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978-0-521-58614-6 - *Maternities and modernities: Colonial and Postcolonial Experiences in Asia and the Pacific*

Edited by Kalpana Ram and Margaret Jolly

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Feminist theories have focused on contemporary, Western, middle-class experiences of maternity. The present volume brings other mothers, from Asia and the Pacific, into scholarly view, aiming to show that birthing and mothering can be a very different experience for women in other parts of the world. The contributors document a wide variety of conceptions of motherhood, and drawing on ethnographic and historical research, they explore the relationships between motherhood as embodied experience and the local discourses on maternity. They reveal how the experience of motherhood has been influenced by missionaries, by colonial policies and by the introduction of Western medicine and biomedical methods, and raise important questions about the costs and benefits of becoming a modern mother in these societies.

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Colonial and postcolonial experiences
in Asia and the Pacific

Edited by

Kalpana Ram

Macquarie University, Sydney

and

Margaret Jolly

The Australian National University, Canberra



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Contradictions and the Colonial Impact (1989) (ed., with Martha Macintyre); and *Sites of Desire, Economies of Pleasure: Sexualities in Asia and the Pacific* (1997) (ed., with Lenore Manderson).

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