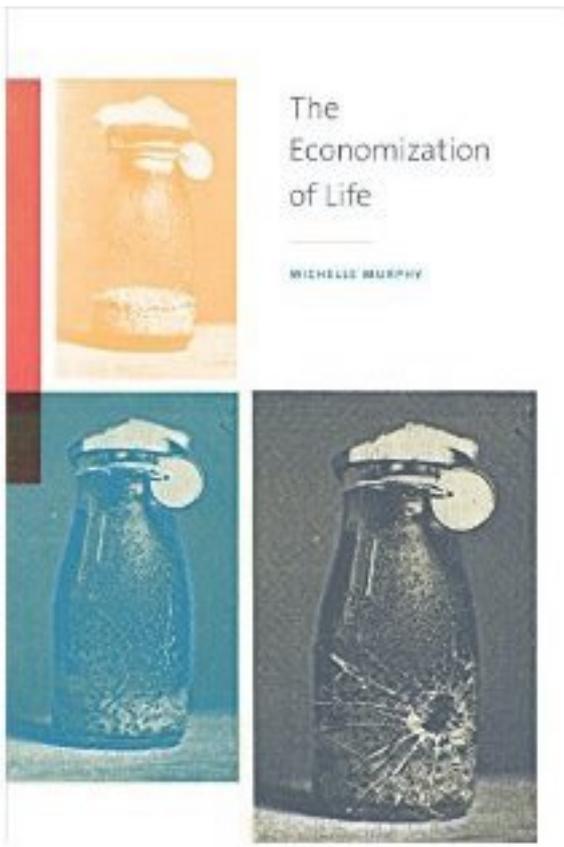


# The Economization of Life



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What is a life worth? In the wake of eugenics, new quantitative racist practices that valued life for the sake of economic futures flourished. In *The Economization of Life*, Michelle Murphy provocatively describes the twentieth-century rise of infrastructures of calculation and experiment aimed at governing population for the sake of national economy, pinpointing the spread of a potent biopolitical logic: some must not be born

so that others might live more prosperously. Resituating the history of postcolonial neoliberal technique in expert circuits between the United States and Bangladesh, Murphy traces the methods and imaginaries through which family planning calculated lives not worth living, lives not worth saving, and lives not worth being born. The resulting archive of thick data transmuted into financialized “Invest in a Girl” campaigns that reframed survival as a question of human capital. The book challenges readers to reject the economy as our collective container and to refuse population as a term of reproductive justice.

作者介绍:

Michelle Murphy is Professor of History and Women and Gender Studies at the University of Toronto and the author of *Seizing the Means of Reproduction: Entanglements of Feminism, Health, and Technoscience* and *Sick Building Syndrome and the Problem of Uncertainty: Environmental Politics, Technoscience, and Women Workers*, both also published by Duke University Press.

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## 评论

这本书初读的印象实在不好，置于脑后、作为reference point的时候却是极为出色。Murphy painted some broad strokes, and they work very well.

理论的部分写的挺好的：经济和人口如何被视为互斥关系并影响到国家政策、生命政治、非人化治理，etc（但是真的没有人写过这个吗？这个可是2017年的书欸）；讨论孟加拉的时候就觉得有点空泛并各种跳跃了。Murphy一边批评人口学和经济学忽视人的存在，一边自己也完全没有展示出真正的“人”如何对她所描述的国际组织/政府话语进行互动。让人感觉好像这些机构真的战无不胜一样……

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## 书评

这本书给了我很大很大的触动。[So What?] 是seminar中最后一个response的主题。Murphy的书确实改变了我的世界观。她不是activist，亦或是writer-activist. 她只是一个observer, 很客观冷静地把现状展示了出来。但是就是这样的文字让我“觉醒”或是“不想觉醒。” 她也在用她的方...

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