



# Lecture Series in Social Anthropology

Spring  
Semester  
2024

Tuesday 30 April 2024 | 4.15 p.m. | Room AND 4.06

## Beyond Birth: Alternative Reproduction in Bali, Indonesia

**Dr. Molly Fitzpatrick (University of Zurich)**

Key words: Reproduction, Childbirth, Parenting, Alternative movements, Morality, Care, Indonesia

In this talk I will discuss the way in which childbirth becomes politicised and moralised in the context of an alternative birth movement in Indonesia. I do this by exploring the recurring theme of the jungle birth, frequently depicted in the narratives of both Indonesian and foreign birthing women and their families who I met at two natural birth clinics in Bali. Through this exploration, I aim to uncover how idealized notions of femininity, portraying women as inherently connected to nature, along with romanticized depictions of Bali as an exotic and natural paradise, foster unattainable expectations of care, birth, and motherhood within this context. Using this case study to go beyond birth, I will demonstrate how alternative movements, which challenge state authority and traditional power structures such as biomedical hegemony and patriarchy, often inadvertently give rise to new forms of control. Connecting this to my new research on alternative parenting and education amongst privileged, white, and mobile foreign families in Bali, natural birth emerges as merely one facet of a broader array of practices constituting what might be called alternative reproduction. In studying these practices, I endeavour to ask: what, exactly, is being reproduced?

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Entrance free of charge.

Subject to change. For details see: <https://t.uzh.ch/1s7>

