

## ABSTRACT

### Contract Pregnancy and Contract Mothers: Partners in Development or Gendered Development?

Bula Bhadra

*'Each of us holds in her lap a phantom, a ghost baby. What confronts us, now the excitement's over, is our own failure. Mother, I think. Wherever you may be can you hear me? You wanted a women's culture. Well, now there is one. It isn't what you meant, but it exists. Be thankful for small mercies.'*

*(The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood, 1986)*

*"The Baby M case could be the forerunner of the use of poor third-world women's wombs to produce children for economically advantaged European-American couples."*

*(Sandra Harding, 1991: 203)*