

Rickie Solinger, Ph.D.

Crossing Borders for Babies: The Global Geography, Economics, and Politics of Motherhood

(APRIL 11, 1630PM in Room 401, Slavic Research Center, Sponsored by GCOE)

With the increasingly limited availability of white babies for adoption, American agencies and families have looked to Mexico, Peru, Argentina, Guatemala, Korea, Ukraine and Russia and many other countries where difficult conjunctures or structural poverty caused vulnerable women to give up their babies to Americans, under geo-political conditions that challenge the meaning of "choice." The emergence of transnational and trans-racial adoption, together with the enthusiastic public acceptance of gay, lesbian, and single adoption among middle class families in America in the late twentieth century, has given rise to a complex set of questions about the causes and costs of commodifying and circulating children across borders, a new form of transaction in today's borderless economy.

Dr. Solinger is an Independent Scholar with 8(!) books from both university and mass media presses, on women's issues from various angles. She has also published articles in the top peer-reviewed academic journals in her field, *The Journal of Women's History*, *Social Justice*, *Gender and History* and *Feminist Studies*. She also organizes museum exhibits to illustrate and popularize the topics she is working on.

Her Hokkaido University talk grows out of her award-winning book on adoption in the US.

"BEGGARS AND CHOOSERS: HOW THE POLITICS OF CHOICE SHAPES ADOPTION, ABORTION AND WELFARE IN THE U.S." (Hill and Wang, 2001). "Washington Post Critics Choice Book, 2001".

Other book titles include:

What Everyone Needs to Know about Reproductive Politics (OUP, Forthcoming)

Interrupted Life: Experiences of Incarcerated Women in the United States (Berkeley, 2010)

Telling Stories to Change the World: Global Voices on the Power of Narrative (Routledge, 2008)

Pregnancy and Power: A Short History of Reproductive Politics in America (NYU, 2005)

Wake up Little Susie: Single Pregnancy and Race before Roe v. Wade (Routledge 1992; 2000)

Abortion Wars: Fifty Years of Struggle, 1950-2000 (Berkeley, 1998)