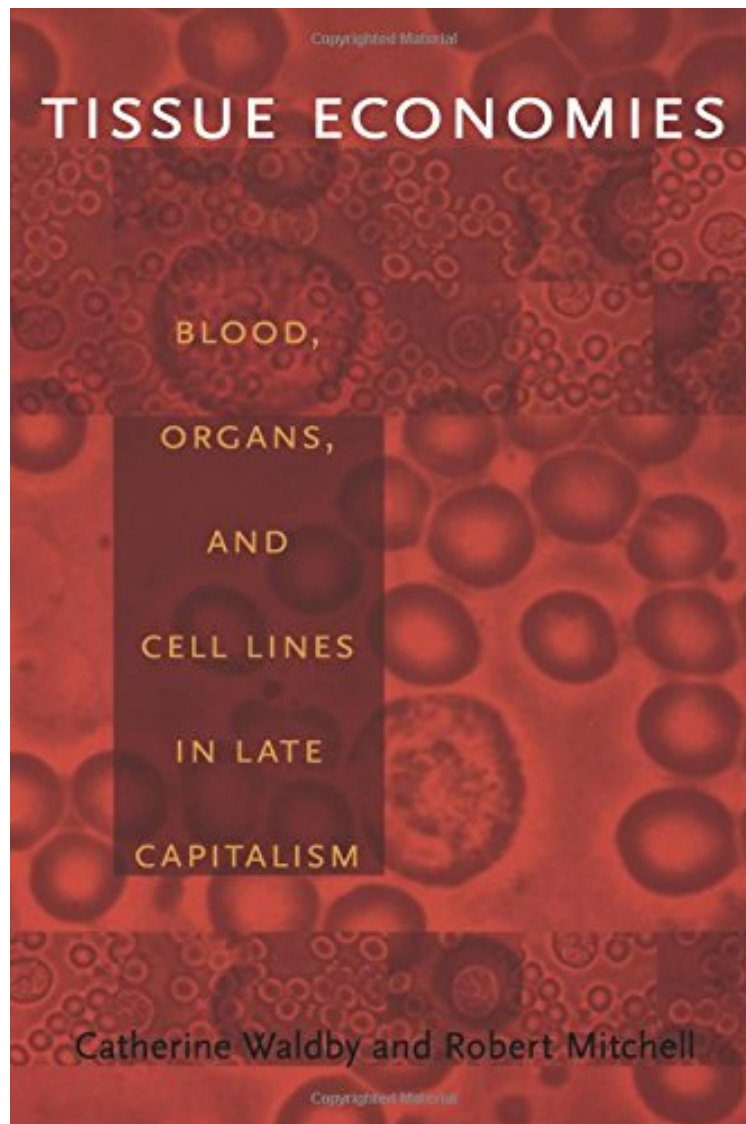


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Tissue Economies: Blood, Organs, and Cell Lines in Late Capitalism (Science and Cultural Theory)

Catherine Waldby, Robert Mitchell

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Catherine Waldby, Robert Mitchell : Tissue Economies: Blood, Organs, and Cell Lines in Late Capitalism (Science and Cultural Theory) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tissue Economies: Blood, Organs, and Cell Lines in Late Capitalism (Science and Cultural Theory):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Research InsightBy Jessica Mandula This is a lucid, engaging read

that considers the problematic atmosphere surrounding the body as an object, as a source of biomedical capital and as the seat of personal identity. Although the scope of this text is primarily limited to a western (especially UK/USA) perspective it is a welcome introduction to the historical and ethical problems surrounding tissue culture, blood donation and the organ trade. I am a biomedical researcher by profession and rely on a number of the cell lines and technologies discussed to pursue my research. Reading this book has enabled me to view these techniques from a different, more nuanced perspective. This book is, however, accessible to anyone interested in the subject with or without a medical or research background. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting discussion on the border of capital. By Benjamin J. Hunt I find this book's strongest asset to be the historical discussions of blood banking systems and waste tissue lawsuits in the US and UK. The book outlines where the lines are drawn between flesh and cash: what tissues can be sold, which only gifted, and how else are they entangled? Donation, waste, banking, pools . . . toxic assets, etc. If you love mixed metaphors, surgical theatres and social policy, this one is for you. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very good book. Purchased this book to finish a paper ... By Ashlee Romer Very good book. Purchased this book to finish a paper I was writing it give me some good insight on the international bio banking.

As new medical technologies are developed, more and more human tissues—such as skin, bones, heart valves, embryos, and stem cell lines—are stored and distributed for therapeutic and research purposes. The accelerating circulation of human tissue fragments raises profound social and ethical concerns related to who donates or sells bodily tissue, who receives it, and who profits—or does not—from the transaction. Catherine Waldby and Robert Mitchell survey the rapidly expanding economies of exchange in human tissue, explaining the complex questions raised and suggesting likely developments. Comparing contemporary tissue economies in the United Kingdom and United States, they explore and complicate the distinction that has dominated practice and policy for several decades: the distinction between tissue as a gift to be exchanged in a transaction separate from the commercial market and tissue as a commodity to be traded for profit. Waldby and Mitchell pull together a prodigious amount of research—involving policy reports and scientific papers, operating manuals, legal decisions, interviews, journalism, and Congressional testimony—to offer a series of case studies based on particular forms of tissue exchange. They examine the effect of threats of contamination—from HIV and other pathogens—on blood banks; understandings of the gift/commodity relationship; the growth of autologous economies, in which individuals bank their tissues for their own use; the creation of the United Kingdom's Stem Cell bank, which facilitates the donation of embryos for stem cell development; and the legal and financial repercussions of designating some tissues "hospital waste." They also consider the impact of different models of biotechnology patents on tissue economies and the relationship between experimental therapies to regenerate damaged or degenerated tissues and calls for a legal, for-profit market in organs. Ultimately, Waldby and Mitchell conclude that scientific technologies, the globalization of tissue exchange, and recent anthropological, sociological, and legal thinking have blurred any strict line separating donations from the incursion of market values into tissue economies.

"Tissue Economies asks us to think about biological materials as inseparable from the networks of exchange, gift, and excess that condition their value to us. Catherine Waldby and Robert Mitchell show us a new body politic, one in which the organs, tissues, and fluids exist as much outside of and between bodies as they do within them."—Eugene Thacker, author of *The Global Genome: Biotechnology, Politics, and Culture*