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## Introduction

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On 24 June 2022, the US Supreme Court handed down its decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*. The case emerged from a Mississippi law banning most abortions after the fifteenth week of pregnancy. Specifically designed to precipitate a challenge to the Court's own controversial 1973 ruling in *Roe v. Wade* which held that the US Constitution protected the right, within certain limits, to choose to terminate a pregnancy, the majority's opinion in *Dobbs* was unequivocal in its condemnation of the earlier ruling: 'Roe was egregiously wrong from the start,' they declared: 'Its reasoning was exceptionally weak, and the decision has had damaging consequences.'<sup>1</sup> Those 'damaging consequences' notwithstanding, overturning forty-nine years of settled constitutional precedent has resulted in significant legal, political, practical, and medical consequences which continue to play out across the United States.

The *Dobbs* ruling has both exacerbated and seen greater recognition of the topic which lies at the heart of this special issue. Writing in the 1990s, when political opposition to *Roe* and hopes of a *Dobbs*-type ruling were high, scholar Susan Bordo noted that the dichotomous pro-life v. pro-choice movements that had emerged in the aftermath of *Roe* were 'locked into rhetoric and strategies that fail to situate the struggle within the broader context of reproductive control.'<sup>2</sup> The problem ultimately had two parts.

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<sup>1</sup> *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, Slip Opinion No. 19–1392 (2022), 6. Available online at [https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/19-1392\\_6j37.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/19-1392_6j37.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Susan Bordo, *Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture, and the Body*. Berkley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1993, 71. In 1992 the Court ruled in *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey* 505 US 833 (1992). Abortion opponents had hoped that a newly

First, *Roe* was focused on abortion only. As opponents sought to challenge it and supporters looked to protect it, they focused only on abortion, in reality only one small aspect of the larger issue of maternal healthcare. Second, because abortion rights had been protected through a legal decision from the nation's highest court, much of the strategy employed by supporters and opponents alike focused on the law, whether through lawsuits or constitutional amendments designed to try to overturn *Roe* or, later on, laws which made abortion access harder without barring it outright. In public debate, abortion became the dominant issue relating to reproductive rights, to the detriment of all other issues.

Feminist activists and scholars, meanwhile, sought to shift and expand the focus of the debate from abortion to issues of reproductive control, or reproductive justice. Black feminist academics, such as Dorothy Roberts, argued that, '[t]he mainstream movement for reproductive rights has narrowed its concerns to advocate almost exclusively for the legal right to abortion, further distancing its agenda from the interests of women [of colour] who have been targets of sterilization abuse because of the devaluation of their right to bear children.'<sup>3</sup> Second Wave feminism, dominated as it was by white middle class women, prioritised protecting and defending the rights won in *Roe* but overlooked the experiences of the poor and those of colour for whom the legal right to abortion was only part of a larger web of issues including affordable healthcare, education, employment, access to childcare, rates of infant and mother mortality, and poverty.<sup>4</sup> In 1994, a caucus of black feminists at a pro-choice

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conservative-leaning Court would overturn *Roe*. Instead, a three-Justice plurality crafted a ruling which claimed to save the core principle of *Roe* (access to abortion, at least until the point of foetal viability) while permitting a significant number of restrictions on that access. Mary Ziegler, *Abortion and the Law in America: Roe v. Wade to the Present*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2020, 88-120.

<sup>3</sup> Dorothy Roberts, 'Reproductive Justice, not Just Rights,' *Dissent Magazine* (Fall 2015)

<https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/reproductive-justice-not-just-rights/>.

