



**Mothers and the Economy:
The Economics of Mothering Conference
Oct 21-23, 2010
Oakham House, Ryerson University**



Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement (MIRCI)
140 Holland St. West, PO Box 13022
Bradford, ON, L3Z 2Y5
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Margunn Bjørnholt, Danielle Roth-Johnson, Kelly Dombroski

**

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Heather Wyatt-Nichol.

Enjoy,
Andrea O'Reilly,
Conference Coordinator,
Director, MIRCI

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Canada

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Conference Description

“Mothers and the Economy: The Economics of Mothering”

This conference on “Mothers and the Economy: The Economics of Mothering” examines the interface between mothers-motherhood-mothering and the economy. It brings together the fields of economy, law, sociology, and political philosophy to theoretical and politically address urgent issues of mothering and the economy, such as: motherwork and valuation of motherwork in view of ongoing intensification of market economies and neoliberal developments; mothers as providers and caregivers in an expanding transnational mothering economy; the economics of maternal bodywork, breastfeeding, and reproductive technologies; gender justice and mothers’ economic citizenship in view of recent developments within family law; the envisioning and articulation of more human-centered economic systems and policies to enhance mothering/caregiving practices.

Feminist critique of economic theory and practice was first formulated by Marilyn Waring (1989) in *If Women Counted: A New Feminist Economics*. In this groundbreaking work, Waring criticizes economic theory as well as the GDP (Gross National Product), the economic measure that became a foundation of the United Nations System of National Accounts (UNSNA) following World War II, for ignoring women’s unpaid work, as well as the value of nature. Her awakening to the importance of the UNSNA occurred during her chairing of the Public Expenditure Select Committee as a member of the New Zealand Parliament from 1975 to 1984. During this time she discovered that nature literally “counted for nothing” and this dismissal of the environment was accompanied by evidence of the invisibility of the work of women.

Waring discusses the concepts of work, production, and value in order to illustrate problems with the distinction between the spheres of production and reproduction and between “use value” and “market value”. How is it, she asks, that destruction of nature, such as oil spills, counts as production, while preservation of nature does not? Why is caring only called work when it is carried out in the market for pay, but not when it is carried out by women for their own dependents? And how is it that the work and production of women in poor countries who work hard as farmers to feed their families are not counted?

Waring’s critique of economic thinking is, however, more fundamental and far-reaching than her attack on GDP for not reflecting women’s unpaid work and the value of nature. Rather, she criticizes the one-sided economic thinking which dominates politics and planning for failing to deal with more urgent and important questions such as global warming, ecological breakdown, and human development and well-being. In this sense feminist economic critique and theory overlaps with eco-feminism and environmental justice theory.

Professor of Law, Martha Albertson Fineman (1995), emphasizes the need to take into consideration the reality of dependency and the fact that mothers overwhelmingly are the ones responsible for the care of children and other dependents. She criticizes the development towards formal equality between parents and argues that this strategy may have negative and adverse effects on mothers’ scope of action and well-being. Rather than resulting in a more equitable division of the burdens of parenting, the extension of rights to fathers and the formal equality of parents disguise mothers’ greater involvement and responsibility for parenting. Additionally, in case of divorce, men may use their increased parental rights against women.

Sociologist Andrea Doucet (2010) explores making sense of empirical and theoretical issues of the changing relations between paid and unpaid work; the community as an institutional arena; relationality, responsibility and autonomy; household work strategies; care and justice; and intersections between gender, ethnicity, class, sexuality and age. Her research examines how the media and social narrative have set off a contentious debate on how North American women are actually “forced out” of employment when they become mothers and do not “opt out” as has often been the assumption.

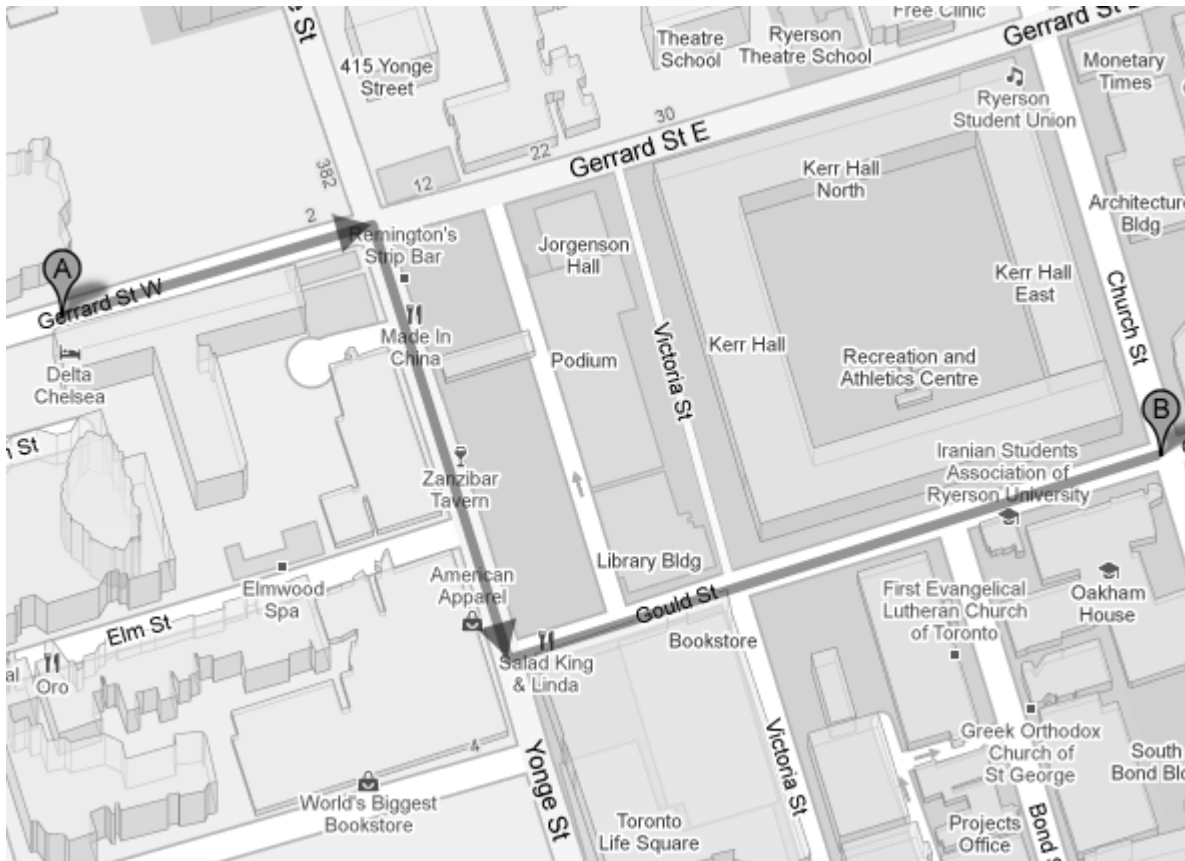
Bonnie Fox (2009) argues that privatized social reproduction, workplace restructuring, and the changing experiences and social relations of work have resulted in the development of gender divisions and inequalities with parenthood.

