

## Soaring IVF costs in US fueling lucrative fertility tourism business abroad

**The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.**

In 2008, a friend sent me a link to a Czech company called IVF Holiday. Clicking the link, I saw images of quaint European towns. These were accompanied by pictures of smiling white babies – and promises of affordable and safe rounds of in vitro fertilization (IVF).

As a medical anthropologist, I knew I had to pursue this topic. Here was a perfect example of patients turning to medicine's global marketplace when high prices of health care back home block access to treatments.

I subsequently conducted three years of fieldwork in the Czech Republic and North America to trace the fertility journeys of 29 American reproductive tourists. Their stories are in my forthcoming book [\*Fertility Holidays: IVF Tourism and the Reproduction of Whiteness\*](#).

Costs to obtain IVF in the United States for IVF can quickly become prohibitively expensive, running in the tens of thousands of dollars.

After looking further into IVF Holiday, I soon learned that it was owned by a married couple named Tom and Hana. Hana, a Czech woman, and Tom, an American from Ohio, learned early in their marriage that they would need IVF. With costs running as high as US\$30,000, it was a procedure they simply couldn't afford in North America.

**Read full, original post:** [A look inside the Czech Republic's booming fertility holiday industry](#)