<sup>4</sup> For further reading see Susan Faludi, *Backlash: The Undeclared War Against Women*. New York: Vintage Press, 1992, Chp. 14, 'Reproductive Rights Under the Backlash: The Invasion of Women's Bodies;' Dorothy Roberts, *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty*. New York: Vintage Books, 1997; Jennifer Nelson, *Women of Color and the Reproductive Rights Movement*. New York: New York University Press, 2003; Sherron De Hart and Carolyn Herbert Lewis, 'Thirty Years after *Roe*: The Continued Assault on a Woman's Right to Choose,' in *Women's America: Refocusing the Past* edited by Linda K. Kerber and Sherron De Hart. New York: Oxford University

conference coined the term 'reproductive justice' to speak to the importance of the broader issues around pregnancy, childbirth, and childcare. By 1997, this had developed into the national organization, 'SisterSong: Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective.' The organisation's aim is to 'build an effective network of individuals and organizations to improve institutional policies and systems that impact the lives of marginalized communities.'<sup>5</sup> They define reproductive justice as, 'the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.' Their advocacy includes issues relating to 'contraception, comprehensive sex education, STI prevention and care, alternative birth options, adequate prenatal and pregnancy care, domestic violence assistance, adequate wages to support our families, safe homes, and so much more.'<sup>6</sup> Important as abortion is, within a reproductive justice framework it is only one of a plethora of issues facing pregnant people and their ability to choose freely whether or not to parent.

On one hand, the *Dobbs* ruling has seen a step back to an earlier period with a primary focus on legal battles over abortion. Laws governing such procedures were swiftly enacted in several states and by November 2023 fourteen had imposed an absolute ban on abortion including many in the south and mid-west. In comparison, states in the north-east and west coast have retained, expanded, or more deeply protected the legal right to undergo the procedure, usually based on foetal viability of around 24 weeks.<sup>7</sup> Battles about the definition of 'emergency circumstances' in some state laws, attempts to limit the ability of citizens to cross state borders to obtain abortions, and questions of the accessibility of medication abortion by mail have all been part of the

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Press, 2004; Rickie Solinger, *Pregnancy and Power: A Short History of Reproductive Politics in America*. New York: New York University Press, 2007; Katha Politt, *Pro: Reclaiming Abortion Rights*. New York: Picador Press, 2014.

<sup>5</sup> See 'SisterSong: Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective'

<https://www.sistersong.net/about-x2>

<sup>6</sup> SisterSong: Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective,

<https://www.sistersong.net/reproductive-justice> (accessed 15 January 2024).

<sup>7</sup> Carter Sherman and Andrew Witherspoon, 'Abortion Rights Across the US: We Track where Laws stand in Each State,' *The Guardian*, 10 Nov 2023, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2023/nov/10/state-abortion-laws-us>.

post-*Dobbs* era.<sup>8</sup> State elections have been shaped by the inclusion of referenda on abortion access, to such an extent that abortion opponents appear to be seeking to prevent such initiatives being included as part of the 2024 elections.<sup>9</sup> And in the 2024 presidential election campaign, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are seeking to make abortion a key issue for voters, using campaign rallies and adverts focused on *Dobbs* and its consequences to rally supporters to the polls.<sup>10</sup> Once again, legislatures, courts, and politics appear to be dominant in battles focused exclusively on abortion.

But at the same time, *Dobbs* has created a reality for many pregnant people in the US which requires a focus on the broader issues of reproductive justice. If abortion is not accessible or desirable, for legal, personal, or practical reasons, then all the issues raised by SisterSong and others come into play. And *Dobbs* has ensured that many more people are affected by these issues than in the past. Perhaps most notable in this regard is that in September 2023 one of the nation's largest pro-choice advocacy organizations, NARAL Pro-Choice America, changed its name to Reproductive Freedom for All, influenced by a recognition of the history of activism by women of

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<sup>8</sup> Carter Sherman, 'Kate Cox Case Reveals Toll of US Abortion Bans on Women in Medical Emergencies,' *The Guardian*, 16 December 2023, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/dec/16/abortion-ban-lawsuits-pregnancy-complication-emergency-kate-cox>; Jesus Jiménez, 'Court Rules Texas Can Ban Emergency Abortions Despite Federal Guidance,' *New York Times*, 2 January 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/02/us/texas-emergency-abortion-ban-appeal.html>; Aria Bendix, 'Idaho Becomes One of the Most Extreme Anti-Abortion States With Law Restricting Travel for Abortions,' *NBC News*, 6 April 2023, <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/womens-health/idaho-most-extreme-anti-abortion-state-law-restricts-travel-rcna78225>; Perry Stein, 'Justice Dept.: Despite Bans, Abortion Pills may be Mailed to any State,' *Washington Post*, 4 January 2023, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2023/01/04/abortion-pills-mailed-legal/>. The Supreme Court agreed to address this issue in *Food and Drug Administration v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine*, set for oral argument on 26 March 2024.

