have given birth to a new reproductive logic, the result of uncoupling gender and parenthood. Mamo takes us to the crossroads, the place where sex occurs without reproduction and reproduction occurs without sex." --Rickie Solinger, Signs, 2009 "It is undoubtedly worth reading, especially if you are [a] single woman or a lesbian planning to set up to set up [a] family." -- Feminist Review Blog

""Queering Reproduction" is the most comprehensive and theoretically rich account of lesbians' reproductive practices to date. Laura Mamo shows how social movements, emotions, consumerism, and biomedical technologies collide with the search for belonging to produce brave new families. She documents how sex without reproduction and reproduction without sex lead to myriad unintended consequences that both queer and normalize. A terrific book."--Arlene Stein, author of "Shameless: Sexual Dissidence in American Culture"

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