Today, as the world is experiencing both a global recession and unprecedented climate change, the economy and the environment are regarded as the central and constitutive challenges of our time, if not of the 21st century. Over the last decade mothering has been increasingly marketed and integrated in the wider economic sphere, including a globalization and stratification of reproduction and biological motherhood as well as of mother-/care work, both providing increased autonomy for mothers but also accentuating mothers' precariousness to global change. Despite mothers' increasing participation in paid work and increased breadwinning responsibilities, mothers are still to an overwhelming extent responsible for the real production of people and life-sustaining services in the household, of direct care, fostering and wellbeing of children and families. Given the current economic climate and the extensive implementation of structural adjustment policies, mothers (caregivers) in particular have to pick up the slack at a time when their workloads in the paying sectors of the economy have increased to onerous and almost impossible levels. Focusing on mothers and the economy is increasingly important in view of the global crisis of food-provision, finance and care-systems, environmental and climate change, the internationalization of conflicts, and the persistent poverty among women and the struggle for women's reproductive and sexual rights world-wide including AIDs/HIV, which is provoking a caregiving crisis in the wake of all the orphans left behind by this pandemic. Mothers often find themselves in a double-bind: they are held "responsible" for the health, prosperity, and achievement of their children, but they have little power to protect them from environmental and other harm. Furthermore, faced with neoliberal policies, growing individualism, and feminization of poverty, the scope of action for meeting increasing social claims of good mothering causes many mothers to end up in a squeeze.

Many diverse themes and issues relating to the economy of mothering are explored in the keynotes and 80 plus conference papers on a wide range of topics including: "Motherwork and the valuation of motherwork in light of the ongoing intensification of market economies and neoliberal developments"; "Mothers as providers and caregivers in an expanding transnational mothering"; "Economics of maternal bodywork, breastfeeding and reproductive technologies economy"; "Gender justice and mothers' economic citizenship in view of recent developments within family law"; "Ethical and Global Economic Issues"; "Human-centered economic systems and policies to enhance mothering/caregiving practices. The conference, with presenters from more than a dozen different countries, brings together the widest range of individuals who research in the field of mothering and the economy and/or advocate for and on behalf of mothers as activists and community workers.

Directions and Map

Delta Chelsea Hotel to Oakham House, Ryerson University



Starting Point A: Delta Chelsea Hotel, 33 Gerrard Street West, Toronto, ON, M5G 1Z4

Ending Point B: Oakham House, Ryerson University, 63 Gould Street, Toronto, ON, M5B 1E9



Delta Chelsea Hotel, 33 Gerrard St W, Toronto, ON M5G 1Z4

1. Head **east** on **Gerrard St W** toward **Yonge St** (140 m)
2. Take the 1st **right** onto **Yonge St** (200 m)
3. Take the 1st **left** onto **Gould St**. Destination will be on the right (290 m)



Oakham House, Ryerson University, 63 Gould St, Toronto, ON M5B 1E9

LOCAL TAXIS

416-751-5555 & 416-TAXICAB
or
toll free 1-877-883-BECK (2325)

Conference Schedule Overview

Thursday, October 21

9:00am-10:00am	Registration & Continental Breakfast
10:00am-11:30am	Sessions A1, A2
11:30am-12:45pm	Lunch Break
12:45pm-2:15pm	Sessions B1, B2
2:15pm-2:30pm	Break
2:30pm-4:00pm	Sessions C1, C2
4:00pm-4:15pm	Break
4:15pm-5:45pm	Sessions D1, D2
6:00pm-8:00pm	Reception, Launch of Demeter Press Titles
8:00pm-9:30 pm	Keynote Address

Friday, October 22

8:30am-9:00am	Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:00am-10:30am	Sessions E1, E2 E3
10:30am-10:45am	Break
10:45am-12:15pm	Sessions F1, F2 F3
12:15pm-1:30pm	Lunch Break
1:30pm-3:00pm	Sessions G1, G2 G3
3:00pm-3:15pm	Break
3:15pm-4:45pm	Sessions H1, H2 H3
4:45pm-6:00 pm	Sessions I1, 12, 13
6:00pm-8:00pm	Dinner Break
8:00pm-9:30pm	Keynote Address

Saturday, October 23

9:00am-10:00am	Registration & Continental Breakfast
10:00am-11:40am	Keynote Address
11:40am-11:50am	Break
11:50 am-12:45pm	Workshops J1, J2
12:45pm-2:00pm	Lunch
2:00pm-3:30pm	Sessions K1, K2
3:30pm-3:45pm	Break
3:45pm- 5:15pm	Sessions L1

Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement (MIRCI)
Mothers and the Economy: The Economics of Mothering Conference
October 21-23, 2010, Toronto, Canada

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2010

9:00am-10:00am

REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Location: SCC 115 Courtyard

10:00am-11:30am

SESSIONS A1, A2

SESSION A1: Mothering and Social Services and Policy

Location: Thomas Lounge

Chair: Kerri Kearney

- Elise J. Matthews, University of Saskatchewan – “Navigating and advocating for services: Partnership experiences of mothers of children with disabilities in Saskatchewan”
- Karen Bridget Murray, York University – “Disciplining Children and Mothers in East End Vancouver”
- Sydney Weaver, University of British Columbia – “‘Left out’: Father exclusion in harm reduction maternal health services”

SESSION A2: Transnational Mothering

Location: Room G

Chair: Cheryl Gosselin

- Anna Kuroczycka Schultes, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee – “I’m Not a Maid! – A Critical Look at Au Pairs vis-à-vis Migrant Domestic Workers”
- Catherine Bryan, Dalhousie University – “Casting and Recasting: Migrant Care Labour and the Redistribution of Social Reproduction under Global Capitalism”

11:30am-12:45pm

LUNCH BREAK

12:45pm-2:15pm

SESSIONS B1, B2

SESSION B1: Gender and Paid and Unpaid Work

Location: Thomas Lounge

Chair: Margunn Bjørnholt

- Medora W. Barnes, John Carroll University in Cleveland – “Sleepless Nights, Splitting Work, And Spitting Up: Changes in the division of paid and unpaid labor by young dual earner couples during the transition to parenthood”
- Linda Ennis, Psychoanalytic Therapist, Lecturer, York University – “To Work Or Not To Work: That Is The Choice”
- Margunn Bjørnholt, Independent Researcher, Oslo – “Paradoxes of breadwinning and care in a Scandinavian state feminist welfare state”
- Christina Reymer, National Council of Women of New Zealand – “Creating Economic Structures for the Recognition of Parenting as Work: A New Zealand Case for Tax Reform to Allow for Income Sharing”

