

Rene Almeling

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Employment

2010 - Present Assistant Professor of Sociology, Yale University

Faculty Associate: Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Center for Comparative Research; Center for Research on Inequalities and the Life Course; Institution for Social and Policy Studies; Global Health Initiative; Davenport College

2008 - 2010 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholar in Health Policy Research, University of California, Berkeley/UCSF

Education

2003 - 2008 Ph.D., Sociology, UCLA

2001 - 2003 M.A., Sociology, UCLA

1995 - 1998 B.A., *cum laude*, Women/Gender Studies and Religious Studies, Rice University

Book

2011 Almeling, Rene. *Sex Cells: The Medical Market for Eggs and Sperm*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Awards

- Diana Forsythe Prize for the best book on gender, work, science, technology, and medicine given by two sections of the American Anthropological Association
- Best Book Award, Body and Embodiment Section of the American Sociological Association
- Best Book Award – Honorable Mention, Sex and Gender Section, ASA
- Roberta G. Simmons Outstanding Dissertation Award, Medical Sociology Section, ASA

Reviews

-*American Journal of Sociology*; *Gender & Society*; *Contemporary Sociology*; *Genre, Sexualité & Société*; *The New Atlantis*; *World Medical and Health Policy*; *Choice Reviews Online*

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2013 Almeling, Rene and Miranda Waggoner. "More and Less than Equal: How Men Figure in the Reproductive Equation." *Gender & Society* 27.

2009 Almeling, Rene. "Gender and the Value of Bodily Goods: Commodification in Egg and Sperm Donation." *Law and Contemporary Problems* 72: 37-58.

2009 Timmermans, Stefan and Rene Almeling. "Objectification, Standardization, and Commodification in Health Care: A Conceptual Readjustment." *Social Science and Medicine* 69: 21-27.

- 2008 Saguy, Abigail and Rene Almeling. "Fat in the Fire? Science, the News Media, and the 'Obesity Epidemic.'" *Sociological Forum* 23: 53-83.
- 2007 Almeling, Rene. "Selling Genes, Selling Gender: Egg Agencies, Sperm Banks, and the Medical Market in Genetic Material." *American Sociological Review* 72: 319-340. (lead article)
- Awards*
- Viviana Zelizer Distinguished Scholarship Award - Honorable Mention, ASA Economic Sociology Section, 2009
 - Distinguished Article Award - Honorable Mention, ASA Sex and Gender Section, 2008
 - Outstanding Student Paper Award, ASA Economic Sociology Section, 2007
- 2006 Almeling, Rene. "'Why do you want to be a donor?': Gender and the Production of Altruism in Egg and Sperm Donation." *New Genetics and Society* 25: 143-157.
- 2000 Almeling, Rene, Lauren Tews, and Susan Dudley. "Abortion Training in U.S. Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Programs, 1998." *Family Planning Perspectives* 32: 268-271, 320.

Manuscripts in progress

Almeling, Rene. "Medical Professionals, Relational Work, and Markets for Bodily Knowledge: The Case of Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing." *Under review*.

Almeling, Rene and Shana Gadarian. "Genetic Responsibility: Analyzing Variation in Individual Responses to Genetic Risk." *Under review*.

Almeling, Rene and Shana Gadarian. "Public Opinion on Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing." (Brief Report) *Under review*.

Almeling, Rene. "Telling: The Gendered Politics of Disclosure in Egg and Sperm Donation."

Almeling, Rene. "Sociology of Reproduction." Invited manuscript for the *Annual Review of Sociology*.

Other Writing

Book Chapters

- Forthcoming Almeling, Rene. "Defining Connections: Gender and Perceptions of Relatedness in Egg and Sperm Donation" in *We are Family?: Perceptions of Relatedness in Assisted Conception Families*, edited by Tabitha Freeman, Fatemeh Ebtehaj, Susanna Graham, and Martin Richards. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (revised version of chapter from *Sex Cells*)
- Forthcoming Saguy, Abigail and Rene Almeling. "Making the 'Obesity Epidemic': The Role of Science and the News Media" in *Obesity, Eating Disorders, and the Media*, edited by Karin Eli, Stanley Ulijaszek, and David Zeitlyn. Ashgate. (abridged version of "Fat in the Fire?")
- 2010 Almeling, Rene. "Selling Genes, Selling Gender: The Medical Market for Genetic Material" in *Intimate Labors: Cultures, Technologies, and the Politics of Care*, edited by Eileen Boris and Rhacel Salazar Parreñas. Stanford University Press. (abridged version of "Selling Genes, Selling Gender")

Book Reviews

- 2011 *Biomedicalization: Technoscience, Health, and Illness in the U.S.* edited by Adele Clarke, Laura Mamo, Jennifer Ruth Fosket, Jennifer Fishman, and Janet Shim. Duke University Press (2010). *American Journal of Sociology* 117: 308-310.
- 2010 *Gender and Health: The Effects of Constrained Choices and Social Policies* by Chloe Bird and Patricia Rieker, Cambridge University Press (2008). *Sociological Inquiry* 80: 154-155.
- 2009 *Cold Intimacies: The Making of Emotional Capitalism* by Eva Illouz, Polity Press (2007). *Contemporary Sociology* 38: 184-185.
- 2006 *Last Best Gifts: Altruism and the Market for Human Blood and Organs* by Kieran Healy, University of Chicago Press (2006). *European Economic Sociology Newsletter* 8: 44-45.