<sup>9</sup> Christine Fernando, 'Republican Legislatures in Some States are Trying to Keep Abortion Off the Ballot,' *Washington Post*, 29 January 2024, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2024/01/28/abortion-ballot-initiatives-voters-democracy-2024/0c68aa2a-bddb-11ee-a4c6-8f5c350e9316\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2024/01/28/abortion-ballot-initiatives-voters-democracy-2024/0c68aa2a-bddb-11ee-a4c6-8f5c350e9316_story.html).

<sup>10</sup> 'Forced,' Biden-Harris 2024 Campaign Ad, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrtvE4bSwKY>; Toluse Olorunnipa, 'At Va. Rally, Biden and Harris Blast Trump for Antiabortion Push,' *Washington Post*, 23 January 2024, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2024/01/23/biden-harris-abortion-rights-ally-virginia/>.

colour, the changed situation since *Dobbs*, and the new people being drawn into the battles.<sup>11</sup> Interestingly, some of those who hold a pro-life agenda and whose political thought is grounded in religious conservatism have also questioned the ways in which *Dobbs* treats the poor and the marginalised seeking justice in their reproductive lives. As scholar and pro-life Christian, Daniel K. Williams has pointed out, the *Roe* decision cost the life of an unwanted child, but *Dobbs* will mean that this cost is transferred, in some states at least, to pregnant people themselves. Williams concludes that in the current political and legal climate in the US it will 'force the most economically vulnerable and marginalized women to pay these costs [and therefore] does not accord well with the Bible's hundreds of exhortations to seek justice for the poor.'<sup>12</sup>

As scholars of the United States based in the UK, with respective specialisms in legal & constitutional history and gender & race, we watched these events unfold as interested outsiders. But for us it raised the question: what did this debate look like in countries other than the US? The right to reproductive care and justice for women and girls (cis and trans) – from contraception through to choices about having a child or terminating a pregnancy – is bound up with debates around political subjectivity and rights, systems of legal regulation, state welfare support, and socio-cultural conceptions linked to particular faiths or systems of belief. These are not limited to the United States, even if the specifics of each debate reflect the particularities of each country. Not long before *Dobbs*, we watched the battles about abortion in the Republic of Ireland and then in Northern Ireland. Since 2020, many countries have liberalised their abortion laws including Argentina, Thailand, South Korea, and New Zealand. Alongside the US, Poland, Nicaragua, and El Salvador have tightened restrictions on abortion access. In each instance the debates were not just about abortion or the law but about the wider implications of change. This special issue, then, is interested in centring stories that narrate reproductive care and justice from several different perspectives in a range of temporal and geographic spaces and places. It includes

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<sup>11</sup> Lisa Lerer, 'Abortion Rights Group Sees Mission Beyond "Pro-Choice," So It Has a New Name,' *New York Times*, 20 September 2023 (<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/09/20/us/politics/naral-name-change.html>).

<sup>12</sup> Daniel K. Williams, 'Who Will Bear The Cost Of America's Crisis Pregnancies?' *Anxious Bench*, 26 June 2022, <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/anxiousbench/2022/06/who-will-bear-the-cost-of-americas-crisis-pregnancies/>.

articles focussing on campaigns for policy change and legal revision; literary representations in certain contexts; and grassroots activism and community building to support the care of people to achieve justice in their reproductive lives. We seek to decentre abortion debates, recognising that they are part of the discussion, but that the bigger issue of reproductive justice is one which demands more attention in all realms, whether academic, political, policy, welfare, education, or cultural.

