



## 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*. [Thesis, fully internal, Universiteit van Amsterdam].

#### 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

|                       |  |                              |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------------|
| <b>Promotores:</b>    | prof.dr. A. J. Pols                              | Universiteit van Amsterdam   |
|                       | prof.dr. M. Knecht                               | Universität Bremen           |
| <b>Copromotor:</b>    | dr. K. Krause                                    | Universiteit van Amsterdam   |
| <b>Overige leden:</b> | 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 |
| <b>Faculteit:</b>     | Faculteit der Maatschappijen Gedragwetenschappen |                              |

# Table of content

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION</b>                                 | <b>9</b>  |
| Situating Midwifery Care Practices                              | 12        |
| Methodological Sensitivities and Methodical Realizations        | 20        |
| Research Position and Field                                     | 23        |
| On Situated Midwifery Care Practices: The Chapters              | 26        |
| <br>  |           |
| <b>CHAPTER 2 – ENACTING HOMEBIRTH BODIES</b>                    | <b>29</b> |
| 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        |
| <br>  |           |
| <b>CHAPTER 3 – WITNESSING IN PREGNANCY AND BIRTH</b>            | <b>51</b> |
| 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        |
| <br>  |           |
| <b>CHAPTER 4 – EXPERIENCES AS ACTORS</b>                        | <b>69</b> |
| Abstract  | 69        |
| Introduction  | 70        |
| Articulating Labor Pain Practices                               | 71        |
| Labor Pains Acting  | 75        |
| What Can Practice Approaches Learn from Labor Pain Experiences? | 84        |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>CHAPTER 5 – MUSIC TO MY EARS</b>                                     | <b>89</b>  |
| 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        |
| <br>  |            |
| <b>CHAPTER 6 – CONCLUSION</b>   | <b>107</b> |
| Shifting Midwifery Research   | 109        |
| Strengthening Midwifery: Lessons for Research<br>and Teaching Practices | 116        |
| <br>  |            |
| <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>   | <b>120</b> |
| <br>  |            |
| <b>SUMMARY</b>  | <b>131</b> |
| <br>  |            |
| <b>SAMENVATTING</b>   | <b>137</b> |
| <br>  |            |
| <b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>   | <b>145</b> |