Awards

- 2013 Best Book Award – Honorable Mention, Sex and Gender Section, ASA
- 2012 Diana Forsythe Book Prize, American Anthropological Association
- 2012 Best Book Award, Body and Embodiment Section, ASA
- 2009 Viviana Zelizer Distinguished Scholarship Award - Honorable Mention, Economic Sociology Section, ASA
- 2008 Roberta G. Simmons Outstanding Dissertation Award, Medical Sociology Section, ASA
- 2008 Distinguished Article Award - Honorable Mention, Sex and Gender Section, ASA
- 2007 Outstanding Student Paper Award, Economic Sociology Section, ASA

Fellowships and Grants

- 2013 - 2014 Junior Faculty Fellowship, Yale University
- 2011 Frederick W. Hilles Publication Fund Award, Yale University
- 2010 - 2011 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholars in Health Policy Research Pilot Project Grant (UC Berkeley/UCSF site). "An Experimental Test of Responses to Genetic Risk." Co-Investigator: Shana Gadarian, Political Science, Syracuse University.
- 2008 - 2010 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholars in Health Policy Research, Berkeley/UCSF
- 2007 UCLA Center for the Study of Women, Elizabeth Blackwell, M.D. Award
- 2005 - 2008 UCLA Center for Society and Genetics, Graduate Fellow
- 2007 - 2008 UCLA Graduate Division, Dissertation Year Fellowship
- 2006 - 2007 National Science Foundation, Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant
- 2006 UCLA Center for the Study of Women, Jean Stone Dissertation Research Fellowship
- 2004 - 2005 UCLA Graduate Division, Dr. Ursula Mandel Scholarship

Invited Presentations

"Author-Meets-Critics Session for *Sex Cells: The Medical Market for Eggs and Sperm* by Rene Almeling," Critics: Elizabeth Mitchell Armstrong, Peter Conrad, and Michel Anteby. Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston (2013)

"The Commercialization of Medicine? Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing, Medical Professionals, and Markets for Bodily Knowledge"

- Sociology Department Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania (2013)
- Sociology Department Colloquium, Brown University (2012)
- Economic Sociology Seminar, Harvard/MIT (2012)
- Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Annual Meeting, Boston (2012)

"Genetic Risk and Responsibility" (with Shana Gadarian)

- Center for Society and Genetics/Sociology of Gender Working Group, UCLA (2012)
- Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars, University of Pennsylvania (2012)
- Center for Research on Inequalities and the Life Course, Yale University (2012)

"Sex Cells: The Medical Market for Eggs and Sperm"

- Keynote Speaker, Regional Educational Meeting, American Society for Reproductive Medicine Mental Health Professional Group (2013)
- Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Colloquium, Yale University (2013)
- Sociology Department Colloquium, University of Connecticut (2012)
- Seminar on Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications of Genetics, Columbia University Medical Center (2012)
- Freshman Cluster on Sex: From Biology to Gendered Society, UCLA (2012)
- Keynote Speaker, Southern Connecticut Annual Darwin Day Celebration (2012)
- Faculty Lunch Series, Sex Week at Yale University (2012)
- Faculty Dinner Series, Yale Bioethics Society (2012)
- Sociology Department Colloquium, Northwestern University (2011)
- Sociology Department Colloquium, Rutgers University (2011)
- Sociology Department Colloquium, Brandeis University (2011)
- Kenan Institute for Ethics Colloquium, Duke University (2011)
- Regulating Assisted Reproductive Technology Roundtable, Rutgers-Camden School of Law. Discussants: Kimberly Krawiec and Melissa Jacoby (2011)
- Sociology Department Seminar Series, Boston University (2010)

"Marcus Hunter's *Black Citymakers*," Panelist, Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University (2013)

"Assisted Reproduction and Sperm Donor Anonymity," Panelist, Mid-Atlantic Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Earle Mack School of Law, Drexel University (2012)

"Human Rights for Women," Panelist, Public Knowledge Series Forum, Virginia Commonwealth University (2012)

"Commodification, Reproduction, and Women's Autonomy," Panelist, Women and the Law Conference, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, San Diego (2012)

"Author-Meets-Critics Session for *DES Daughters: Embodied Knowledge and the Transformation of Women's Health Politics* by Susan Bell." Panelist, Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston (2010)

"Selling Genes, Selling Gender: Egg Agencies, Sperm Banks, and the Market in Genetic Material"

- Panel on Ethics, Policy, and Human Fertility Markets, American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. (2009)
- Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley (2009)

"How Social Context Shapes Egg and Sperm Donors' Experiences of Commodification."

