



Fertile Matters: The Politics of Mexican-origin Women's Reproduction

By Elena R. Gutierrez

University of Texas Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW PRINT ON DEMAND., Fertile Matters: The Politics of Mexican-origin Women's Reproduction, Elena R. Gutierrez, While the stereotype of the persistently pregnant Mexican-origin woman is longstanding, in the past fifteen years her reproduction has been targeted as a major social problem for the United States. Due to fear-fueled news reports and public perceptions about the changing composition of the nation's racial and ethnic makeup - the so-called Latinization of America - the reproduction of Mexican immigrant women has become a central theme in contemporary U. S. politics since the early 1990s. In this exploration, Elena R. Gutierrez considers these public stereotypes of Mexican American and Mexican immigrant women as "hyper-fertile baby machines" who "breed like rabbits." She draws on social constructionist perspectives to examine the historical and sociopolitical evolution of these racial ideologies, and the related beliefs that Mexican-origin families are unduly large and that Mexican American and Mexican immigrant women do not use birth control. Using the coercive sterilization of Mexican-origin women in Los Angeles as a case study, Gutierrez opens a dialogue on the racial politics of reproduction, and how they have developed for women of Mexican origin in...



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