

### Call for Papers

#### ***Focus - Women's Biocapital. Sociological Perspectives on Technology, Culture and the Market***

*edited by Consuelo Corradi (LUMSA University)*

The human body has always been the object of economic exploitation, but the most recent developments in technology now allow for a highly sophisticated use. Cells, fluids, organs, and tissues are extracted, preserved, stored, and transported in ways that were unimaginable twenty years ago. Biological materials are sold (often for a sum that is only a fraction of the final price) and purchased on a global market. Women's biocapital is of special value because it offers tissues and organs whose artificial replicas (when they exist) are less valuable than natural products. Extraction and donation, the creation of "banks", genome editing and attempts to develop ectogenesis, are growing steadily and constitute a challenging research terrain.

The theoretical perspectives and research tools of sociology bring to light the conditions of access to and reception of biotechnologies in different societies, the impact on women's bodies and living conditions, as well as changes in perception and representation of women's biocapital, motherhood and parenting. Sociology also analyzes the evolution of the cultural and legal frameworks that organize the spaces of purchase, processing, and sale of women's biocapital, in both emerging and affluent markets.

With a complex and multidisciplinary sociological approach, this *Focus* of the journal ***Sociologia Italiana*** aims to present and discuss the theoretical and empirical implications of biotechnology on autonomy and commodification. Among the (non-exclusive) topics of interest to this *Focus* are:

- Theoretical reflections on the new nature/culture, human/post-human partition operated by technologies on women's biocapital.
- Empirical studies on the sale or donation of eggs, breast milk, hair, placenta, umbilical cord and other human female tissues, and on human reproductive services and gene-editing.
- Empirical studies on the relationship between biocapital exploitation and women's empowerment.
- Theoretical reflections and empirical studies on feminism in the face of technological innovation. Is feminism a leader or laggard in the face of such changes?
- Empirical studies on the future of women's biocapital.

#### **Deadlines and guidelines**

May 20, 2023: submit an abstract (max 300 words, in Italian or English) and five keywords to

[corradi@lumsa.it](mailto:corradi@lumsa.it)

May 30, 2023: authors are informed about abstract selection.

August 28, 2023: submission of the article (40,000 characters, in Italian or English, guidelines [here](#)) for peer-review.

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