- Science, Technology, and Society Center, University of California, Berkeley (2009)
- Institute for Health and Aging/Social and Behavioral Sciences Colloquium, UCSF (2009)

"The Meaning of Motherhood in the 21st Century: Changing Reproductive Stakes." Beatrice Bain Research Group, University of California, Berkeley (2009)

"Altruism and Its Limits: A Conversation with Rene Almeling and Jenny Reardon." Science and Justice Working Group, University of California, Santa Cruz (2009)

"Grant Writing for Sexualities Research and Other Controversial Topics in the Current Political Climate." Research Support Forum, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Boston (2008)

Conference Presentations (selected)

"Medical Professionals, Relational Work, and Markets for Bodily Knowledge: The Case of Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York (2013)

"Genetic Risk and Responsibility" (with Shana Gadarian). Integrating Genetics and the Social Sciences Conference, University of Colorado (2012)

"Emerging Conditions: Genetic Testing in Medical and Commercial Settings." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas (2011)

"How Social Context Shapes Egg and Sperm Donors' Experiences of Commodification." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco (2009)

Teaching

Sex and Gender in Society — Undergraduate Lecture

Gender, Race, and Genetic Testing — Undergraduate/Graduate Seminar

Reproductive and Genetic Technologies — Freshman Seminar

Sociology of Sex and Gender — Graduate Seminar

Advising

Dissertation Committees: Sam Southgate, Sorcha Brophy, Alison Gerber, Carolyn Ly, Esther Kim

Second-Year Papers (graduate students): Rachel Jaggi, Iris Chan

Senior Essays: Jennifer Shelby (Rosen Prize; Priest Prize), Jaqueline Manzer, Mary Jo Toothman, Monica Qui, Trinh Nguyen, Blair Lanier, Laurel Johnson

Other: Independent Studies (4), Sophomore Advisees (3), Freshman Advisees (2)

Professional Activities

- 2013 - *Sociological Forum* — Editorial Board Member
- 2013 - Scholars Strategy Network — Member
- 2013 National Science Foundation Review Panel
- 2013 ASA Medical Sociology Section — Chair, Nominations Committee
- 2013 ASA Body and Embodiment Section — Best Article Award Committee
- 2012 National Endowment for the Humanities Review Panel
- 2012 ASA Medical Sociology Section — Chair-elect, Nominations Committee
- 2012 ASA Sex and Gender Section — Organized Roundtables
- 2012 ASA Sex and Gender Section — Panel Discussant
- 2011 ASA Economic Sociology Section — Viviana Zelizer Article Award Committee
- 2011 ASA Sex and Gender Section — Panel Discussant
- 2010 ASA Economic Sociology Section — Co-organized panel on Medical Markets
- 2009 ASA Medical Sociology Section — Outstanding Dissertation Award Committee
- 2009 ASA Sex and Gender Section — Distinguished Article Award Committee

Yale University

- 2011-2013 Yale College Steering Committee
- 2012-2013 Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Council
- 2012, 2013 Yale College Dean's Research Fellowship in the Humanities and Social Sciences
- 2013 Sociology Department Dissertation Prize Committee
- 2013 Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Rosen Prize Committee
- 2012 Yale Center for Clinical Investigation SPIRIT Pilot Review Committee
- 2011-2012 Social Science Library Committee
- 2010 Sociology Department Junior Search Committee
- 2010-2012 Sociology Department Graduate Workshops on *Qualitative Interviewing* (Organizer), *The Academic Job Market* (Panelist), and *Mixed Methods Research* (Panelist)

Reviewer: *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, Economic and Social Research Council (UK), *Feminist Studies*, *Gender & Society*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, Oxford University Press, *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Social Psychological Quarterly*, *Social Science and Medicine*, *Socio-Economic Review*, *Sociology of Health and Illness*, *Sociological Forum*, *Sociological Inquiry*, University of Chicago Press, *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, *Fertility and Sterility*

Press: New York Times, New York Times Sunday Magazine, USA Today, Newsweek, National Public Radio's "Here and Now," Southern California Public Radio, BBC Brazil, Irish Independent Talk Radio, National Geographic's "Taboo," Chicago Sun-Times, Seattle Times, Chronicle of Higher Education, Yale Scientific Magazine, Salon, Washington Post's "On Parenting," Huffington Post, Alternet, Jezebel, Freakonomics

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