

Title: Unravelling Bio-markets through the lens of ethics, gender, race and political economy

Date: December 4, 2018 (Full day workshop)

Venue: St John's Medical College Campus, Bengaluru

Organiser: Sama Resource Group for Women and Health

About the Symposium: This symposium seeks to deepen the discourse on global bio-markets, particularly expanding the analytical focus beyond the macroeconomic to that of political economy, gender, race, and ethics. It expects to draw on the work done in this area - including on reproductive technologies, stem cells, oocytes, commercial surrogacy, organ trade, participation in clinical trials, etc - by various presenters. The symposium will facilitate debate on issues of equity, justice and therefore ethics of bio-markets: who benefits, who gets excluded, what new forms of precarious labour come to be produced, how hierarchies are produced and reified between stakeholders in the market. The experiences of people – in their roles as investors, buyers and sellers – in these (bio)exchanges made for cash or kind, or in return for future treatment, access to medicines etc, will also be interrogated. Biotechnologies thrive in a context where the notion of a promissory future free of illness is central, and legal and regulatory frameworks grapple with the ethical conundrums that they pose. Ethical concerns related to healthcare technologies remain relevant for the newer biotechnologies, although they flag other ethical dilemmas pertaining to data privacy, ownership of biological information and patenting or what it means to be "genetically ill". The extent of regulation of global bio-markets and its nature will also be deliberated during the workshop.

Presenters

- Sharmila Rudrappa, University of Texas at Austin, US
- Aditya Bharadwaj, Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland
- Dr. Marcin W. Smietana, Research Associate, University of Cambridge
- Virginie Rozée, French Institute for Demographic Studies

- Vrinda Marwah, Doctoral Candidate, University of Texas at Austin, US
- Aswathy Raveendran, Independent Researcher, India
- Sarojini N, Sama Resource Group for Women and Health
- Sayani Mitra University Medical Center Goettingen

Participants: Researchers, feminists, bio-ethicists, legal experts, representatives of organisations working in areas of science, gender, sexuality, technology, public health, etc.

By invitation only

Contact Persons:

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