

NOME E APELIDOS: _____

OPCIÓN B - PRIMEIRA PROBA - PARTE A- EJERCICIO 1

Cross-border surrogacy: exploiting low income women as biological resources?

Our globalised economy responds voraciously to biotech advances, but lax regulation risks turning the poor into biological resources to be used for profit.

“Look at us, here! We are creating the world of tomorrow!” exclaims Mike. His words bounce off the walls of the high-tech fertility clinic we are in. Outside, the sun is slowly sinking into the smog of New Delhi’s skyline as the streets fill with commuters. The brutal socio-economic inequality between the haves and the have-nots of India’s economic miracle is laid bare in rush hour traffic. Shiny luxury cars, taking wealthy businessmen from high-rise offices to palatial homes stop at the traffic lights outside. Beggars approach them, knocking on tinted windows to plead for a fraction of that economic wonder, a share of the spoils of India’s integration into global neoliberal trade systems, so that they can feed their family for the day.

The traffic is a distant background noise in our meeting, where a handful of entrepreneurs from different parts of the world are building a business out of bringing together the inequality outside the clinic with the biotechnology inside it.

They are all in the business of transnational commercial surrogacy, where women are paid to carry and birth babies for foreign “intended parents”. Their clients are people who are, unfortunately, unable to have children themselves. Surrogacy’s underlying technology of IVF, where a baby is conceived in a petri dish, rather than in the womb, is impressive. But surrogate women to carry those pregnancies can be hard to find in many countries. This shortage, combined with high costs and regulatory restriction has given rise to the outsourcing of surrogacy to low-income countries like India.

In this globalised economy, surrogacy has quickly become a lucrative business. The same women who stitch our clothes can now, thanks to biotechnology, also produce our children. The neoliberal Indian economic miracle is reaching beyond the employment of local labour in call centres and factories and into the extraction of biological vitality. The issues of worker rights and safety that continue to plague outsourced production now find new manifestations in surrogacy.

A place with stark socioeconomic inequality like New Delhi is perfect for such industry. Those in chauffeured cars provide investment in technology and expertise while the poor provide its biological resource. Surrogacy is one of a growing set of industries, such as some medical trials, or tissue and organ trade, that are developing around the medical sciences and that rely on lax regulation.

Therein lies the reason for our meeting that evening in New Delhi. India had begun limiting foreigners' access to surrogacy; there were rumours of a ban.

This is where Mike came in. Getting around patchy global regulation to make profits in the intersection of biotechnology and inequality is what he does for a living, by setting up the surrogacy business elsewhere or moving women between existing destinations in ways that make use of legal loopholes. Mike is a sort of biotech hustler. But his declaration that he and his partners are making the world of tomorrow is not entirely unfounded. I wonder what this world is like; a future where, according to one of Mike's business plans, women are flown in batches between various low income countries to become pregnant in India and give birth in Africa in order to best extract value out of their capacity to bear children.

Governments often accept the need to regulate surrogacy, but fear the political penalty involved in raising legislation on a matter that the public is still unsure and deeply divided about. This passive approach has allowed the likes of Mike to become the driving forces in determining the place of biotechnology in human existence.

My research is a case for a renewed sense of urgency, but also for confidence that the public can play a role in who we are and who we are becoming. This type of research is about making sense of us and the tomorrow that we choose to live in. Social science and anthropology's core method of ethnographic fieldwork offers the kind of first hand experience that grounds political discussion in the lives of ordinary people. It can provide the public and our policymakers with the knowledge to help make important decisions on complex matters.

If, without such knowledge, we avoid grappling with difficult questions about biotechnology's role in society, then the future may be created by those who one of my research participants described as a bunch of mercenaries going around the world who make money first and ask questions later. I have learned in my research that biotechnology itself is inherently neither good nor bad. It is potential, both wonderful and dangerous. It is up to us to decide what kind of tomorrow we make of it.

Source:

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/blog/2017/mar/28/cross-border-surrogacy-exploiting-low-income-women-as-biological-resources>

QUESTIONS:

1. Think of a catchy, unbiased title for the text. Provide some reasons that justify your choice. (1 p)
2. Write a summary of the text in 70-80 words using your own words. (1 p)
3. Identify and analyse text-type and discuss the functions of language present in the text. (1.8 p)
4. What do the acronyms/initialisms below stand for? (1 p)

The English Language is pretty rich in acronyms and initialisms. Have a look at this instance taken from the text:

IVF= In Vitro Fertilization

Now write what the acronyms/initialisms below stand for:

BTW

ROI

ISP

ETA

RRP

AWOL

AKA

DOB

NOYB

BBIAB

5. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given without changing it. (0.6 p)
 - a) Did you manage to get in contact with the manager? (**getting**)
Did you..... in contact with the manager?
 - b) We had no problems at all during our trip to Spain. (**plan**)
Everything during our trip to Spain.
 - c) I forbid you to go to that place. (**question**)
It'sfor you to go to that place.
 - d) Do you mind if I watch you while you work? (**objection**)
Do you while you work?
 - e) You must try to accept that you will never become a famous actor. (**terms**)
You must fact that you will never become a famous actor.
 - f) I've tried hard to get on with him but I just can't. (**matter**)
I just can't get on with him I try.
6. Complete these sentences with the appropriate pair of homophones in RP (Received Pronunciation). (0.6 p)
 - a. The landlord asked the gardener tothe branches
We can see birds of variedat London Wetland Centre.
 - b. The director made ato the actor to start.
There was a longin the ticket counter.

- c. Robert was studying as a
There is always a dispute about the Indo China
- d. My sister is muchthan me.
There was ablocking the road.
- e. He was let on
The cottonwas loaded in the lorry.
- f. She gaveto a female child.
I reserved a triplefor my family.

7. Write the phonemic or broad transcription of the following text using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). Specify whether you represent the RP (Received Pronunciation) or GenAm (General American) pronunciation. Don't forget to use weak forms. (1 p)

Surrogacy's underlying technology of IVF, where a baby is conceived in a petri dish, rather than in the womb, is impressive. But surrogate women to carry those pregnancies can be hard to find in many countries. This shortage, combined with high costs and regulatory restriction has given rise to the outsourcing of surrogacy to low-income countries like India.

OPCIÓN B - PRIMEIRA PROBA - PARTE A- EXERCICIO 2

The following lines come from Revolutionary Road by Richard Yates:

"The final dying sounds of their dress rehearsal left the Laurel Players with nothing to do but stand there, silent and helpless, blinking over the footlights of an empty auditorium."

...Continue until 300 words. (3 p)