

Egg donor industry advertises altruism, but does it exploit women's bodies for profit?

Back when the only egg donation ads I saw were in the hallways of the Ivy League medical school in which I teach, I was equally concerned. Whether on digital or brick-and-mortar walls, ova donation ads make clear that women's bodies and body parts are commodities to be bought and sold. Which of course begs the deeply troubling question — are women's bodies *things* to be owned and traded on the open market?

Whatever a young woman's opinion on bodily "ownership," the economic inducement is so significant (\$5,000–10,000, with higher fees going to donors with Ivy League educations, high IQs and preferred ethnic and racial features) that a young woman does not need to be in dire financial straits to feel tempted by the quick and supposedly easy money of egg donation. From medical bills to house payments to [college and graduate school debts](#), young women use egg donation payments in myriad ways. And besides, you get to help someone, right?

Yet, the altruistic rhetoric of "helping create families" and "women helping women" only serves to distract us from the fact that ova donation is ultimately a booming business, and as such, it is about the money, honey. (Without the economic compensation, would many young women do it?) As of 2007, the assisted reproductive technology industry in the U.S. was a \$6.5 billion for-profit industry, and growing. Fertility clinics and other middlemen are clearly invested in keeping this lucrative business going.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: Why Facebook's Egg Donor Ads Freak Me Out (And Should Freak You Out Too)