

Plenary Performance - Lecture

Made in India: Notes from a Baby Farm?

Keynote speaker / performer: Amrita Pande (University of Cape Town)

Made in India: Notes from a Baby Farm is an interactive, multi-media performance lecture based on Amrita Pande's extensive ethnographic research and subsequent book titled: *Wombs Labour: Transnational Commercial Surrogacy in India* (Columbia University Press 2014) which explores the experiences of Indian women who act as gestational commercial surrogates in a booming cross-border fertility industry.

Pande's research brings awareness to the complex issues surrounding commercial surrogacy such as reproductive stratifications, reproductive labour, bioethics and bioavailability, and how these inform the choices that people make. The performance will be delivered as part performance and part debate, involving recorded interviews and video clips. The first part involves a detailed documentary portrayal of the clinic and the surrogates (filmed by Miriam Nielson), and the performance is dramatized based on Pande's decade-long research in India. The second part of the performance is where the audiences become "spectators" by engaging and dialoguing with the characters - the doctor, the researcher and the gestational mothers themselves.

The interactive format allows a complex web of questions to be asked around multimodal ethnography, science-society interfaces, performance as research, feminist praxis and epistemic honesty.

More details available at <http://globalstories.net/productions/made-in-india/>

Amrita Pande, author of *Wombs in Labor: Transnational Commercial Surrogacy in India* (2014: Columbia University Press) is Associate Professor in the Sociology department at University of Cape Town. Her research focuses on the intersection of globalization and the intimate. Her work has appeared in *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, *Gender and Society*, *Critical Social Policy*, *International Migration Review*, *Qualitative Sociology*, *Feminist Studies*, *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, *Anthropologica*, *PhiloSOPHIA*, *Reproductive BioMedicine* and in numerous edited volumes. She is currently leading a large NRF project exploring the "global fertility flows", of eggs, sperms, embryos and wombs, connecting the world in unexpected ways. The performance-lecture *Made in India* debuted at the fourth United Nations 'Women Deliver' Conference, held in Copenhagen in 2016 and has since been touring across the world.