SESSION B2: Breastfeeding

Location: Room G

Chair: Abigail L. Palko

- Abigail L. Palko, University of Notre Dame – “Breastmilking the situation Bonding through Nursing in Sherley Anne Williams’s *Dessa Rose*”
- Gayle Letherby, University of Plymouth, UK – “Infant Feeding, Diabetes and ‘Good Motherhood’: knowledge, choices and experiences”
- Chris Mulford, Breastfeeding Advocate – “Breastfeeding: ‘Extreme’ Caregiving?” (poem/song)
- Annemie Dillen and Judith Cockx, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven – “Breastfeeding, self-sacrifice and mutuality in a child-centered culture”

2:15pm-2:30pm

BREAK

2:30pm-4:00pm

SESSIONS C1, C2

SESSION C1: Counting Motherhood

Location: Thomas Lounge

Chair: Diana Gustafson

- Lorna Turnbull, University of Manitoba – “Women’s Economic Inequality”
- Ailsa McKay, Glasgow Caledonian University – “Gender Neutral or Gender Bias? – Making the case for gender budget analysis”

SESSION C2: Moral Regulation Of Motherhood

Location: Room G

Chair: Cheryl Gosselin

- Melanie K. Bayly, University of Saskatchewan – “The HIV+ mother: Intensive mothering and compromised motherwork”
- Pamela Downe, University of Saskatchewan – “Moral Regulations of Mothers and Informal Economies of Motherhood: Mothering in the Context of HIV/AIDS, Addictions, and the Circulation of Illicit Drugs”

4:00pm-4:15pm

BREAK

4:15pm-5:45pm

SESSIONS D1, D2

SESSION D1: Law, Public Policy and Motherhood

Location: Thomas Lounge

Chair: Sue Wright

- Lorna Turnbull, University of Manitoba – “Mothers in Court”
- Colleen Mack-Canty, Independent Scholar and Sue Wright, Eastern Washington University – “U.S. Social Welfare Development from the New Deal through the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA): Effects on Poor Mothers

SESSION D2: Empowering Mothers

Location: Room G

Chair: Rosa Cintrón

- Helen O’Brien, Monmouth University – “Social Capital and its influence on Parenting Styles”
- Mitzi Grace Mitchell, York University – “Mommy And Money”
- Zanna Pillars, University of Michigan Medical School – “The Resilience of Women”
- Rosa Cintrón, University of Central Florida – “Grandmothers as a natural, sustainable family system: Our abuelas raised us all”

6:00pm-8:00pm

RECEPTION, LAUNCH OF DEMETER PRESS TITLES:

Giving Breastmilk, Mothering Canada.

Location: Oakham Lounge

8:00pm-9:30 pm

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Location: Thomas Lounge

Chair: Margunn Bjørnholt

- **Martha Albertson Fineman**, Emory University, author of *The Autonomy Myth: A Theory of Dependency* – “Motherhood and Entitlement”

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2010

8:30am-9:00am

REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Location: SCC 115 Courtyard

9:00am-10:30am

SESSIONS E1, E2 E3

SESSION E1: Maternal Strategies

Location: Oakham Lounge

Chair: Kerri Kearney

- Iwu Dwisetyani Utomo, Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute, Australian National University – “Household economic strategies among young mothers in Greater Jakarta”
- Jenna Hawkins, Memorial University of Newfoundland – “Easing the Transition Into and Out of Parental Leave: Recommendations for a Three-Stage Process”

SESSION E2: Mothering and Empowerment: Challenges And Possibilities

Location: Thomas Lounge

Chair: Diana Gustafson

- Deborah Byrd, Lafayette College and Terry Roman, Easton Area Neighborhood Centers, Inc. – “‘Lord, Grant us some Grants’: Partnering to Sustain a Mentoring Program for Low-Income Teen Moms”
- Diana Gustafson, Memorial University – “‘*There is nothing wrong with me. I am a product of your system*’: The mental health of lone moms living on social assistance in NL”

SESSION E3: Pregnancy and Childbirth

Location: Room A/B

Chair: Danielle Roth-Johnson

- Joani Mortenson, University of British Columbia Okanagan – “She Gesticulated Wildly: Maternal Eroticism and the Function of Gesture in Articulating Embodied Knowledge of Queer Birth”
- Louise Marie Roth, University of Arizona – “Unequal Motherhood: Racial-Ethnic and Socio-economic Disparities in Cesarean Sections in the United States”

10:30am-10:45am

BREAK

10:45am-12:15pm

SESSIONS F1, F2 F3

SESSION F1: Maternal Reproductive Health

Location: Thomas Lounge

Chair: Abigail L. Palko

- Manavi Handa, Ryerson University – “Cesarean Section on Demand: Ethical and Global Economic Issues”
- Pamela Fox and Elizabeth Velez, Georgetown University – “Marketing Motherhood in the Third Wave: Selling the ‘Biological Clock’”

- Alana Cattapan, York University – “Vulnerable Subjects: Agency, Authority and Assisted Reproduction in Canada”

SESSION F2: Neo-Liberalism and Motherhood

Location: Room A/B

Chair: Deborah Byrd

- Patty Douglas, OISE, University of Toronto – “Mothering, Neo-liberalism and the Enforcement of Inclusion”
- Rachel Treloar, Simon Fraser University – “The Neoliberal Context of Mothers’ Carework after Separation/Divorce in Canada: Responsibilization, Reform and Real Choice?”
- Mary Rita Holland, Carleton University – “Framing and funding families: the discursive foundations of Family Allowance and the Universal Child Care Benefit”
- Margaret Little, Queen’s University – “Who Cares About Mothers in Neoliberal Times?: The Increasing Invisibility of Low-Income Mothering”

SESSION F3: Mothering and Art

Location: Oakham Lounge

Chair: Mary Weidner

- Leesa Streifler, University of Regina – “The Economics of the Mothering Body: A Visual Art Presentation”
- Mary Weidner, Carnegie Mellon University – “Motherhood is no Place for Sissies: The Dynamics of Families, Feminism and the Impact on Women Artists and their Art”
- Monica Bock, University of Connecticut in Storrs & Soho 20 Gallery Chelsea – “Home Sick: Maternal Obsession, Maternal Exposure”

12:15pm-1:30pm

LUNCH BREAK

1:30pm-3:00pm

SESSIONS G1, G2 G3

SESSION G1: Diverse Voices: Exploring the complexity of South Asian Mothering

Location: Room A/B

Chair: Jasjit Sangha

- Jasjit Kaur Sangha, Brock University – “Reclaiming Faith: South Asian Mothering and Spirituality”
- Farishta Dinshaw, COSTI Immigrant Services – “Dust Storms and Hurricanes: In-law Abuse in South Asian Communities in Toronto”
- Mandeep Kaur Mucina, OISE, University of Toronto – “Lessons of Izzat”

