

MY BODY, THEIR BABY

TITLE: My Body, Their Baby

SUBTITLE: A Progressive Christian Vision for Surrogacy

AUTHOR: Grace Y. Kao

PUBLISHER: Stanford University Press

SERIES: Encountering Traditions

PAGES: 274

HARDCOVER: ISBN-13: 978-1-50-361026-2

PAPERBACK: ISBN-13: 978-1-50-363597-5

EBOOK: ISBN-13: 978-1-50-363598-2

RELEASE DATE: August 15, 2023; receive 20% off at www.sup.org with code **KAO20**



Drawing on her own experience as a surrogate mother, Grace Y. Kao assesses the ethics of surrogacy from a feminist and progressive Christian perspective, concluding that certain kinds of surrogacy arrangements can be morally permissible—and should even be hailed as a “thing of beauty.” While the use of assisted reproductive technology has brought joy to countless families, surrogacy remains one of the most controversial paths to parenthood. *My Body, Their Baby* helps readers sort through popular objections to this way of bringing children into the world. Candidly reflecting on carrying a baby for her childless friends and informed by the reproductive justice framework developed by women of color activists, Kao highlights the importance of experience in feminist methodology and Christian ethics. She shows what surrogacy is like from the perspective of women who become pregnant for others, intended parents who have opted for surrogacy (including queer couples), and the surrogate-born children themselves. Developing a constructive framework of ethical norms and principles to guide the formation of surrogacy relationships, Kao ultimately offers a vision for surrogacy that celebrates the reproductive generosity and solidarity displayed through the sharing of traditionally maternal roles.



Grace Y. Kao (Ph.D., Harvard University) is Professor of Ethics, the inaugural Sano Chair in Pacific and Asian American Theology, and a founding co-director of the Center for Sexuality, Gender, and Religion at Claremont School of Theology. She is the author or co-editor of 4 books and approximately 40 journal articles, book chapters, and reviews. Dr. Kao lives in Southern California with her husband and their teenage sons. [Connect with her at drgracekao.com](http://www.drgracekao.com).

Early Praise:

“The world needs more scholars like Grace Kao. With thoughtful rigor and deeply human tenderness, she provides a faithful framework for understanding surrogacy. Her cogent, compassionate arguments illuminate a practice that is often consigned to the shadows, and her work shines with creativity, empathy, and care.”

—Jeff Chu, author of *Does Jesus Really Love Me? A Gay Christian's Pilgrimage in Search of God in America*

“This book provides an expansive Christian vision for surrogacy that bravely probes complex social ethics questions surrounding it. Kao’s accessibly articulated and social justice-oriented guidelines offer a roadmap for decision-making that contributes fresh, thought-provoking analysis to feminist reproductive ethics.”

—Traci C. West, Drew University Theological School, author of *Solidarity and Defiant Spirituality: Africana Lessons on Religion, Racism, and Ending Gender Violence*

“Kao masterfully weaves together personal narrative, exploration of data, and engagement with scholarly sources in an accessible theology of surrogacy that is responsive to its complexities and generous to her interlocutors.”

—Kendra G. Hotz, Rhodes College, author of *Dust and Breath: Faith, Health, and Why the Church Should Care About Both*

“This book breaks the ice on Christian feminist reluctance to think about surrogacy. Painstakingly researched and accessibly written, it will not only inspire needed attention to surrogacy but also influence the whole landscape of Christian ethics of reproduction.”

—Cristina Traina, Fordham University, past president of the Society of Christian Ethics

“Drawing on her own experience both as a surrogate and a Christian theologian, Kao makes a powerful and rigorously argued Christian ethical case for surrogacy. An invaluable resource for parents, pastors, and all concerned with reproduction and its ethical implications.”

—Susan A. Ross, Loyola University Chicago, past president of the Catholic Theological Society of America

“Kao’s descriptions of her experience as a surrogate succeed in bringing the moral arguments for and against surrogacy into sharper focus. This insightful book shows us how narratives shape our moral visions.”

—Aline Kolbian, Florida State University, past co-editor of the *Journal of Religious Ethics*

Available at: Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, Stanford University Press and independent bookstores everywhere (bookshop.org).