

Centering C-section Narratives in Birth Discourse: an anthropological exploration

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This presentation examines narratives of c-section experiences to understand the personal perspective of a national conversation on medicalized birth. Birth statistics, child health, and reproductive rights, are often the focus of c-section studies. However, these approaches often exclude the perspectives of those experiencing the c-section. By centering narratives, we regain an understanding of what it means to experience a c-section in a system of medicalized birth. The analysis includes authoritative knowledge, self-education, and becoming a mother. Using narrative as an anthropological tool allows us to enlighten a topic that is so heavily studied through lenses of observation and data collection.

Key words: c-section, narrative, interviews, authoritative knowledge, motherhood, medical anthropology