SESSION G2: Mothering and Education

Location: Thomas Lounge

Chair: Rosa Cintrón

- Adwoa Onuora, OISE, University of Toronto – “Ma’at: The Catalyst For My Remembering”
- Danielle Roth-Johnson, University of Nevada – “Las Vegas: Cleaning Our Own House: Economics, ‘Mothering’ and the (Re)production of Oppression in the Academy”
- Elisabeth Harrison, York University and Samantha Walsh, University of Toronto – “‘If I Had A Normal Job I Couldn’t Do This’: Exploring The Economics of Advocacy Motherhood and Education”
- Liana Voia, Hypnosis Healing Centre – “Mindful Mothering: Teaching Meditation and Mindfulness to Our Children”

SESSION G3: Economics of Mothering

Location: Oakham Lounge

Chair: Michelle Wyndham-West

- Cheryl Gosselin, Bishop's University – "Mothering in the New Rural Economy: the socio-economic realities of working mothers and their families"
- Yael Hasson, University of Haifa and Valeria Seigelshifer, Hebrew University in Jerusalem – "Motherhood under a Gender-Responsive Lens: Examining the National Budget of Israel"
- Sarah Reid, University of Toronto – "The Costs of Motherhood Revisited: Job Exits, Labour Market Intermittency, and Women's Occupational Status Attainment"
- Michelle Wyndham-West, York University – "Negotiating the traffic between motherhood, mothering and economics in Ontario's HPV vaccination programming"

3:00pm-3:15pm

BREAK

3:15pm-4:45pm

SESSIONS H1, H2 H3

SESSION H1: Social Movements/Activism/Advocacy

Location: Thomas Lounge

Chair: Christine Kelly

- Judith MacDonnell, York University – "Exploring Activist Practices in Relation to Mothering"
- Catherine Nantongo, WIRDA, Uganda – "Making motherhood safer at Community level using paired groups of Private Midwives (PMWs) and Village Health Teams (VHTs) in Rural Uganda"
- Christine Kelly, Carleton University – "Mother advocates and direct/individualized funding for people with disabilities in Ontario"

SESSION H2: Motherwork and the Economy

Location: Oakham Lounge

Chair: Peggy Arcadi

- Peggy Arcadi, Advocate for Teenage Mothers – "Carrying our children uphill: The economics of teen motherhood"
- Sharon Abbey, Brock University – "Why our mothers work? Children's Assumptions"
- Bitu Amani, Queen's University – "An (Im)Modest Proposal: Breast Milk as Gross Domestic Product"

SESSION H3: Mothering and Popular Culture

Location: Room A/B

Chair: Liz Podnieks

- Liz Podnieks, Ryerson University – "Mediating Moms: An Overview of Mothers in Popular Culture"
- Heidi N. Abbey, Penn State Harrisburg – "Buying into a Designer Childhood: Fashionista Moms Creating Community and Identity Online"
- Lisa Sandlos, York University – "Mothers of Sexy Dancing Daughters: Maternal Influence in the Hypersexual World of Competitive Dance"

4:45pm-6:00 pm

SESSIONS I1, I2, I3

SESSION I1: Mothers, Literature, Writing and Art

Location: Thomas Lounge

Chair: Linda Hunter

- B. Lee Murray, University of Saskatchewan – "An Epilogue of an Autoethnography"
- Linda Hunter, University of Guelph – "Making Connections: Representing Motherhood Through Art of the 18th and 19th Centuries"

- Grace Bosibori Nyamongo, Dartmouth College – “Our Mothers’ Handbook: A Personal Practical Experience of Learning the Art of Mothering from the Mothers of the Economy”

SESSION 12: Motherwork

Location: Oakham Lounge

Chair: Medora W. Barnes

- Deborah Davidson, York University “Griefwork: Still More Work Missing from the GDP!”
- Louise Marie Roth, University of Arizona – “Paid Labor and Lactation: The Effects of Labor Force Re-Entry and Workplace Practices on Breastfeeding”
- LaShawnDa L. Pittman-Gay, Northwestern University and Hiram College – “When Ends Don’t Meet? Economic Survival Strategies for African American Grandmothers Raising their Grandchildren”

SESSION 13: Contesting/Contested Meanings of Motherhood

Location: Room A/B

Chair: Heidi N. Abbey

- May Friedman, York University – “Life in Real Time: The Impact of Twitter on myths of the ‘good mother’”
- Sophia Korb, Institute of Transpersonal Psychology – “Mothering Fundamentalism: The Transformation Of Modern Women Into Fundamentalist Mothers”
- Sarah Sahagian, York University – “What’s in a Last Name? Patriarchy, Inter-Ethnicity and Maternal Training”

6:00pm-8:00pm

DINNER BREAK

8:00pm-9:30pm

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Location: SCC 115

Chair: Andrea O’Reilly

- **Marilyn Waring**, Auckland University of Technology, author of *If Women Counted: A New Feminist Economics* – “The Human Rights and Unpaid Care Interface”

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2010

9:00am-10:00am

REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Location: SCC 115 Courtyard

10:00am-11:40am

KEYNOTE PANEL

Location: Thomas Lounge

Chair: Deborah Byrd

- **Bonnie Fox**, University of Toronto, author of *Becoming Parents, Creating Gender* – “Payback: how Women’s and Men’s Experiences in the Labour Market Shape their Parenting”
- **Andrea Doucet**, Carleton University, author of *Do Men Mother: Fathering, Care & Domestic Responsibility* – “Bread and Roses...and the Kitchen Sink: Breadwinning Mothers in Canada and the United States”
- **Patricia Gowens**, Welfare Warriors – “Mothers Fighting the Myth of Welfare Dependency: Who’s Dependent? Moms and Kids...or Dads, Non-profits and Welfare-to-Work Multinationals?”

11:40am-11:50am

BREAK

11:50 am-12:45pm

WORKSHOPS J1, J2

WORKSHOP J1

Location: Thomas Lounge

- Kathy Mantas, Nipissing University – “On Soma, Oiko(s)-nomics and the Process of Becoming a Mother: Phase I”

WORKSHOP J2

Location: Room A/B

Chair: Kryn Freehling-Burton

- Margaret Lazarus, Filmmaker – “Screening and discussion of film, ‘BirthMarkings’”

12:45pm-2:00pm

LUNCH

2:00pm-3:30pm

SESSIONS K1, K2

SESSION K1: Reproduction

Location: Thomas Lounge

Chair: Judith Mintz

- M. Cristina Alcalde, University of Kentucky – “The Woman in Bed: Towards an Understanding of Women’s Experiences of Pregnancy Bed Rest”
- Robyn Lee, York University – “Why Buy the Cow When You Can Get the Milk For Free? Breast Milk Exchange and New Forms of Social Relations”
- Elizabeth Gregory, University of Houston – “The Long-Term Transformative Effects of Birth Control and Delay of Family on the Economic Status of All Women’s Work”
- Judith Mintz, Trent University – “The Canadian Birthing Industry in Historical Perspective: Maternal and ‘Professional’ Labouring Voices, 1875-1920”

