

**The Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement  
(MIRCI) announces their first 2011 event for the**

**Mother Outlaws' Speakers Series**

The Mother Outlaws Speakers Series is a free monthly event open to the public presenting topical issues on motherhood and feminism.

**Tuesday March 22 , 2011**

**630 pm- 9pm**

**Women's College Hospital , Boardroom E252**

**76 Grenville Street (Bay and College), Toronto**

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**Lives lived together and apart: A mother-daughter conversation 15 years later**

**"Maternal Absence and Family Reconfiguration".**

*Drawing on story-telling conventions, a mother and daughter engage in an intimate conversation about the effects of divorce, family reconfiguration and maternal absence on a woman, her dependent child and the mother-adult child relationship. This performance reveals how a mother's story becomes the plot line for the daughter's story with both storylines formed, in part, in relation to the reconstitution of the family form. This conversation also challenges the familiar dramatic-traumatic script of divorce and the persistent, if unfounded, assumption that children are negatively affected by maternal absence and non-residential mothering during their formative years.*

**Diana L. Gustafson**, Associate Professor of Social Science and Health in the Faculty of Medicine and affiliate faculty in the Department of Women's Studies at Memorial University. Her book, [Unbecoming Mothers: The Social Construction of Maternal Absence](#) explores the ways women negotiate their lives apart from their children and how they attempt to recreate their identities and family structures

**Amy Elliott**, Assistant Director of Human Resources for an accounting firm, specializing in Leadership and Organizational Effectiveness. Recently, she has been involved in various diversity and inclusiveness initiatives such as providing support to mothers returning to the workforce after a maternity/parental leave.