

FISTULA POLITICS

MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY: HEALTH, INEQUALITY, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Series editor: Lenore Manderson

Books in the Medical Anthropology series are concerned with social patterns of and social responses to ill health, disease, and suffering, and how social exclusion and social justice shape health and healing outcomes. The series is designed to reflect the diversity of contemporary medical anthropological research and writing, and will offer scholars a forum to publish work that showcases the theoretical sophistication, methodological soundness, and ethnographic richness of the field.

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Birthing Injuries and the Quest
for Continence in Niger

ALISON HELLER



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While so many relationships proved unreliable in the face of illness, my research revealed the steadfast and unwavering bond between mother and daughter. Women lucky enough to have their mothers were protected from the worst social consequences. They were advocated for and rarely alone.

This work is part of my story with my own mother. When her diagnosis came, days before I boarded my plane to Niger, she wouldn't let me stay. When her treatments failed, she wouldn't let me stop. She was a seeker of knowledge, a fighter for justice, and my strongest supporter. She, an immovable force, always at my side.

This is for her.

