



The Shift from Fetal Protectionism to Subsidized Oocyte Cryopreservation:  
Maintaining the Docile Female Body in the Workplace

*Cyrobodience*

*You are a monument, a temple within the site of Her body.  
the institutions that surround her have worked tirelessly to make her docile,  
to regulate, to define, to categorically exclude.  
they rendered her a passive vessel that is designed only to carry You.  
You are the prime target of institutional regulation, You are the reproductive body.<sup>1</sup>*

*their history is a dense web of rules and policies designed to emphasize how she was vulnerable,  
permeable, fluid, insecure, unbound  
he was (and still is) unbreakable, tireless, forever strong, safe - the prudent investment.  
you were colonized by the social responsibly to be protected.<sup>2</sup>*

*she was a multifaceted machine,  
but then the only labor they desired was that which delivered motherhood.*

*as she rebelled, they parried  
adjusting the gears on the past denial and coercion and turning up the desire.  
she wanted options.  
you and she were then artfully and beautifully divided - a choice disguised as liberty  
whatever her choice - a sacrifice  
all the while she knows they want her productive - not reproductive.<sup>3</sup>*

*she is talented, among the best, but she has one setback  
how can they bind what makes her unbound  
they fight to keep her feeling good, pulling her evermore beholden to their missions  
they invaded her ethos with gifts of dignity and meaning, why not try you - the final frontier.  
if she chooses to own you, she become isolated and her path is left barren.*

*They commodified your cells and cycles.  
who knew there would be a day when Your very tissue would become the small print of an insurance  
benefit package designed to keep Her working longer.  
Your vitality and (re)productivity threatened their bottom line, so in the name of eventual motherhood why  
not offer the chance to "put it on ice".<sup>4</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Jen Pylypa, "Power and Bodily Practice: Applying the Work of Foucault to an Anthropology of the Body", *Arizona Anthropologist*, No. 13 (1998), pp. 21-36

<sup>2</sup> Michael Thomson, "Reproductivity, the Workplace and the Gendering of the Body (Politic)", *Law and Literature*, Vol. 14, No. 3 (2002), pp. 565-594

<sup>3</sup> Francoise Baylis, "Left Out in the Cold: Arguments Against Non-Medical Oocyte Cryopreservation", *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada*, Vol. 13, Issue 1, (2015), pp. 64-67

<sup>4</sup> Heidi Mertes. "Does company-sponsored egg freezing promote or confine women's reproductive autonomy?" *Journal of Assisted Reproduction and Genetics*. 2015;32(8):1205-1209. doi:10.1007/s10815-015-0500-8.