The Politics of Reproduction

Birth Stories
Thursday September 27, 10:00 am to noon
Asian American Cultural Center
This informal roundtable discussion presents a diversity of birth stories from the perspectives of several graduate students in the UConn Department of Sociology, whose collective experience ranges from non-medicalized birth to Cesarean section. Our speakers will share their own analyses of their childbirth experiences, including emotional, spiritual, and physical impact. Attendees are welcome at any time during the two hours. There will be a brief break around 10:50.

A Midwife’s Story
Thursday October 18, 10:30 am to noon
Women’s Center
Local midwife Traci Meredith works with women incarcerated at Niantic Women’s Prison on childbirth and breastfeeding education. She will share stories of her experiences as an educator as well as discuss the midwifery model of care in Connecticut. She will be joined by Joni Stone, Certified Professional Midwife, who brings a diversity of experiences throughout Connecticut to our discussion.

Working with Women: The Doula’s Perspective
Thursday, October 25, 10:30 am to noon
H. Fred Simons African American Cultural Center
Certified doula and mother Maura Jo Lynch presents a feminist perspective on her training and experiences as a supporter of birthing women in Connecticut.

Systemic Racism and Population Control in the United States
Thursday, November 29, 11:00 am to noon
Sociology Lounge, basement of Manchester Hall
Tom Volscho, PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology, examines racialized patterns of surgical and chemical sterilization and contextualizes the history of American eugenics within the late twentieth century, when new ideological justifications for controlling the fertility of non-'white' women may reflect anticipated challenges to white supremacy.

Birth: the Play
Thursday, November 11, 2:00 pm
location To Be Announced – please check the Women’s Studies website for further information: www.womens.studies.uconn.edu
Students from Women’s Studies 295, “The Politics of Reproduction” present their interpretation of Karen Brody’s theatrical call to action on issues of childbirth and women’s empowerment. The performance will be followed by a talk-back with the students. Refreshments provided.
More information on Birth: the Play can be found at: www.birthonlaborday.com