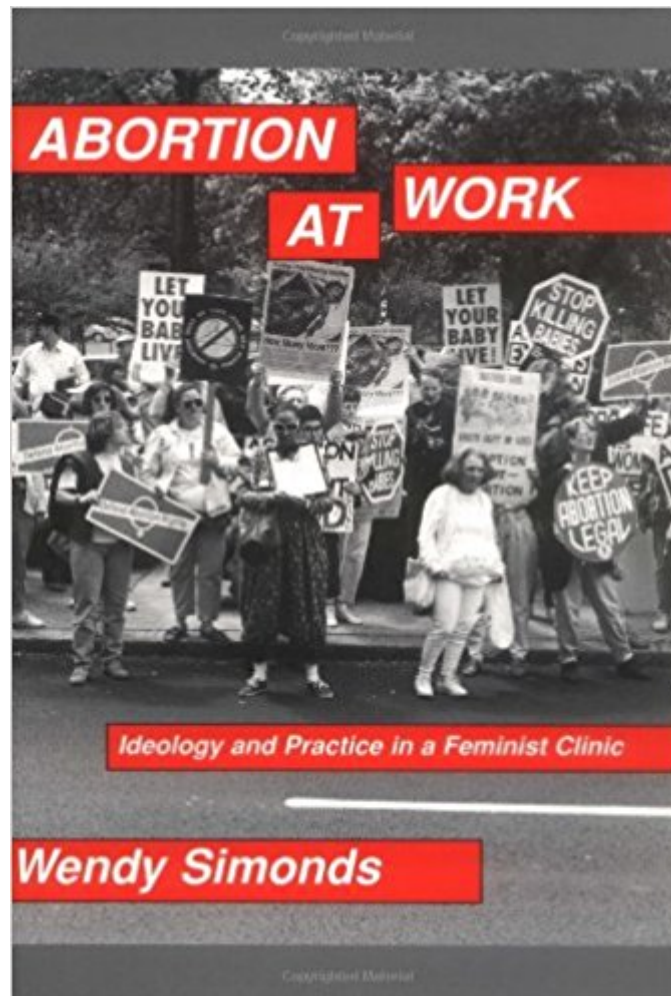


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# Abortion At Work: Ideology And Practice In A Feminist Clinic



## Synopsis

How do feminist identity and abortion politics intersect? Specifically, what does feminism mean to women working to feminist health care and abortion services in the late 1980s and early 1990s? What are the ideological consequences and emotional tolls of doing such work in a hostile socio-cultural environment? Can feminism and bureaucracy coexist productively? How do feminists confront the anti-feminist opposition, from anti-abortion protesters outside to racism within feminist organizations? These are the questions that drive Wendy Simonds' *Abortion at Work*. Simonds documents the ways in which workers at a feminist clinic construct compelling feminist visions, and also watch their ideals fall short in practice. Simonds interprets these women's narratives to get at how abortion works on feminism, and to show what feminism can gain by rethinking abortion utilizing these activists' terms. In thoroughly engaging prose, Simonds frames her analysis with a moving account of her own personal understanding of the issues.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"... shows how that heated political debate shapes the everyday life of both staff and clients. This is an important study." -- Michael Kimmel, SUNY at Stony Brook  
"A thoughtful, provocative, and powerful book..." -- Barbara Katz Rothman, author *Recreating Motherhood, Ideology, and Technology in a Patriarchal Society*

How do feminist identity and abortion politics intersect? Specifically, what does feminism mean to women working to feminist health care and abortion services in the late 1980s and early 1990s?

What are the ideological consequences and emotional tolls of doing such work in a hostile socio-cultural environment? Can feminism and bureaucracy coexist productively? How do feminists confront the anti-feminist opposition, from anti-abortion protesters outside to racism within feminist organizations? These are the questions that drive Wendy Simonds' *Abortion at Work*. Simonds documents the ways in which workers at a feminist clinic construct compelling feminist visions, and also watch their ideals fall short in practice. Simonds interprets these women's narratives to get at how abortion works on feminism, and to show what feminism can gain by rethinking abortion utilizing these activists' terms. In thoroughly engaging prose, Simonds frames her analysis with a moving account of her own personal understanding of the issues. **AUTHOR BIO:** Wendy Simonds is assistant professor in the Institute of Liberal Arts at Emory University. She is the author of *"Women and Self-Help Culture: Reading Between the Lines"* (Rutgers University Press) and co-author of *"Centuries of Solace: Expressions of Maternal Grief in Popular Literature."*

Thank you Brad for writing a review of this book, demonstrating that if one has the right to choose, she should well understand the termination for profit business model. A previous reviewer, asking for his post to be censored, is effectively attempting to remove choice from the table. One should know what goes on in those places before trusting her own and her baby's body to them. I give 5 stars only because the truth is revealed, although unintentionally.

I must admit that I write this review mainly in response to the one other review that this book has received. I must first state that I find his comment on the author's "energetic enthusiasm to present uncloaked her feminist vision of procreative liberty..." to reveal HIS perverse evaluation of women that leaves ME shocked and disturbed. Is it not more perverse for women to cloak and hide abortions, to have them done in unsafe and unsanitary conditions, putting their life on the line to avoid the shame and stigma men like the other reviewer bring? Not only does he misunderstand the basic concept behind abortions, but he gravely misunderstands abortions in general. All his talk of mutilated fetuses is ridiculous. 88% of abortions are performed before the second trimester, when the fetus is no bigger than about two inches long. That is hardly the image he conjures up, is it? It is shocking in this day and age that women are still not afforded the responsibility of determining what happens to their own bodies. It is our most basic, simple, and profound human right, and men like the other reviewer would deny us that right. The other important thing is to remember that every child born should be a wanted child; until that is possible in the case of every pregnancy (which will never happen) we must keep abortion safe and legal. So in conclusion, do not allow your opinion of

this book to be tainted by misinformed opinions.

This book provides a valuable--and shocking--window on abortion practice and academic feminist reasoning. It should take its place alongside Magda Denes' *In Necessity and Sorrow* as a leading exhibit of the macabre, crimson world of American abortion. That was surely not its writer's intention, but the combination of her amoral framework and energetic enthusiasm to present uncloaked her feminist vision of procreative liberty reveals a perverse valuation of human life that will shock and deeply disturb. An ocean of blood runs through the abortion center Simonds approvingly studied. You don't know anything about what abortion actually, truly, is until you've read Simonds' interviewees descriptions of bloodied, dismembered pre-born human beings, and the profound self-delusion of everyone who participates in this slaughter of the innocents.

This book is an incredible resource for my work in a feminist clinic. Can we delete the crazy anti-choice opinion of Brad Stetson?

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