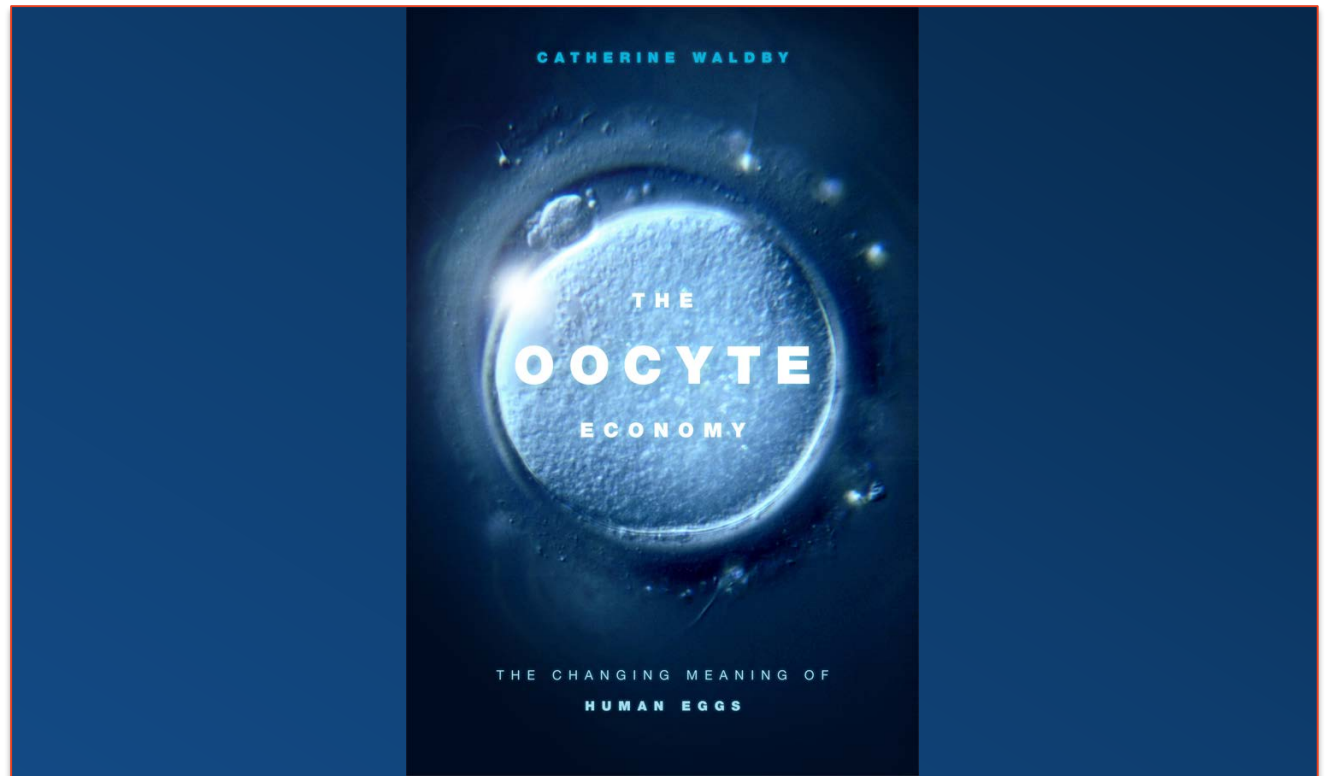


The Oocyte Economy

The Changing Meaning of Human Eggs

Biopolitics of Science Research Network



Speaker

Catherine Waldby ([bio](#))
Australian National
University

When

4.00-5.30pm, 13 June 2019

Where

Seminar Room 341
Social Sciences Building (A02)

Please register here:

<https://bit.ly/2WlomR3>

The introduction of her new book is
available upon request, contact:

Jaya Keaney

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ABSTRACT

In her talk, Professor Catherine Waldby will be presenting from her new book *The Oocyte Economy: The Changing Meaning of Human Eggs* which was just published with Duke University Press. In recent years increasing numbers of women from wealthy countries have turned to egg donation, egg freezing, and in vitro fertilization to become pregnant, especially later in life. This trend has created new ways of using, exchanging, and understanding oocytes—the reproductive cells specific to women. In *The Oocyte Economy* Catherine Waldby draws on 130 interviews—with scientists, clinicians, and women who have either donated or frozen their oocytes or received those of another woman—to trace how the history of human oocytes' perceived value intersects with the biological and social life of women. Demonstrating how oocytes have come to be understood as discrete and scarce biomedical objects open to valuation, management, and exchange, Waldby examines the global market for oocytes and the power dynamics between recipients and the often younger and poorer donors. With this exploration of the oocyte economy and its contemporary biopolitical significance, Waldby rethinks the relationship between fertility, gendered experience, and biomedical innovation.

Catherine Waldby is Director of the Research School of Social Sciences at Australian National University and the author and coauthor of several books, including *Clinical Labor: Tissue Donors and Research Subjects in the Global Bioeconomy*, also published by Duke University Press.