

- How to compare race, place, and medicine: what institutions are involved in trying to medicalize process of birth? How are various cases analyzed and evaluated?
- What role does race play in establishing medical practices? What part does location (i.e. the particular society or culture) affect how different practices are adopted, and to what extent?
- What is the reason behind medicalizing birth? What fears is it trying to alleviate by doing so? What does making reproduction a matter for the state accomplish?
 - Controlling reproduction, particularly through control of women's bodies provides a way to control populations
 - Reproduction seen as a matter of state security
- Hunt's *A Colonial Lexicon* – describes resistance of colonists in the colonies to local environments. Little to no flexibility in policies for aspects of local culture such as indigenous birth practices, local definitions and standards for hygienic practices
- Ideas of fertility, hygiene, gender, and sexuality are aspects that shape and change identities.
- Stereotypes can affect how policies are engendered, and how people are perceived.
- Physical practices such as hygiene can be policies enforced to force assimilation to authority, but also a way for authority figures to distance themselves from local people. Hygienic practices are a visible way to reaffirm identity (the European can reestablish his 'superiority' as a member of Western society by following practices particular to Western societies)
- Midwives: in colonial literature often perceived as major barriers. Considered to be obstacles to 'modernity,' represented by biomedical practitioners (mostly men) in clinical setting. Conflicts between competing standards of 'appropriate' care. Can midwives be considered to be practicing physicians, with same level of expertise and authority? Do they have capacity to modernize? Should they? Along with questions of modernity versus indigenous, also involves questions of whether women are capable of true expertise or authority (yielding authority of reproduction and birthing practices means reduction of state and male authority). Also involves questions and concerns regarding the 'nature' of femininity (feminine capacity)

Lexicon: mentions Nun's Story (Chapter 2)

A Nun's Story (Movie)

- Nun training: Classic forms of discipline (Foucauldian) through control of outer habits, clothing, behavior, until it becomes internalized
Internal/External Silence

Language habits (sign language)

Practicing humility, walking habits

- Order and discipline are most important. Obedience to authority should be absolute and final. Order means perfect compliance with social structures and patterns for interaction/communication.
- Life is considered sacrifice, struggle against nature: never ending struggle for perfection, closeness to divine ideal
- Questioning authority means incapacity to fulfill mission and falling into sin
- Constant attention required against imperfection: perfect nun is one who obeys
- Strict obedience to God through obedience to authority figures. In some cases represented by the ringing of the bell that guides their daily actions (bell ringing is a sign to transition through the day's activities, it must be obeyed without exception)
- Self-discipline: governmentality. Nuns must record their own sins and ask for forgiveness. They are taught to police their own bodies and minds
- Detachment: from family, friends, things, memories. Give up of own free will
- Receive for bodies habit of humility – reinforcing through physical means the codes and standards of the institution
- Body discipline (ex. Cutting hair)
- Awareness of self is BAD, must erase all forms of selfishness
- Self-discipline, surveillance of oneself of absolute importance
- Nun's body is valuable only as an instrument – no notion of individuality, self, or autonomous will
- Nun is basically an empty vessel for divine instruction
- Later parts of the movie will show the interactions between religious establishment and African communities
- Things to keep in mind: how stereotypes have affected how the nuns perceive the natives in Africa, also how stereotypes of Africans have influenced the ways in which the Africans are portrayed in the movie
- The nuns' and the colonists' mission perceived as humanitarian, to aid the Africans, who were seen as incapable of self-rule or rational governance.