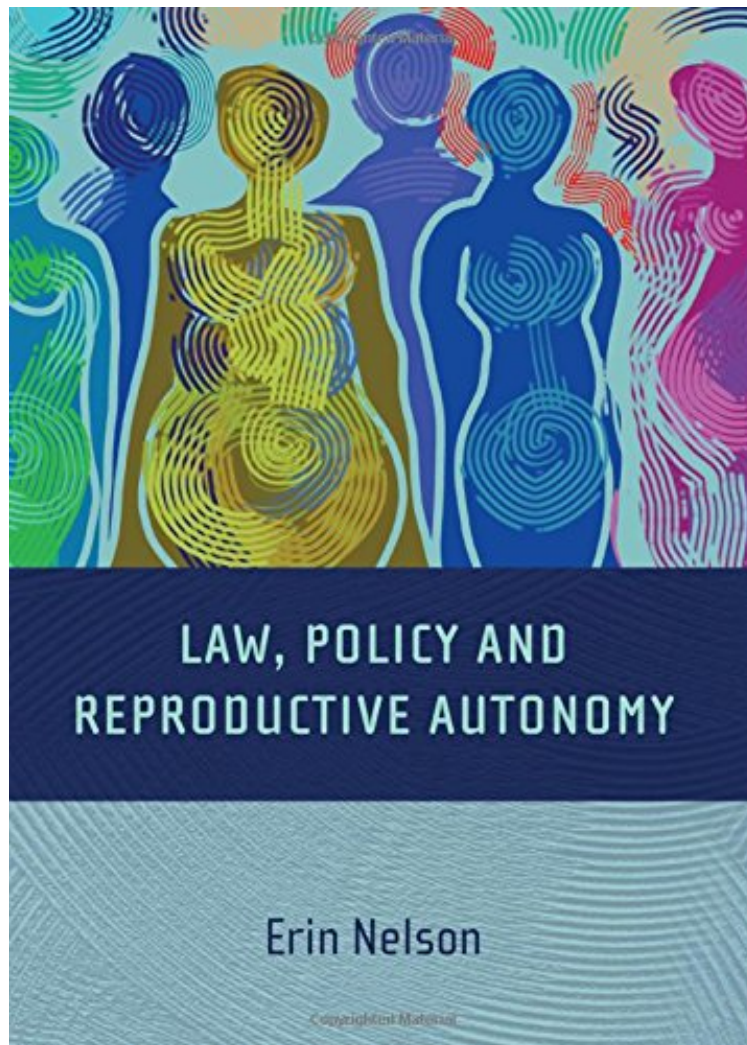


# Law, Policy and Reproductive Autonomy

*Erin Nelson*

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**Erin Nelson : Law, Policy and Reproductive Autonomy** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Law, Policy and Reproductive Autonomy:

Reproductive choices are at once the most private and intimate decisions we make in our lives and, undeniably, also among the most public. Reproductive decision-making takes place in a web of overlapping concerns - political, ideological, socio-economic, and health - all of which engage the public and involve strongly held opinions and attitudes about appropriate conduct on the part of individuals and the State. Law, Policy and Reproductive Autonomy examines the idea of reproductive autonomy, noting that, in the attempt to look closely at the contours of the concept,

we begin to see some uncertainty about its meaning and legal implications - about how to understand reproductive autonomy and how to value it. Both mainstream and feminist literature about autonomy contribute valuable insights into the meaning and implications of reproductive autonomy. The developing feminist literature on relational autonomy provides a useful starting point for a contextualized conception of reproductive autonomy that creates the opportunity for meaningful exercise of reproductive choice. With a contextualized approach to reproductive autonomy as a backdrop, the book traces the regulation of reproduction in US, Canadian, English, and Australian law and policy, argues that not all reproductive decisions necessarily demand the same level of deference in law and policy, and makes recommendations for reform. The book will be essential reading for all those interested in medical law and ethics generally, and the regulation of reproduction more specifically.

Throughout the book Nelson's claims and analysis are backed up by so much research and data as to be highly convincing. With a very impressive bibliography to round things off, this book is a must-read for anyone who is interested in any aspect of the regulation of human reproduction, assisted or otherwise, not least because it ties together so many strands (from surrogacy to wrongful birth, access to contraception to gamete donation) with a united theoretical framework. (Kirsty Horsey *Medical Law*)... a detailed analysis of contemporary meanings of reproductive autonomy. The comparative approach in this book, drawing on legal and regulatory developments and debates in the UK, the US, Canada and Australia, will make the book essential reading for those interested in this complex area... [the book provides] rich and thoughtful analyses of the contemporary meanings of health rights [and deserves] a wide readership from those interested in law, human rights, health law, and policy. (Belinda Bennett *Sydney Law*, Volume 36, 2014) About the Author Erin Nelson is Associate Professor of Law at the University of Alberta, and Research Fellow, Health Law and Science Policy Group, University of Alberta.