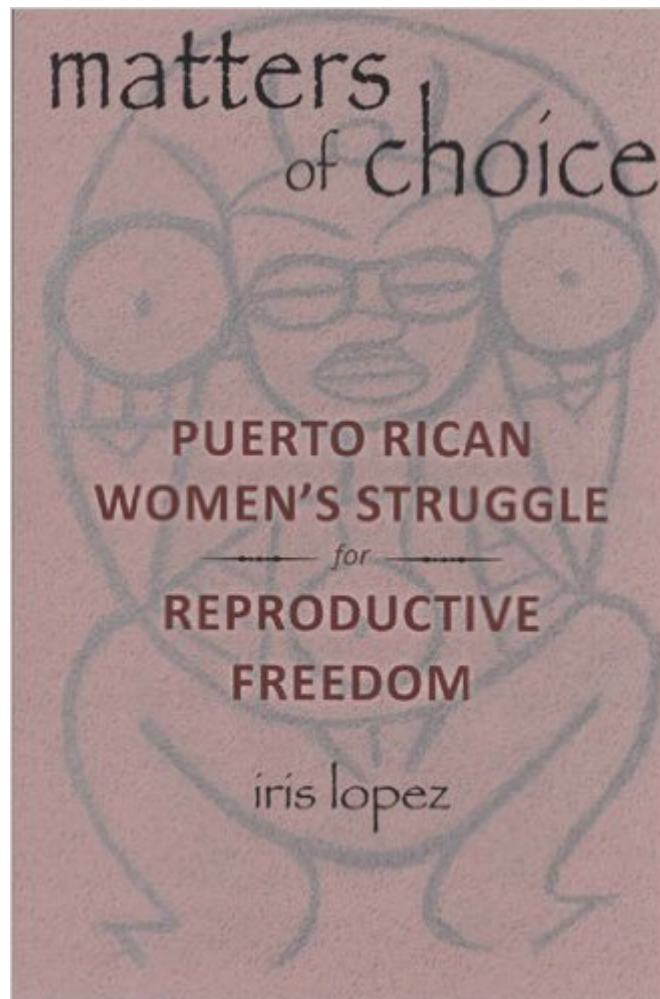


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# Matters Of Choice: Puerto Rican Women's Struggle For Reproductive Freedom



## Synopsis

Sterilization remains one of the most popular forms of fertility control in the world, but it has received little acknowledgment for decreasing birthrates on account of its dubious use as a means of population control, especially in developing countries. In *Matters of Choice*, Iris Lopez presents a comprehensive analysis of the dichotomous views that have portrayed sterilization either as part of a coercive program of population control or as a means of voluntary, even liberating, fertility control by individual women. Drawing upon her twenty-five years of research on sterilized Puerto Rican women from five different families in Brooklyn, Lopez untangles the interplay between how women make fertility decisions and their social, economic, cultural, and historical constraints. Weaving together the voices of these women, she covers the history of sterilization and eugenics, societal pressures to have fewer children, a lack of adequate health care, patterns of gender inequality, and misinformation provided by doctors and family members. Lopez makes a stirring case for a model of reproductive freedom, taking readers beyond victim/agent debates to consider a broader definition of reproductive rights within a feminist anthropological context.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Iris Lopez gracefully captures the scope of the reproductive struggle Puerto Rican women have faced and still face. Through nuanced ethnography, Lopez delineates the many movements that have demonized Puerto Rican women such as the Sterilization campaign of Puerto Rico. Also, Lopez divulges many studies that tear the health equality facade by showing systematic

mistreatment towards minorities on part of the health system. Fact of the matter is, discrimination is very much at large, and is still facilitated by many agents such as the Health system, America's expansionist regime, and so forth. The book is well written and authoritative. It synthesizes the most minuscule of facts, managing to properly account for the collective struggle of Puerto Rican women, thereby, lending further authenticity to the findings in the book. I highly recommend this read especially to those interested in learning how minorities are victimized and misrepresented every day. Oh and learn that true reproductive freedom means the ability "to choose from a series of safe, effective, convenient, and affordable methods of birth control".

This was a great book for my "Women in Latin America" class. Really well written. I would love to sell it back though. I have no use for it now.

Had to read this for a class, and I actually enjoyed it. It was very informative and well written. Easy to read as well.

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