In 1907 individual states in the United States began passing laws “to sterilize unwilling and unwitting people.” The Supreme Court decision in *Buck v. Bell* (1927) legitimized the practice, and in the following years 62,000 people who were deemed socially, mentally, or physically defective were sterilized. Most of them were women, and the groups targeted were disproportionately poor women of color—blacks, Latinas, Native American. North Carolina, for example, sterilized over 7,000 people between 1930 and the 1970s, sixty-five percent of whom were black women. *La Operación* (1982) documents the U.S. policy of “population control” in Puerto Rico in the 1950s and 1960s, where women were misled into being sterilized under the impression that it was a means of birth control and would be only temporary. One-third of all women in Puerto Rico have been sterilized, the highest number in the world.