SESSION K2: Mothering: Loss and Grief

Location: Room A/B

Chair: Laura Pennington

- Kryn Freehling-Burton, Oregon State University – “Lost Mothering”
- Kerri Kearney and Lucy Bailey, Oklahoma State University – “Reconsidering Mothering and Grief in Adoption: A Transformative Meeting between a Birth and Adoptive Mother”
- Sydney Weaver, University of British Columbia – “Healing Ourselves: Mothers’ recovery from grief and loss”
- Laura Pennington, Virginia Tech, Randolph-Macon Woman’s College – “Navigation, Adaptation, and Challenge: Lives of Non-Custodial Mothers After Divorce”

3:30pm-3:45pm

BREAK

3:45pm- 5:15pm

SESSIONS L1

SESSION L1: Empowering and Supporting Mothers

Location: Thomas Lounge

Chair: Tzu-Hui Chen

- Tzu-Hui Chen, Arizona State University – “Motherhood, social capital, and cultural capital: “A case study on “foreign brides” in Taiwan”
- Olivia Scobie, York University – “Child Care Needs: Mother, Child, and Community Exclusion within a Proposed National Child Care Program”
- Melinda Vandenbeld Giles, University of Toronto – “Disjuncture: Mothers Experiencing Homelessness in Toronto, Loss of Child Custody, and Canada’s Social Welfare System”
- Amy Romagnoli, Wilfrid Laurier University – “‘I Know I’m a Good Mom’: Young, Low-Income Mothers’ Experiences with Intensive Parenting Advice”

All Keynote Presenters' Abstracts
(alphabetical order by last name)

Motherhood and Entitlement

Martha Albertson Fineman

In times of economic crisis often the first programs to be sacrificed to the budgetary knife typically are those related to social services, education, health, and general welfare. In political rhetoric, these are programs presented as consuming resources needed to address the health and wellbeing of the economy. They are not viewed as providing economic or material benefits to the collective society, such as those perceived to come from support for business and other institutions directly related to economic development. Bankers receive bailouts, while teachers are furloughed without pay and assistance to families is reduced and restricted. This paper explores the assumptions and assertions that facilitate society's devaluation of the very labor by which it is reproduced. While it is caretaking that produces the next generation of citizens through provision of education, nurturance, guidance, support, and discipline, such service to the general good is routinely dismissed as merely the private choice of the individual and/or the result of natural altruistic feelings associated with family status, such as motherhood. The care work associated with mothering must be made more visible and arguments about its value should form the basis for a politics of care that asserts a right to the same types of accommodation, subsidy, and support that are afforded other society preserving contributions.

Bread and Roses ... and the Kitchen Sink: North American Primary Breadwinning Mothers at the Beginning of the 21st Century

Andrea Doucet

In the past few years, media attention in the United States and Canada has focused on varied challenges faced by mothers in balancing paid work and childcare. A recurring story has been that of the mommy 'opt-out' which - as reported in many newspapers, magazines, blogs, and discussion forums - refers to how North American mothers are 'opting out' of employment when they have children. This social narrative has set off a large debate on how women are actually 'forced out', as Pamela Stone notes in her book *Opting Out*, or, indeed, that they are, according to Amy Richards's book title, still *Opting In*. Coupled with this opt out/opt in debate, there has also been a wide and long discussion about mommy wars, perfect mothers, mommy myths, mommy Olympics, and the possibilities and perils of equal or shared parenting as well as what it means to be a primary caregiving dad or a stay-at-home dad. From this political and personal landscape, my recent research has been built from one stunning statistic: *In nearly one-third of two earner (heterosexual) households in the United States and Canada, it is women who are now the primary breadwinners.*

On the one hand, it is tempting to view these households as examples of a spectacular gender role reversal. On the other hand, we can wonder whether women, in fact, take on a double burden of earning and care, or the well-known 'second shift' that sociologist Arlie Hochschild wrote about twenty years ago. What we do know is that female breadwinner households tend to earn less than male breadwinner families, which means that money can be tight for buying in household help. Thus, if more and more women are bringing home the bread, are they also managing their homes, being 'mom-in-chief' (as Michelle Obama refers to herself), nurturing the children, making meals (baking or serving bread) and cleaning up after that bread is eaten? If women have secured access to the responsibilities and rewards of breadwinning, then what about the pleasures of life? Is it just bread? Is it bread and roses? Or bread and roses... and the kitchen sink?

This paper, which forms part of a forthcoming book, is set against a backdrop of a comparative

overview and analysis of Canadian and American policy regimes around gender and parenting, and the stories of over 200 women and men in households where women are primary breadwinners and men are primary earners. At the heart of this work are 120 Canadian and American women from across the vast geography of these countries and from a diversity of occupations, income levels and ethnicities. The research is rooted in an in-depth qualitative research project that employs visual, virtual, ethnographic and longitudinal methods.

Payback: how Women's and Men's Experiences in the Labour Market Shape their Parenting

Bonnie Fox

I review findings based on a series of in-depth interviews with 40 women and their male partners over their first year of parenthood. The findings indicate a number of ways in which women's relative employment success influences how they handle the challenges of motherhood. It affected the social resources the women in the study had – especially the support and help they could mobilize, but also the confidence they had as they learned to do infant care and their sense of entitlement to focus exclusively on their baby over the year. Their material and social resources – especially their income and the help they got from extended-family members – affected how well the women who returned to paid work handled the incompatible pulls of employment and child care and how well the women home all year handled the difficulties of full-time mothering.

Men's relative success in the labour market also affected how they adjusted to fatherhood and their relative involvement in baby care. Men who were unsuccessful in the labour market found it harder to live with an infant and were also less likely to be involved in the care of their baby. They found it harder to put their own needs 'on hold' and to prioritize the baby, and they also had more trouble dealing with the frustrations and stresses involved in caring for a baby than did men more successful occupationally. Of course, men who made relatively more money than their partners were also better able to resist caring for their baby if they so desired. I argue that it is because providing financial support is central to the role of father, and thus employment success is even more essential to the 'accomplishment' of masculinity when men become fathers than it is ordinarily, that those men who were unsuccessful as breadwinners were less able to do baby care if they wanted to (as most did), and thus less involved in the care of their baby than were more financially successful men.

These findings address larger questions about the ways in which social class and gender are entangled and how parenting practices are shaped by the larger political economy. I comment on some of these questions in my reflections on these research findings.

Mothers Fighting the Myth of Welfare Dependency: Who's Dependent? Moms and Kids...or Dads, Non-profits and Welfare-to-Work Multinationals?

