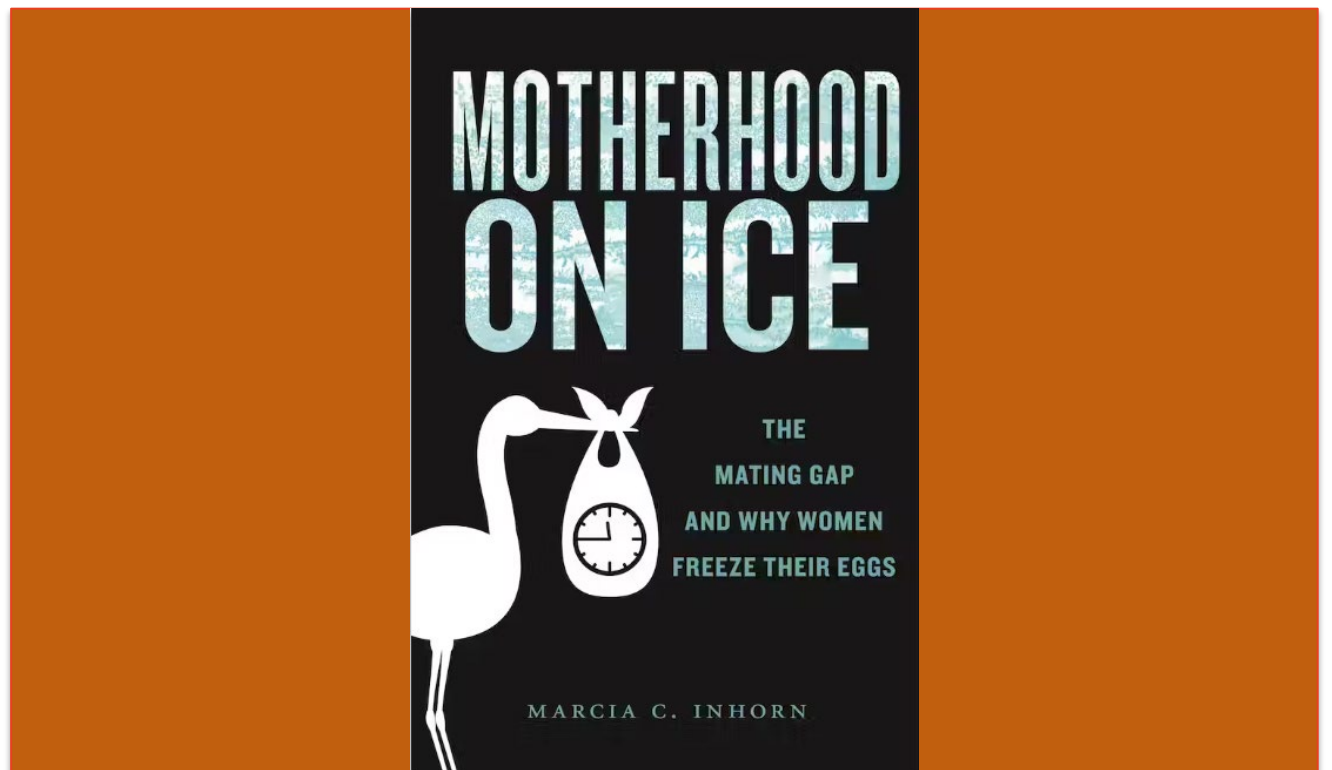


THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Motherhood on Ice

The Mating Gap and Why Women Freeze Their Eggs

**Biopolitics of Science Research Network | Department of Anthropology |
Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies**



Speaker

Marcia Inhorn ([bio](#))
Yale University

When

12-1pm, 18 March 2024

Where

Seminar Room 441
Social Sciences Building (A02)

Please register [here](#)

*The introduction of her new book is
available upon request, contact
Rachel Yang: r.yang@sydney.edu.au*

ABSTRACT

Why are women freezing their eggs in record numbers? *Motherhood on Ice* explores this question by drawing on the stories of more than 150 women who pursued fertility preservation technology. Moving between narratives of pain and empowerment, these nuanced personal stories reveal the complexity of women's lives as they struggle to preserve and extend their fertility. Contrary to popular belief, egg freezing is rarely about women postponing fertility for the sake of their careers. Rather, the most-educated women are increasingly forced to delay childbearing because they face a mating gap—a lack of eligible, educated, equal partners ready for marriage and parenthood. For these women, egg freezing is a reproductive backstop, a technological attempt to bridge the gap while waiting for the right partner. But it is not an easy choice for most. Their stories reveal the extent to which it is logistically complicated, physically taxing, financially demanding, emotionally draining, and uncertain in its effects.

Marcia Inhorn is the William K. Lanman Jr. Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs at Yale University. As a medical anthropologist, Inhorn's research interests revolve around gender and health, science and technology studies (STS), feminist theory (including masculinity studies), religion and bioethics, globalization and global health, cultures of biomedicine and ethnomedicine, stigma and human suffering, and the health costs of conflict, especially for refugees and forced migrants.