CONTENTS

FOREWORD
Rayna Rapp / xi

Introduction: The Anthropology of Birth
Robbie Davis-Floyd and Carolyn F. Sargent / 1

PART I • THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF AUTHORITATIVE KNOWLEDGE IN CHILDBIRTH

1. Authoritative Knowledge and Its Construction
Brigette Jordan / 55

2. An Evolutionary Perspective on Authoritative Knowledge about Birth
Wenda R. Trevathan / 80

PART II • INTRACULTURAL VARIATIONS IN AUTHORITATIVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT BIRTH:
BIOMEDICAL HEGEMONY AND WOMEN'S CHOICES

3. Fetal Ultrasound Imaging and the Production of Authoritative Knowledge in Greece
Eugenia Georges / 91

4. The Production of Authoritative Knowledge in American Prenatal Care
Carole H. Browner and Nancy Press / 113

Ellen Lazarus / 132

vii
6. Authoritative Knowledge and Birth Territories in Contemporary Japan
   Deborah Cordero Fiedler / 159

PART III • INTERCULTURAL VARIATIONS IN AUTHORITATIVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT BIRTH: HIERARCHY, COMMUNITY, AND THE LOCAL SOCIAL GROUND

7. Ways of Knowing about Birth in Three Cultures
   Carolyn F. Sargent and Grace Bascope / 183

   Sheila Kitzinger / 209

   Stacy Leigh Pigg / 233

    Beverley Chalmers / 263

PART IV • FIGHTING THE SYSTEM: CREATING AND MAINTAINING ALTERNATIVE MODELS OF AUTHORITATIVE KNOWLEDGE

11. Resistance to Technology-Enhanced Childbirth in Tuscany: The Political Economy of Italian Birth
    Jane Szurek / 287

12. Intuition as Authoritative Knowledge in Midwifery and Home Birth
    Robbie Davis-Floyd and Elizabeth Davis / 315

13. Randomized Controlled Trials as Authoritative Knowledge: Keeping an Ally from Becoming a Threat to North American Midwifery Practice
    Kenneth C. Johnson / 350

14. Confessions of a Dissident
    Marsden Wagner / 366

PART V • Viable Indigenous Systems of Authoritative Knowledge: Continuity in the Face of Change

15. “Women come here on their own when they need to”: Prenatal Care, Authoritative Knowledge, and Maternal Health in Oaxaca
    Paola M. Sesia / 397
   Amara Jambai and Carol MacCormack / 421

17. Heeding Warnings from the Canary, the Whale, and the Inuit: A Framework for Analyzing Competing Types of Knowledge about Childbirth
   Betty-Anne Daviss / 441

18. An Ideal of Unassisted Birth: Hunting, Healing, and Transformation among the Kalahari Ju/'hoansi
   Megan Biese / 474

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS / 493
INDEX / 501