



**Paperback**

9781978825949, \$30.95

**Hardback**

9781978825956, \$150.00

**eBook**

9781978825963, \$30.95

**PDF**

9781978825987, \$30.95

**Date:** March 2022

**Pages:** 270



## **Babylost**

Racism, Survival, and the Quiet Politics of Infant Mortality, from A to Z

by Monica J. Casper

### **DESCRIPTION**

The U.S. infant mortality rate is among the highest in the industrialized world, and Black babies are far more likely than white babies to die in their first year of life. Maternal mortality rates are also very high. Though the infant mortality rate overall has improved over the past century with public health interventions, racial disparities have not. Racism, poverty, lack of access to health care, and other causes of death have been identified, but not yet adequately addressed. The tragedy is twofold: it is undoubtedly tragic that babies die in their first year of life, and it is both tragic *and* unacceptable that most of these deaths are preventable. Despite the urgency of the problem, there has been little public discussion of infant loss. The question this book takes up is not why babies die; we already have many answers to this question. It is, rather, who cares that babies, mostly but not only Black and Native American babies, are dying before their first birthdays? More importantly, what are we willing to do about it? This book tracks social and cultural dimensions of infant death through 58 alphabetical entries, from Absence to ZIP Code. It centers women's loss and grief, while also drawing attention to dimensions of infant death not often examined. It is simultaneously a sociological study of infant death, an archive of loss and grief, and a clarion call for social change.

### **AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY**

MONICA J. CASPER is the dean of the College of Arts and Letters at San Diego State University in California. She is the author of *The Making of the Unborn Patient* (Rutgers University Press).

**Get 30% OFF • Use code RUP30**

Free Shipping in the USA • USA & Latin American: [rutgersuniversitypress.org](http://rutgersuniversitypress.org) • 1-800-621-2736

Canada: <https://www.ubcpres.ca/rutgers-university-press> • Rest of the World: <https://mngbookshop.co.uk/publisher/rutgers-university-press/>

Booksellers / bulk sales: [sales@rutgersuniversitypress.org](mailto:sales@rutgersuniversitypress.org) • Examination and desk copies:  
[rutgersuniversitypress.org/educator](http://rutgersuniversitypress.org/educator)