

Workshop – Wednesday, 5 June 2019, 15:00–18:00, in English

The surrogacy industry is worth over one billion dollars a year, and many of its surrogates work in terrible conditions, while many gestate babies for no pay at all. Should it be illegal to pay someone to gestate a baby for you? *Full Surrogacy Now* by Sophie Lewis brings a fresh perspective to debates around assisted reproduction.

Rather than making surrogacy illegal or allowing it to continue as is, Lewis argues we should be looking to radically transform it. Surrogates should be put front and centre, and their rights towards the babies they gestate should be expanded to acknowledge that surrogates are more than mere vessels. In doing so, we break down our assumptions that children necessarily belong to those whose genetics they share. Arguing for solidarity between paid and unpaid gestators, Lewis suggests that the struggles of workers in the surrogacy industry may help illuminate the path towards alternative family arrangements - taking collective responsibility for children would radically transform notions of kinship. This expanded concept of surrogacy helps us see that it always, as the saying goes, takes a village to raise a child.

Join Sophie Lewis for a discussion of her new book *Full Surrogacy Now: Feminism Against Family*, which was released by Verso this May. Donna Haraway has labelled it 'the seriously radical cry for full gestational justice that I long for', whilst McKenzie Wark says that it 'brings us a vision of another life'.

Sophie Lewis is a water-based entity in Philadelphia. In addition to *Full Surrogacy Now*, Lewis has translated works including *Communism for Kids* by Bini Adamczak (2016), *Unterscheiden und Herrschen* by Sabine Hark and Paula-Irene Villa (forthcoming in 2020), and *A Brief History of Feminism* by Antje Schrupp (2017). She is a member of the *Out of the Woods* collective, whose first book is to be published by Common Notions in 2019, an editor at *Blind Field: A Journal of Cultural Inquiry*, and a queer feminist geographer committed to cyborg ecology and anti-fascism. Further writings, on subjects ranging from Donna Haraway to dating, have been published in various journals.

Programme

15:00	Introduction Hannah Proctor
15:10 – 16:30	Part I
16:30	Coffee break
17:00 – 18:00	Part II

The workshop requires prior registration by 4 June 2019. Materials will be distributed in advance in order to promote an active engagement in the discussion. Only a few spaces are available and those who are interested in joining should enclose a brief CV and a few lines explaining their interest in the workshop.

Full Surrogacy Now

Organized by
Hannah Proctor

With
Sophie Lewis

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