THE LIMIT TO PLASTICITY? ON THE TRANSPLANT RELATION IN INDIA

Lawrence Cohen

Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720 USA

This paper develops concepts of bioavailability (that is, the likelihood that an individual, grouping, or population becomes available to another as a source of organic form) and supplementarity (the likelihood that the longevity of an individual, grouping, or population is dependent on the organic form of another) (Cohen 2011a). It considers these concepts in relation to emerging debate on plasticity (Rees 2010). To develop its argument, the paper considers a genealogy of renal bioavailability, with a focus on the what conference abstract frames as the “bricolage” constituting what will be termed transplant relations and their variable (familial to global) scale in India. Briefly, given restrictions of time, the paper elaborates it argument with two examples. First, it examines the ongoing reimagination of these transplant relations in the contemporary Indian cinema (Cohen 2001, 2013). Second, it examines the case of the changing supplementarity of one population (Malaysian Chinese diagnosed with renal failure) over the past two decades (Cohen 2011b). Third, it attends to the relation of transplant bioavailability to histories of eugenic sterilization in India (Cohen 1999, 2004).

References


