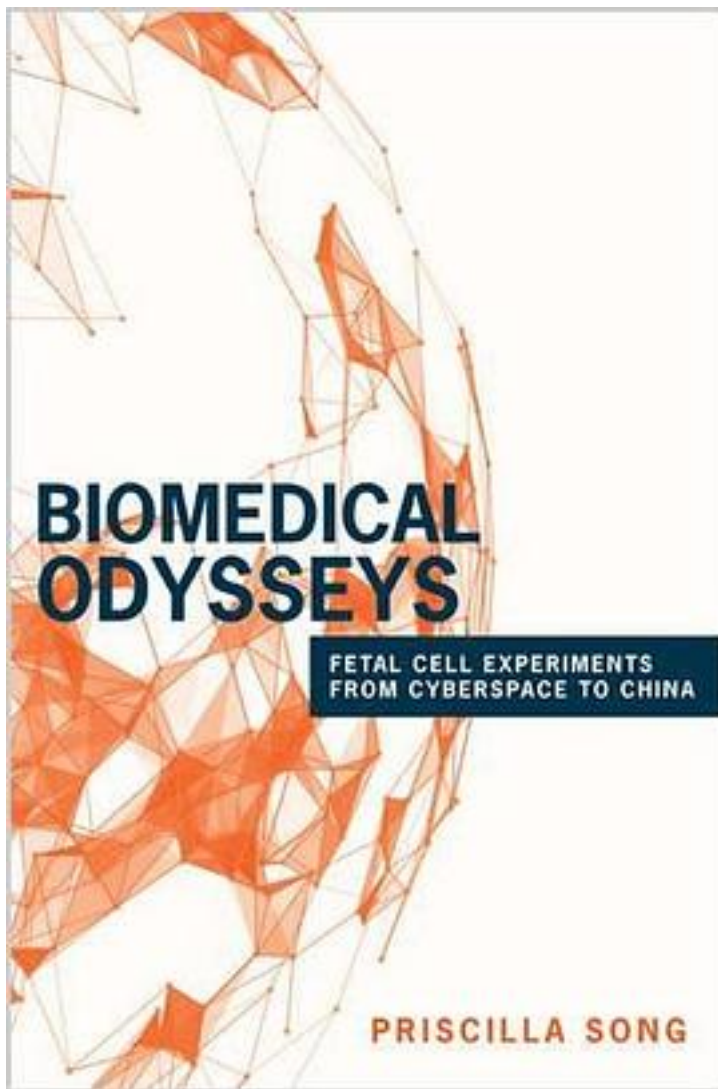


Biomedical Odysseys



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Thousands of people from more than eighty countries have traveled to China since 2001 to undergo fetal cell transplantation. Galvanized by the potential of stem and fetal cells to regenerate damaged neurons and restore lost bodily functions, people grappling with paralysis and neurodegenerative disorders have ignored the warnings of doctors and scientists back home in order to stake their futures on a Chinese experiment. *Biomedical Odysseys* looks at why and how these individuals have entrusted their lives to Chinese neurosurgeons operating on the forefront of experimental medicine, in a world where technologies and risks move faster than laws can keep pace. Priscilla Song shows how cutting-edge medicine is not just about the latest advances in biomedical science but also encompasses transformations in online patient activism, surgical intervention, and borderline experiments in health care bureaucracy. Bringing together a decade of ethnographic research in hospital wards, laboratories, and online patient discussion forums, Song opens up important theoretical and methodological horizons in the anthropology of science, technology, and medicine.

She illuminates how poignant journeys in search of fetal cell cures become tangled in complex webs of digital mediation, the entrepreneurial logics of postsocialist medicine, and fraught debates about the ethics of clinical experimentation. Using innovative methods to track the border-crossing quests of Chinese clinicians and their patients from around the world, *Biomedical Odysseys* is the first book to map the transnational life of fetal cell therapies.

作者介绍:

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目录: List of Illustrations	ix
Acknowledgments	xi
Introduction	1
I Online Mediations	21
Interlude: Planet Paralyzed	23
2 Mobilizing the Paralyzed Online	25
3 Cyberanatomies of Hope	49
4 Where the Virtual Becomes Visceral	73
II Chinese Experiments	99
Interlude: Ode to Olfactory Ensheathing Cells	101
5 Medical Entrepreneurs	105
6 Borderline Tactics	132
III Heterogeneous Evidence	155
Interlude: Clinical Outcomes	157
7 Seeking Truth from Facts	158
8 i-Witnessing	181
Epilogue: On the Cutting Edge	197
Glossary of Chinese Terms	207
Notes	211
Bibliography	241
Index	287
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