

## **Robert B Textor and Family Prize for Excellence in Anticipatory Anthropology**

Marcia C Inhorn is this year's recipient of the 2015 Robert B Textor and Family Prize for Excellence in Anticipatory Anthropology. Inhorn is currently the William K Lanman Jr Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs in the Department of Anthropology and The Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International

*See Award Winners on page 20*

**Award Winners**  
*continued from page 19*



and Area Studies at Yale University. She is a specialist on Middle Eastern gender and health issues, who for more than 30 years has conducted pioneering research on the social impact of infertility and assisted reproductive technologies in

Egypt, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, and Arab America. The Robert B Textor and Family Prize was awarded primarily for Inhorn's book, *The New Arab Man: Emergent Masculinities, Technologies, and Islam in the Middle East* (Princeton University Press, 2012).

*The New Arab Man* makes a groundbreaking contribution the study of masculinity and health by focusing on men's reproductive health and men's use of reproductive health technologies within the context of primarily Islamic cultures of the Middle East (and of Middle Eastern men who have immigrated to the United States). Particularly at a time of great global tension in relation to associations between Islam, masculinity, and terrorism, this is a book that is incredibly timely, and that acts to combat gross stereotypes and deeply rooted stigmas that are all-too-frequent in contemporary debates about these issues.

Based on long-term, multi-site ethnography of the highest quality, *The New Arab Man* makes important theoretical contributions in relation to masculinity and men's experience with reproductive health and assisted reproduction. It develops a major new conceptual framework for the understanding of what Professor Inhorn describes as "emerging masculinities". In *The New Arab Man*, Inhorn uses this concept in order to analyze the complex processes of change taking place in the contemporary Islamic world—in the Middle East as elsewhere. The idea of emerging masculinities provides a way of describing all that is new and transformative in men's embodied personhood, and of illuminating the ways in which dominant social orders are never completely dominant. Inhorn's work highlights the ways in which social and cultural systems are always undergoing important processes of change, and the ways in which these changes impact on and transform medical systems and medical practice.

A major strength of *The New Arab Man* is how sensitively it manages to link the issues it is examining in relation to masculinity and assisted reproduction to the broader religious, political and historical context. Equally important, it never fails to show how and why these contexts matter in the lives of real people.

The quality of the ethnographic description makes *The New Arab Man* a stellar example of medical anthropology's unique contribution to addressing major medical issues through rigorous cross-cultural analysis and deep humanistic understanding. It is a prime example of ethnographic writing at its best by an anthropologist who is at the top of her game.