



Professor Amrita Pande

Department of Sociology
Faculty of Humanities

The College of Fellows seeks to recognize Professor Amrita Pande for her globally impactful work on reproductive labour, reproductive violence and justice. Prof Pande's rigorous contributions to the field of science and technology studies, gender studies and political economy push us to re-think the world of reproductive technologies in the age of neo-eugenics. Various described as a "heart-wrenching" ethnography and a "foundational" text on the shape that surrogacy takes in the global south, Pande's first book has been cited 562 times since 2015. It also received an honourable mention at the Adele E Clark book award ceremony for an outstanding socio-cultural study of reproductive processes, experiences, technologies, politics, and/or practices.

Pande has brought together scholarship, creativity and social responsiveness in 60 other research outputs. She is also the scriptwriter and actor in a multi-media interactive sensory stage performance on surrogacy, intimacy, domesticity and paid work that is based on her research. Staged in 21 cities in six countries – to standing ovations – the performance exemplifies ways in which social science research can sensitively yet powerfully influence public discourse about technology, women's labour, class, and national and racial hierarchies.

Pande has made critical contributions to policy debates about reproductive rights, child rights and surrogacy laws in forums ranging from International Social Service in Geneva to The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in Washington DC, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, and New York based Centre for Reproductive Rights, amongst others. At the same time, she has forged interdisciplinary dialogues between scholars, activists and artists from multiple sites of the global south.

Her second book, *Birth Controlled*, offers incisive analyses of the ways in which reproductive and re-pro-genetic technologies target, hurt and harm black women in a context shaped by legacies of colonialism and economics of neoliberal markets. This work on the intersections between technology, colonialism and market capitalism in lives of women from India and South Africa has opened new pathways of analyses for scholars of science and technology, health, race, gender, caste and class. The book was recently nominated for the Council on Anthropology and Reproduction Book Award, 2024.

UCT's College of Fellows recognises the cutting-edge nature of Professor Amrita Pande's research. Her ability to challenge mainstream theories, facilitate dialogues with people inside and outside of academia, connect the Humanities to bioethics, transnational law, performance arts and medical sciences has made her an internationally hailed word leader of her field.