Contents

Foreword 1993 Robbie Davis-Floyd ix Preface to the Fourth Edition 1993 xi Preface to the Third Edition 1983 xv Acknowledgments to Part I xix About the Author xxi

Part	Part I: Childbirth in Biosocial, Crosscultural Perspective 1			
1	A Biosocial Framework for the Crosscultural Comparison of Childbirth Practices Obstacles to Crosscultural Comparison 6 The Fieldwork Sequence 9 Anthropological Participation 10 Preview of Book 12	3		
2	Buscando La Forma An Ethnography of Contemporary Maya Childbirth in Yucatan The Ethnographic Record 15 Fieldwork Conditions 16 The Birth Setting 22 Prenatal Care 24 The Birth Event 31 The Postpartum Period 42	15		
3	The Crosscultural Comparison of Birthing Systems Toward A Biosocial Analysis Birth in the United States, Holland, and Sweden: An Overview 46 Biosocial Features of Birth 48 Conclusion 90	45		

viii Contents

4	Fieldwork in Four Cultures Methods and Experience Beginning Fieldwork 93 The Technologies of Data Gathering 100 The Anthropological "Interview" 102 Why We Need a Visual Record 104 Disadvantages of Mechanical Data Recording 109 Dilemmas and Interference 111 Women and Birth Research 119		91	
5	Birthing Systems and Change Systemic Structure and Systematic Justification 122 Birthing Systems and Change in Developing Countries Mutual Accommodation: A Biosocial Framework for Planning Change 132 The Shape of Things to Come: Birth in the United States 139	128	121	
Part II: Authoritative Knowledge in Childbirth 147				
6	The Achievement of Authoritative Knowledge in an American Hospital Birth Authoritative Knowledge 152 The Data 154 Some Thoughts About the Design of Labor Ecologies	166	151	
7	Modes of Teaching and Learning Pedagogy and the Construction of Authoritative Knowledge Generic Problems in Training Courses 172 Differing Worldviews 184 Differing Modes of Knowledge Acquisition: Experiential and Didactic 186 Conclusions: Cosmopolitics 196		169	
8	Cosmopolitical Obstetrics Technology and the Social Distribution of Authoritative Knowledge Generic Problems in the Interaction of Indigenous and Western Obstetric Systems 200 Obstetric Technology and Its Consequences 204 Conclusion: Primary Health Care and Beyond 214		199	
	References Cited 217			