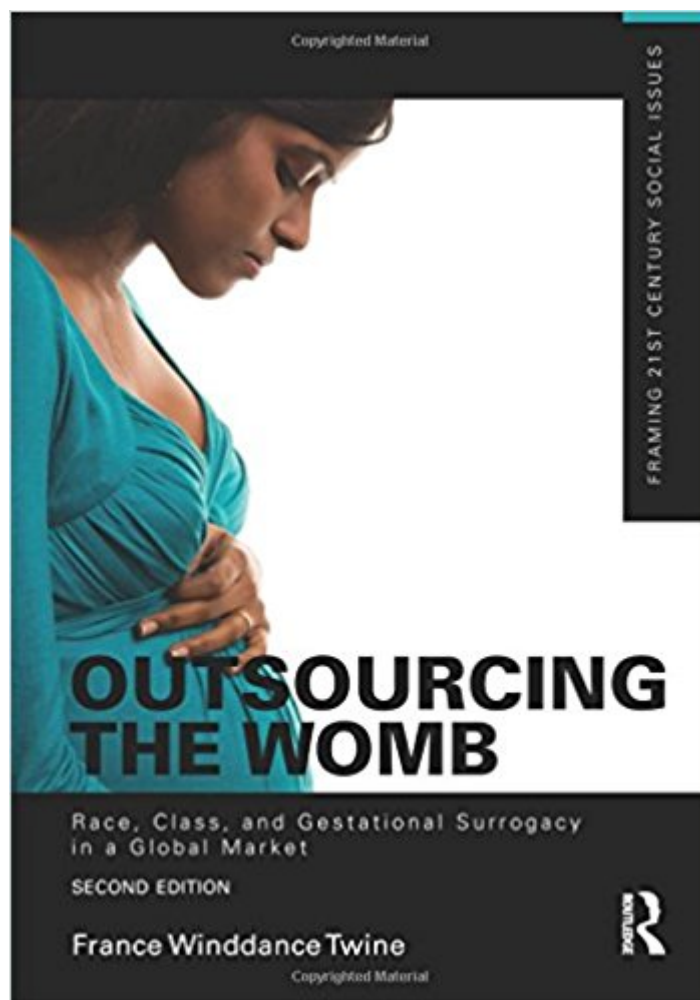


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Outsourcing The Womb: Race, Class And Gestational Surrogacy In A Global Market (Framing 21st Century Social Issues)



Synopsis

Through case studies, *Outsourcing the Womb*, Second Edition provides a critical analysis and global tour of the international surrogacy landscape in Egypt, India, China, Japan, Israel, Ukraine, the European Union and the United States. By providing a comparative analysis of countries that have very different policies, this book disentangles the complex role that race, religion, class inequality, legal regimes, and global capitalism play in the gestational surrogacy market. This book provides an intersectional frame of analysis in which multiple forms of social inequality and power differences become institutionalized and restrict the access of some individuals and families while privileging others, and concludes with a discussion of "reproductive justice" and "reproductive liberty." It is an ideal addition to courses on social problems, race, gender, and inequality.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

France Winddance Twine is a Scholar-in-Residence at the Beatrice Bain Research Group at the University of California at Berkeley. She is also a Professor of Sociology and Black Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara. She is an ethnographer, a critical race theorist and a documentary filmmaker. Her recent publications include *Geographies of Privilege* (2013) and *A White Side of Black Britain: interracial intimacy and racial literacy* (2010).

Outsourcing the Womb is both accessible and intellectually probing. The analysis examines the role of race, class and gender dynamics in ways that take into account the experiences of intended

parents and surrogates. France Winddance Twine situates those experiences in the larger worlds of medicine, markets, and national law that shapes assisted reproductive technology use. The analysis is driven by questions that few others are asking. The result is rich, provocative and well worth reading. I used the book as a text for a law school class. The material made us dig deep and hard into our assumptions and prior learning.

Outsourcing the Womb is an ambitious project in a slim book. Twine organizes her arguments to spur discussion. She puts surrogacy in the larger context of what some call the global "baby market." Although I do not fully agree with this designation, there are market elements at play here and the empirical enterprise should be to find out more about the connections between adoption and surrogacy on the one hand, and about the participants - professional and otherwise - in surrogate arrangements. Twine also discusses the role of state regulation in comparative perspective.. There is a lot to think about and debate. Feminist criticism of surrogacy has been largely normative and ideological and mostly uninterested in and distrustful of empirical evidence; we should strive not to repeat these mistakes if we really want to understand new markets and new reproductive developments. Luckily, Twine includes several empirical and ethnographic works on surrogacy and egg and sperm donation to round out the picture of what we know about third-party reproduction.

If I could, I would rate this book with minus stars. I find it more than mind troubling when a writer claims to offer a critical analysis of a highly contraverted topic such as surrogacy when all she does is to follow her plan to trash talk it. "Quod erat demonstrandum" (What had to be proven) is the finishing phrase that is usually set under the scientific proof for a mathematical quest. But in this book that falsely wants to give the impression of being a study, all we can find is the personal vendetta for a story that is not even revealed to the reader. Unfortunately, some people thought it had some scientific background and would even use it as one of their main sources in setting up regulations against surrogacy. This author handles this manner with such a lack of sensitivity as if we had talked her on the fact of being black and a possible personal bad experience with a person of color.

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