New Area Studies offers an exciting and conceptually effective framework within which to address such issues. Traditionally thought of as a subject bounded by geography or national borders, New Area Studies and its practitioners have increasingly come to understand 'area' as, in Wendy Bracewell's words, 'shifting ... spaces of encounter,' or as 'container spaces' according to Katja Mielke and Anna-Katharina Hornidge.<sup>13</sup> Thus the 'areas' of study within New Area Studies may be defined by questions, topics, or issues rather than geography. This is, according to Mark Beissinger's third model, problem-driven Area Studies, created whenever a problem requires cross-disciplinary enquiry and a larger geographical realm.<sup>14</sup> As we have shown, and as the articles which follow clearly demonstrate, reproductive justice is a matter which affects pregnant people and families around the world in a variety of different ways. The specific circumstances in which discussions of reproductive health and opportunity occur differ according to nations and laws and political context but focusing on those differences may obscure the important similarities, not least of which is the very existence of battles for reproductive rights. New Area Studies encourages and supports the methodologically and geographically diverse approach to this subject demonstrated in the articles included in this volume with the aim of better understanding the 'area' of reproductive justice. While a single volume cannot

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<sup>13</sup> Wendy Bracewell, 'Eastern Europe, With and Without Borders,' in *The Rebirth of Area Studies: Challenge for History, Politics and International Relations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, ed. Zoran Milutinović. I.B. Tauris & Co., 2019, 111; Anna-Katharina Hornidge and Katja Mielke, 'Concluding Reflections: The Art of Science Policy for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Area Studies,' in *Area Studies at the Crossroads: Knowledge Production After the Mobility Turn*, eds. Katja Mielke and Anna-Katharina Hornidge, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), 334.

<sup>14</sup> Mark R. Beissinger, 'Disciplinarity, Interdisciplinarity and the Plurality of Area Studies: A View from the Social Sciences,' in *The Rebirth of Area Studies: Challenge for History, Politics and International Relations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, ed. Zoran Milutinović. I.B. Tauris & Co., 2019, 137-139. See also Hornidge and Mielke, 'Concluding Reflections,' 328, 331.

hope to address all the issues in every place and circumstance, we hope that what it can do is to 'develop[] a range of possible, and continuously to be reflected, answers in and with society itself.'<sup>15</sup>

The collection of articles contained in this special issue are drawn from a number of different disciplines and expertise including biological sciences, history, law, literature, politics, medical practice, and film. As Susan Hodgett has argued such interdisciplinarity is critical to the success of New Area Studies, as it continues to 'positively *blur[] the genres* between the traditional disciplinary boundaries in the social and human sciences.'<sup>16</sup> Critically, the interactions of competing and sometimes contradictory methods can offer fruitful and valuable insights.<sup>17</sup> Taking this a step further, Vincent Houben has argued that New Area Studies 'should be more than cross- or interdisciplinary but rather "postdisciplinary".'<sup>18</sup> Houben employs situational analysis as his methodological framework to support this argument, which, 'ultimately aims at the production of situated knowledge, marked by place, time and circumstance. The aim is not to separate object from subject, micro from macro, individual from society but rather to show the ways in which these are intertwined.'<sup>19</sup> Indeed, Houben makes an innovative methodological intervention here, positioning New Area Studies as moving away from more traditional 'singular and generalised claims to truth' and instead adopts what he names a 'kaleidoscope dialectic':

The main subject matter, focussing on processes of world-making within a perspectival time-space constellation called 'area', puts human agency and positionality at the centre of the scientific effort. Its theoretical basis moves beyond multi-/trans-/cross- or inter-disciplinarity and adopts

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<sup>15</sup> Hornidge and Mielke, 'Concluding Reflections,' 329.

<sup>16</sup> Susan Hodgett, 'Twenty-First Century Area Studies: Blurring Genres, Evolutionary Thought and the Production of Theory,' in ed. Zoran Milutinović. I.B. Tauris & Co., 2019, 39.

<sup>17</sup> Zoran Milutinović, 'Introduction,' *ibid*, 6.

<sup>18</sup> Vincent Houben, 'New Area Studies as an Emerging Discipline: The Way Ahead for Southeastern Asian Studies,' *International Quarterly for Asian Studies* 51, no. 3-4 (2020), 54.