Pat Gowens

1. Founding of Welfare Warriors and Mother Warriors Voice.

Since 1986 challenging the myth of dependency of unwaged motherworkers. Strategies, victories to expose welfare myths / purposes and the economics of motherhood. Inspiring new mothers groups from Hawaii to Maine. Creating mamas music, theatre, language to educate/agitate for economic justice while fighting for the lives of mothers and children. Expansion of Mother Warriors Voice.

2. "Services" to validate mothers while organizing for economic change.

Expanding goals to include Government Guaranteed Child Support. Creation of MaGoD (Mothers and Grandmothers of Disappeared children), MAY (Mothers and Youth), MOMS (telephone

training) Line. Moving beyond survival individually to THRIVING as a people. Song from the mamas movement: "Guaranteed Income."

3. Economics of welfare reform and its impact on the workforce. Privatization.

Researching / organizing Photo Bus Tours of welfare empire and low-wage workforce's deadly alliance to empower billionaire businesses while throwing millions of single moms into poverty. Actions and Exposures of this cynical economic alliance. "Mary's Song" explains deadly changes in moms' economic security due to privatization.

4. Non-Profits and Multi-Nationals Rake in billions at expense of economic survival of mothers globally. Mothers and children face family separation for economic enhancement of professionals. Fighting back. Future.

Maximus, Goodwill, YWCA's deadly welfare-to-work. Maximus in Israel, Canada, and Europe. Israel adopts "Wisconsin Plan" forcing moms to work off welfare checks at 30 hours unwaged work. Mother's resistance ends "Wisconsin Plan.". Every Mothers Is A Working Mother network and the film "DHS, Give Us Back Our Children."

The Human Rights and Unpaid Care Interface

Marilyn Waring

In Canada and New Zealand, full-time unpaid carers have used the human rights frameworks to challenge their 'worker' status in the context of payments to caregivers. In many Commonwealth developing countries, many full-time caregivers of those with HIV and AIDS live without dignity, and some are in 'cruel, inhuman and degrading' conditions. Using research from these two sites, this presentation explores the interface of unpaid caring work with a nation state's human rights obligations and their ability to claim a 'greater interest', in that the limitations of the human rights framework is 'justified' in these circumstances. What does this mean for the idea of 'justice' and unpaid caring work?

All Regular Presenters' Abstracts
(alphabetical order by last name)

Buying into a Designer Childhood: Fashionista Moms Creating Community and Identity Online
Heidi N. Abbey

If you recognize and get excited by seeing the names Baby Gap, Burberry, Gymboree, Hanna Andersson, Jacadi, Janie and Jack, Mini Boden, Oilily, Tea Collection, and Zutano, and you are not at all phased by the \$170 price tag on a pair of Burberry trousers for your child, you might be a fashionista. Or, you just might have a serious shopping addiction. Either way, it is no joke that high-end children's fashion has found its way into the mainstream American lifestyle. How and why did this happen? When and through what means did children's clothing become such an indicator of social status and an arbiter of style? And who are the consumers that are buying these expensive products during a time of worldwide economic crisis?

Building upon Dr. Jo Paoletti's pioneering work on the topic of children's fashion in America, this presentation and paper will examine these and other questions surrounding the rising popularity of designer clothing for children since the mid-1990s. In particular, the discussion will focus upon how mothers are playing a pivotal role in this clothing revolution. If it is true that we define ourselves by what we purchase, many American moms are expressing themselves—their tastes and values—through what their children wear. By peering into the lives of over 1,500 women who participate in online discussion forums dedicated to buying, selling, and trading upscale clothing brands, this paper sheds light on the consumer habits of contemporary moms and the new virtual mothering communities being forged by them.

Why our mothers work? Children's Assumptions
Sharon Abbey

The sacrificial mother is alive and well! Young adult university students enrolled in a course of "Images of Mothering" were asked to interview their mothers and write a profile on their mothers' lives. It was interesting to note that the majority of students who had working mothers, believed that their mothers went to work only to contribute to paying the expenses of their children's education, recreation and other aspects of privileged lives. Rarely did children recognize that their mothers may work for self-fulfillment or personal gain. This session will consider the image of the sacrificial mother and the entitled perspective of the millennial generation. The implications of this data will be analyzed with respect to the perpetuation of gender stereotypes, hegemonic assumptions of young adult females and how their interpretations of their mothers' work motives will impact their own decisions as future working mothers. The theoretical framework considers both middle and working-class families in Southern Ontario and how this viewpoint limits world-view capacities. Since many of these students plan to become teachers in the public school system, this session will also consider preparedness to relate to the diverse populations of students in Ontario. The question of how best to challenge socialized assumptions will be addressed.

The Woman in Bed: Towards an Understanding of Women's Experiences of Pregnancy Bed Rest
M. Cristina Alcalde

Pregnancy bed rest has little to do with rest. Difficulty sleeping, sore muscles, back pain, constipation, anxiety, isolation, and lost wages are just a few of the common side effects, or costs, for women. In spite of scant evidence that bed rest is effective in preventing preterm labor, it remains among

the most common prescriptions to treat preterm labor. Drawing on surveys and interviews, this paper examines pregnancy bed rest from the perspective of those who have experienced it. It pays special attention to women's conceptualization of and relationship towards their bodies during and as a result of bed rest and to the social, psychological, and economic costs of pregnancy bed rest for women. I emphasize that women's experiences of bed rest commonly result in a significant disruption in women's sense of control over their bodies and that this disruption is partly manifested through feelings of failure and self-blame. Women's feelings of failure are heightened within a cultural context that emphasizes the importance of individual control over reproductive processes and ignores marginalized experiences of pregnancy. I then propose that in response to the prescription of bed rest, women go to great lengths to avoid physical activity and protect the pregnancy. I also suggest that women strategize ways to challenge their need to rest as they seek to momentarily regain some control-- over their lives, bodies, and pregnancy— and reduce their feelings of failure. Bed rest can thus be understood as an active struggle to discipline the maternal body.

An (Im) Modest Proposal: *Breast Milk as Gross Domestic Product*

Bitá Amani

The literature on the emotional, psychological, and physical benefits of nursing is clear. Most notably in economic terms, public policies are premised on significant health gains for mother and child which result, amongst other things, in reduced social and economic costs in a publicly funded health care system, even though many of the “costs” of nursing are borne privately. These range from maternal mobility to greater food and clothing consumption for mother as source and service provider. Producers of the market substitute (formula) are paid for their production and their contribution which is calculated as part of the Gross Domestic Product in a nation's market economy. From this perspective, breast-feeding and lactation as “work” provides overdue recognition of the productive contribution of women to their children, family and society in breast-feeding, is economically empowering, and remains consistent with labour market policies for maternity leave and benefits. Conversely, a traditionally male understanding of “work” may, paradoxically, result in unintended legal consequences, to the detriment of women if the valuation proposal is taken too literally. I explore the potential tax implications of considering infant feeding as work and breast milk as gross domestic product (in all senses of the phrase) in order to highlight how they may skew the incentives for women in relation to nursing, shared breast feeding, adoptive nursing, and milk bank donation. On the other hand, a tax analysis may be unavoidable once there are established commercial for-profit breast milk suppliers. A more gendered understanding, and one that is sensitive to the mothering process which enables lactation, may be appropriate for framing the discourse on infant feeding so that human relational values are not unconditionally surrendered to capital market definitions with their attendant patriarchal limitations and tax consequences. Mother's milk is personal before it is product. An economic approach, if any, should focus on rational choice theory (RCT) and how law may shape women's choices in the continuum of breast feeding, to adoptive (wet) nurse feeding, and the projected trajectory of decision making into the fields of milk bank donation (as gifts) and mothers' milk for sale.

