



UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

Unnaturalizing bodies

An ethnographic inquiry into midwifery care in Germany

Skeide, A.

Publication date

2020

Document Version

Other version

License

Other

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Skeide, A. (2020). *Unnaturalizing bodies: An ethnographic inquiry into midwifery care in Germany*.

General rights

It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations

If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: <https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact>, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

ANNEKATRIN SKEIDE

Unnaturalizing Bodies

AN ETHNOGRAPHIC INQUIRY
INTO MIDWIFERY CARE IN GERMANY

The research that forms the basis of this thesis was funded by an individual doctoral grant of the *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes* (2015–2018).

© Annekatriin Skeide - all rights reserved

Design & Print Moritz Grünke / Gloria Glitzer

Cover Graphics Nadja Buttendorf, Moritz Grünke & Annekatriin Skeide

UNNATURALIZING BODIES
AN ETHNOGRAPHIC INQUIRY INTO
MIDWIFERY CARE IN GERMANY

ACADEMISCH PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van de graad van doctor
aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam

op gezag van de Rector Magnificus
prof. dr. ir. K.I.J.Maex
ten overstaan van een door het College voor Promoties

ingestelde commissie, in het openbaar te verdedigen
in de Aula der Universiteit
op woensdag 7 oktober 2020, te 14.00 uur

door Annekatrin Skeide
geboren te Wernigerode

Promotiecommissie

Promotores:	prof.dr. A. J. Pols	Universiteit van Amsterdam
	prof.dr. M. Knecht	Universität Bremen
Copromotor:	dr. K. Krause	Universiteit van Amsterdam
Overige leden:	prof.dr. J.S. Taylor	University of Toronto
	prof.dr. A. Mol	Universiteit van Amsterdam
	dr. B.C. de Kok	Universiteit van Amsterdam
	dr. A. Harris	Maastricht University
	prof.dr. A. de Jonge	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Faculteit:	Faculteit der Maatschappijen Gedragwetenschappen	

Table of content

CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION	9
Situating Midwifery Care Practices	12
Methodological Sensitivities and Methodical Realizations	20
Research Position and Field	23
On Situated Midwifery Care Practices: The Chapters	26
CHAPTER 2 – ENACTING HOMEBIRTH BODIES	29
Abstract	29
Introduction	30
Anthropological Background	32
Studying Midwifery Practices: A Praxiographic Approach	34
Midwifery Techniques: Routinizing and Multiplying	
Obstetrical Interventions	35
Co-responding Homebirth Bodies	40
Conclusion: Enacting Homebirth Bodies	47
CHAPTER 3 – WITNESSING IN PREGNANCY AND BIRTH	51
Abstract	51
Introduction	52
Methodical Approach	54
Witnessing as Co-participative Midwifery Practices	55
Witnessing Dys-appearing Bodies	58
Sociomaterial Witnessing Techniques	61
Conclusion: Witnessing Arrangements in Midwifery Care	66
CHAPTER 4 – EXPERIENCES AS ACTORS	69
Abstract	69
Introduction	70
Articulating Labor Pain Practices	71
Labor Pains Acting	75
What Can Practice Approaches Learn from Labor Pain Experiences?	84

CHAPTER 5 – MUSIC TO MY EARS	89
Abstract	89
Introduction	90
Stethoscopic Listening for Knowledge	91
Listening to Fetal Heartbeat Music	94
Aesthetics of Fetal Heart Sound Listening Situations	103
Conclusion	104
CHAPTER 6 – CONCLUSION	107
Shifting Midwifery Research	109
Strengthening Midwifery: Lessons for Research and Teaching Practices	116
BIBLIOGRAPHY	120
SUMMARY	131
SAMENVATTING	137
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	145