<sup>19</sup> *ibid*. 56.

kaleidoscopic dialectic as the principle of knowledge generation in the format of comparativity.<sup>20</sup>

This special issue heeds the calls from Houben, Hodgett, and others. The authors acknowledge the specificity of the time and place about which they write. But placing the authors and their work in conversation with one another allows for Houben's kaleidoscope of perspectives and disciplines to help build a more complex, nuanced picture of the 'area' of reproductive rights with all its challenges and opportunities. It allows us to begin to perceive the multiplicity of questions involved in such debates, an understanding of which may aid in seeking out new paths and forms of resolution.

This issue reflects and contributes to the aims and methodologies of New Area Studies in two additional ways. First, as Susan Hodgett and Patrick James have argued in their groundbreaking work, there is an urgent need in the post 9/11 world to excavate beyond the surface, to 'involve institutions but also [local] actors and *their* goals.'<sup>21</sup> New Area Studies takes seriously the importance of place and locality but at the same time acknowledges that a multi-sited, cross-border examination of the impact of global forces can contribute to a deeper and more rigorous understanding of the topic at hand. The articles which follow explore matters of reproductive justice in the UK, Ireland, Canada, South Africa, and Russia. The authors evidence attention to the specificities of the challenges faced by pregnant people and families in those nations. Placed in conversation with one another, however, they also collectively allow for the emergence of an essential reality: that reproductive justice remains a battle across borders. The fight is global, national, and local simultaneously.

Second, the centrality of the lived experience of those outside of institutional power networks and empathetic understandings of such responses, which are fundamental to the development of New Area Studies in the twenty-first century, are reflected in the contributions to this special issue. Thus, positioning it at the forefront of debates

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<sup>20</sup> *ibid*

<sup>21</sup> Susan Hodgett and Patrick James, eds., *Necessary Travel: New Area Studies and Canada in Comparative Perspective*. Lexington Books, 2018, 7. See also Hodgett, 'Twenty-First Century Area Studies,' 35.

in the future of this innovative and interdisciplinary field of research. New Area Studies, as Edith Clowes and Shelly Jarret Bromberg affirm, explores the vital intersections and articulations between community, place, and identity. Their edited collection makes evident that scholars working in the current 'global age' need to be 'alert to the subjectivities of ordinary communities, the views and desires of people and groups who are not in power but hold passionately to a particular identity.'<sup>22</sup> An awareness of power and its capacity to work against the powerless has formed a significant research agenda within the emergence of New Area Studies: it can help to give voice to the voiceless and challenge the intentions of the powerful by paying attention to the 'self-perceptions and subjectivities ... of ordinary people,' especially those in 'non-elite communities.'<sup>23</sup> It is evident that this special issue offers a counter-narrative to institutions such as national governments and the construction of particular legal frameworks, through focus on the lived experiences of local actors, often those with the least power (including migrant women, and those without access to power structures), reflecting on their subjective realities in different spaces and places.

The special issue begins with three pieces that talk to concerns around reproductive justice and care in relation to intersectionality. Katherine Miller Brunton and Katherine Waterfall open this issue with an exploration of the barriers to reproductive justice for women with 'insecure immigration status' in the UK. Employing the composite narratives of a number of women who were supported by Charitable organisations 'Stream of Sanctuary' and 'Birth Companions,' Miller Brunton and Waterfall provide a sensitive and moving account of the experiences of their circumstances as they navigated the complex structures of the UK immigration system and their rights to pre- and pro-natal care during their pregnancies. Through these case studies the authors underline the vital work of such charities that provide guidance, support, and care for those seeking sanctuary in the UK.

Sophie Lee takes up this theme of female migrants in Russia and considers the limits of reproductive justice and care as narrated through two contemporary films, Sergei

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<sup>22</sup> Edith W. Clowes and Shelly Jarret Bromberg eds., *Area Studies in the Global Age: Community, Place, Identity*. University of Illinois Press, 2016, 12.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid., 14.

Dvortsevov's 2018 *Ayka* and Anastasia Borisova's 2019 film *Mama*. Drawing together issues around ethnic 'otherness' and the narratives of pregnancy, mother-work, and racialized labour in the Russian nation, Lee asks her readers to consider the representations of the female protagonists in both films and their unequal access to postpartum care in a supposedly pro-natalist nation.