Carrying our children uphill: The economics of teen motherhood

Peggy Arcadi

The economic situation of teen mothers is, like any personal economy, a collision between individual choices and larger economic forces. It is a function of the no-man's land that teen mothers occupy with regard to parental and state assistance, and our culture's discomfort with teens who move to occupy the iconic but fraught role of mother before society judges them ready. While pregnant teens

occasionally flash across the news, leading to predictable and fruitless discussions about teen sex, teen mothers remain largely invisible in their daily struggles to raise their children. Pregnancy and parenting precipitate an economic crisis for teen mothers that define their transition to adulthood.

Teen pregnancy causes ruptures in intimate and family relationships, results in homelessness, interrupts education, diminishes employment opportunities, and jeopardizes financial security. Teen mothers are thrust into the adult role of parenting with little preparation and almost no economic assistance. In attempting to support themselves and their children, they must navigate the adult world of finances, public assistance, work, childcare, medical care, renting, and child support, while the systems they engage with often view them as irresponsible youth who have made bad choices.

TANF provisions do not serve teen mothers well, and frequently increase their economic instability. Young parents strive to develop stable economic arrangements for their children in the midst of constant challenges, while growing up themselves. We can create better policies and programs based on the respect and optimism crucial to levelling the steep climb young mothers currently make on their own.

Sleepless Nights, Splitting Work, And Spitting Up: Changes in the division of paid and unpaid labor by young dual earner couples during the transition to parenthood

Medora W. Barnes

This research examines how the division of unpaid labor by young dual-earner couples changes throughout the transition to parenthood. It explores how new mothers and fathers attempt to utilize parental strategies that are in line with their beliefs about gender and parenting, their previous behavioral patterns as a couple, and the existing barriers and opportunities created by their employers and childcare options. Filling an existing gap in the literature, it separates and compares the experiences of first and second time parents. Although the findings support previous research, which found that couples are likely to experience increasing inequality and gender differentiation during this time (Cohen and Cohen 1992; Walzer 1998), they also suggest that this new cohort of young mothers and fathers have made significant progress toward egalitarianism compared to previously studied groups of new parents. The contexts in which couples do negotiate an equal division of domestic labor and how these negotiations are connected to their perceptions of recent changes in parental roles and societal expectations are also explored.

The research is based on a longitudinal study of sixteen married dual-earner couples born in the mid-to-late 1970s. Interviews with the couple were conducted during pregnancy, in the first three months, and 9-12 months following the birth of their baby. At each interview point, the couple was interviewed together and separately to capture the “his” and “her” narratives that exist within each relationship (Bernard 1972). All the female participants were working as public school teachers during their participation in the study.

The HIV+ mother: Intensive mothering and compromised motherwork

Melanie Bayly (with thanks to Pamela J. Downe)

Research on motherhood within the context of HIV/AIDS is primarily focused on the prevention of peri- and post-natal mother-to-child transmission, with little understood about post-breastfeeding motherhood. HIV+ mothers are in a unique position given the combination of physical illness, stigma/lack of public support, and the contagious nature of their HIV infection. My aim with this project was to contribute to the larger project of redressing the silence around motherhood for HIV+ women by examining how motherhood is constructed in the context of HIV. The focus of this presentation, which is part of the larger project, is to: a) examine how motherhood is discursively constructed in academic

literature on HIV+ women and the public narratives of HIV+ women, and b) how these constructions are positioned in relation to the dominant discourse of intensive mothering (Hays, 1996). This two-part question was explored through the use of critical discourse analyses. The texts analyzed consisted of: a) four academic articles (two psychology, two nursing) focused on HIV+ mothers, and b) five online narratives of HIV+ women which discussed mothering. Authors of the articles and narratives drew upon dominant mothering discourse to construct the HIV+ mother both as an appropriately intensive mother, and a mother whose ability to perform motherwork was severely compromised, which contributed to a context of risk that characterized HIV+ motherhood. The discursive functions these constructions may serve will be discussed, and how invoking dominant mothering discourse may have both negative and positive effects on the lives of HIV+ mothers.

Paradoxes of breadwinning and care in a Scandinavian state feminist welfare state

Margunn Bjørnholt

Norway is often seen as a model of gender equality, due to its successful state feminist policies including long parental leave, sponsored child-care facilities as well as a generous scheme for lone parents. Norwegian women's high labour market participation, high birthrates and high levels of breastfeeding indicate the success of these policies. In international comparisons Norway is grouped among the most advanced in relation to realizing a dual earner- dual carer model and/or close to realization of Nancy Fraser's "universal caregiver model". The latter depending on active state promotion of father-care, including a non-transferable ten weeks paternal quota of parental leave and a general strengthening of fathers' rights as part of policies of recognition of fathers as equal carers. The Norwegian model of gender equality may, however, have unintended and so far unacknowledged costs for mothers. Men's and women's adaptations to work and parenting over the life course remain gendered, and a general gender pay gap persists in the labour market along with a wage punishment for mothers paralleled by a wage premium for fathers. A strong ideology of 'equal parenting', individualism and financial autonomy as the basis of gender equality may blur differences in resources and earnings between mothers and fathers and may also lead to devaluing mothers' continued larger investment in unpaid mothering and household work, and to a weakening of mothers' family based rights. Many were taken by surprise by a recent study that revealed substantial negative financial effects for mothers of shared parenting/living arrangements for children after family break-up, as the equally sharing mothers mainly belong to the highly educated, high earning, and middle-class segment. In this paper I will discuss the paradoxes that face mothers in Norway, drawing on Fraser's distinction between policies of redistribution and policies of recognition, Carol Bacchi's policy analysis and Martha Fineman's analysis of the effects for women of "neutered mother" policies.

Home Sick: Maternal Obsession, Maternal Exposure

Monica Bock

With my work in sculpture and installation, I observe and record, but also resist the loss to which bodies are subject. I conflate sacred, scientific and domestic imagery in work that is often based on castings of the body and of found objects. Using ephemeral substances (salt and soap), and apparently durable materials (porcelain and iron), as well as photography, sound, performance and poetry, I have focused thematically on the ordinary extremes of maternal life, as witness to both its intimacy and its alienation. Recently my work has turned more frankly toward (post)maternal self-portraiture, the central image of which is a porcelain slip cast peg doll I used in conjunction with iron casts of my daughter's hand in earlier installations. Having come increasingly to identify with the ghostly presence of this figure, I am curious about the world she occupies without her child, both its emptiness and its potential.

