Reconceiving Pregnancy and Childcare

This highly original book argues for increased recognition of pregnancy, birthing, and childrearing as social activities demanding simultaneously physical, intellectual, emotional, and moral work from those who undertake them.

Amy Mullin considers both parenting and paid childcare and examines the impact of disability on this work. The first chapters contest misconceptions about pregnancy and birth, such as the idea that pregnancy is valued only for its end result and not also for the process. Following chapters focus on childcare provided in different circumstances and on the needs of both providers and receivers of care. The book challenges the assumption that isolated self-sacrifice should be the norm in either pregnancy or childcare. Instead, reproductive labor requires greater social support.

Written from the perspective of a feminist philosopher, the book draws on the work of and seeks to increase dialogue between philosophers and childcare professionals, disability theorists, nurses, and sociologists.

Amy Mullin is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Toronto.
Cambridge Studies in Philosophy and Public Policy

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To my partner Glenn, and children Sean, Peter, and Julia, with love.
Reconceiving Pregnancy and Childcare

Ethics, Experience, and Reproductive Labor

AMY MULLIN
University of Toronto
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