Laine Halpern Zisman focusses too on issues of intersectionality in relation to reproductive justice and care, centring her article on queer and transgender people in Canada. Through her piece, Halpern Zisman presents a deeper understanding of the prejudices, implicit and more overt, that challenge the development of building a family for those who identify as Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning (2SLGBTQ+). Importantly, strategies towards a more positive experience of family building for 2SLGBTQ+ people are central to this piece with various networks of support outlined and focussed education of medical practitioners and support staff.

Moving towards textual representations, Kelli Maloy explores literary representations of female support-networks for abortion in the Republic of Ireland. As Maloy makes clear in her analysis, while abortion became legal in Eire in early 2019 following a national referendum on the issue, campaigns to suppress discussion of the subject had long been woven into the social, political, and legal fabric of the Republic. As she explores in this article however, several Irish female novelists authored work from the early 1980s onwards with an abortion narrative as central, providing a literary platform and offering, perhaps, alternative visions for women and girls in Eire who wanted a termination. Maloy calls attention to the work of some of these novelists, including Maeve Binchy, Edna O'Brien and Marian Keyes focussing on their representations of the female-centric networks of care and advice in the context of abortion narratives. Reflection on the impact these novels had on the political and cultural debates and wider campaigns to legalize abortion in the name of reproductive justice are central to Maloy's argument.

Victoria Washington's analysis also reflects on literary representations of reproductive justice, shifting the genre of work to horror and employing the novels of contemporary Black female authors, Tomi Adeyemi and L. A. Banks. In her analysis,

Washington firstly explores symbolic and contradictory meanings of the Black womb: as both a giver of life to future generations of Black people and historically, the producer of labour for exploitative patriarchal capitalist systems. The piece goes on to consider the metaphorical wombs that both Adeyami and Banks narrate in their respective work, *Children of Blood and Bone* (2019) the first novel in Adeyemi's *Legacy of Orisha* series and *The Hunted* (2005) from L. A. Banks' *Vampire Huntress Legend*. These novels feature various wombs that narrate the power of Black women and their resistance to systems of white phallic domination.

The issue then moves to consider the role legal activism can play in campaigns to achieve reproductive justice and care. Sheena Swemmer does vital work in her piece concerning South Africa and the legal framing of obstetric violence in the country, currently considered legally as medical malpractice as opposed to a form of gender-based violence. Through the article's detailed analysis concerning the limits of the South African legal system in relation to responding to and criminalising crimes of this nature, Swemmer makes an important contribution to debates around justice for survivors of gender-based violence against women's reproductive capabilities.

Bioethics is the focus of the article by Tamara Roma and Emma Capulli, developing a sophisticated conceptual argument relating to an intersectional bioethics on both reproductive and non-reproductive care. First, taking surrogacy and abortion as two examples of cross border reproduction, their analysis then demonstrates how privileges of power integral to globalization see markers of discrimination based on the intersections of race, gender and class with a concluding call for a revised intersectional bioethics perspective.

This special issue closes with Emma Campbell's activist account of the decriminalisation of abortion in Northern Ireland in 2019, reflecting on the histories of the process and continuing challenges in the wake of its legalisation. As co-convenor of the primary pro-choice activist group in North Ireland, 'Alliance for Choice,' Campbell's piece delivers a wider understanding of the historical restrictions on abortion in a region that is part of the UK, and where abortion was legalised on certain grounds in 1967.



Rebecca J. Fraser and Emma Long, 'Introduction,'  
*New Area Studies* 4:2 (2024).

The growing and ongoing discussions around reproductive justice and care are vitally important as we seek to recognise political rights and the oppressions of class, race, and gender on a global scale that reproductive justice sits at the intersection between. In this spirit, we hope that this special issue adds to and moves the conversation forward. Also, and finally, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the contributors for this special issue and those who spent time reviewing the pieces and offering such helpful feedback. We hope that those who read this issue will gain valuable insight and further their understandings of the very many facets of reproductive justice and care. As guest editors of this superb special issue, we certainly did.

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