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Sommario/riassunto	"To give birth and to be born, definitely, are not 'natural' nor merely physiological processes. They are complex social and cultural events, which involve interactions between individuals, social groups and organizations (hospitals and maternity hospitals), with different powers and legitimacy". Based on this observation, the author makes a systematic investigation on how disputes over the model of childbirth assistance become obstacles to the implementation of a policy that takes more into account the role of women and minimizes the negative impacts of excessive hospitalization of the process . Based on the case of the Belo Horizonte hospital network - public, philanthropic, private contracted and private not contracted by SUS -, it verifies the extent to which national policies for humanizing childbirth have become operational, how obstetric professionals (doctors and nurses) behaved and what were the institutional difficulties faced to put these policies into practice. Thus, it provides valuable indicators for all those committed to the effective humanization of childbirth in Brazil.