Casting and Recasting: Migrant Care Labour and the Redistribution of Social Reproduction under Global Capitalism

Catherine Bryan

While capitalism represents a powerful mode of cultural and social organization, it is adaptive and transitory. This is particularly true where women are concerned; “housewifization” (the sexual division of labour under capitalism) giving way - although not entirely - to the feminization of labour, the new international division of labour, and the feminization of labour migration. In this context, care labour migration emerges as a means of maximizing capital accumulation and as a central feature of the dispersal of social reproductive labour globally. It is an outcome of capitalism's insatiable drive for profit, as well as a lens through which to understand capitalism as casting and recasting social identity; women are encouraged to migrate for paid employment, yet their paid employment is directly connected to conventional understandings of gender both in terms of the kind of employment they can access, and in terms of the reasons why they seek this employment out. Through a discussion of domestic care labour migration, this paper explores the links between neoliberal capitalism and social reproduction, elucidating capitalism's ability to continuously cast and recast social and familial subjectivities. It argues that, care labour migration represents a global reinitiation of a gendered (and increasingly racialized) process of “housewifization”, one in which gender is partially recast to meet the emerging demands capital accumulation, while retaining earlier ideological models to discipline growing numbers of female proletarian.

A Mentoring Program for Low-Income Teen Moms

Deborah L. Byrd

Terry Roman

This presentation focuses on ways in which a Women’s and Gender Studies college professor and a licensed social worker who directs a non-profit agency in eastern Pennsylvania have collaborated to ensure the survival of an effective support and empowerment program for pregnant and parenting teens attending their small city’s largest public high school. Easton Area Neighborhood Center, Inc. (EANC) serves as the 501(c) 3 for this evidence-based mentoring and support program, through which teen moms receive many different kinds of assistance. In addition to sponsoring sessions at which the young moms receive help with their coursework or with college admission and financial aid applications, the agency provides information on parenting and health issues and helps student-parents learn how to identify and access social services to which they’re entitled. EANC also provides many forms of financial assistance to the young moms; for example, the agency pays for necessities like diapers, wipes, and car seats when the moms are out of money; deems the teen moms eligible for EANC’s food pantry, transitional housing, and rent and utilities assistance programs; and pays for bus and prom tickets, school supplies, and “recovery of credit” summer school courses. Graduating seniors who are going to college or in some other way continuing their formal education (generally 80 to 100%) receive an EANC scholarship of \$750 to use as they see fit.

Although this teen mom mentoring program has been in existence for 10 years and is a proven success, its survival is always in jeopardy. Most of the grants that sustain the program are for a one-year period, and competition for grant monies amongst non-profit agencies is increasingly fierce in a less than robust U.S. economy. The majority of this presentation focuses on strategies that the two presenters have employed as they seek to (1) provide long-term stability to the program and (2) expand the services they can offer to pregnant and parenting high school students in their community. Emphasis will be

placed on the advantages of meeting these challenges through a partnership between individuals who bring to their shared task differing but equally valuable skills and knowledge sets.

Vulnerable Subjects: Agency, Authority and Assisted Reproduction in Canada

Alana Cattapan

Canadian public policy on assisted reproduction is centered on the idea that it is a government responsibility to protect citizens from the consequences of new and to-be-developed technologies. Throughout the fifteen-year policy process leading to the Assisted Human Reproduction Act (2004), this duty to protect was often framed in terms of the need to ban commercial surrogacy and gamete donation to prevent the exploitation of donors and surrogates and the commodification of human tissue.

However, donors and surrogates themselves did not present these experiences of exploitation in policy discussions. Instead, despite numerous and extensive public consultations throughout the long policy process, donors and surrogates were themselves largely absent from the debate. In their absence, experts and legislators' beliefs about the coercion of donors and surrogates emerged, and these seemingly vulnerable subjects were eventually protected in legislation.

By looking to the subject positions of surrogates and donors, this paper explores the tension between protection and agency at work in Canadian public policy on assisted reproduction. Through an analysis of policy documents, parliamentary debate, and media releases, it traces the evolution of the surrogate and donor as vulnerable subjects from the time of the Royal Commission onwards. In doing so, it identifies how surrogates and donors came to be framed in policy, and how, in their absence, their perceived vulnerability was used to legitimate federal interventions into the regulation of assisted human reproduction.

Motherhood, social capital, and cultural capital: “A case study on “foreign brides” in Taiwan

Tzu-Hui Chen

Because of globalization, there is a group of marriage migrants constituted by Southeast Asian women who are married to foreigners through marriage brokers in order to pursue a better future. In the past two decades, there are averagely 10% of marriages involving these women in Taiwan and they are called “foreign brides.” They are discriminated against as uneducated gold diggers and trapped in a lower social class due to the racial and sexual minority status. When “foreign brides” assume their mother role, their status in family and society shifts for various reasons including the changes of their resources they gain from motherhood. Thus, this study aims to utilize Bourdieu's theory of capital to explore the complex interrelationships among “foreign brides” social, cultural, and economic capital in motherhood. “Foreign brides”, by virtue of their mothering responsibilities, use various opportunities through official and unofficial sectors to build their social and cultural capital. Ethnographic interviews ranging from one to five hours were conducted with twenty five “foreign brides” from Southeast Asia. Participants were interviewed to share their views and experiences of social network, job, education, interaction with children's school teacher, and the changes of such aspects before and after they had children. The interrelationships among all forms of capital are specifically examined. The findings are expected to contribute to the understanding of the configurations of resources “foreign brides” have and lack in motherhood from their own perspective. Hence, this study can contribute to policy implications and deconstruct the myths and discrimination against “foreign brides”.

Grandmothers as a natural, sustainable family system: Our abuelas raised us all

Rosa Cintrón

Within the Latino/a culture there is a long tradition for grandparents (abuelos/las) to play a key role in ‘kinship care.’ Kinship care has been defined as care provided for children by relatives other than their parents. Today, according to the latest US Census, grandparents are more involved in kinship care than ever before. Moreover, there are ethnic differences among grandparental caregiving. For example, African Americans, Native Americans and Hispanics being more likely to be caregiving than Asians. Generally it is believed that grandparents impact a significant range of socio-demographic variables. I am interested in exploring the influence of abuelas on factors related to college-attendance. Early research in the late 70s indicated the crucial qualitative influence of the mother in the attainment of the highest degree (PhD, JD and MD) among Latinas. I am interested in beginning to explore the knowledge gap in our understanding on how abuelas shape the educational goals of college students.

Griefwork: Still More Work Missing from the GDP!

Deborah Davidson

Although tertiary economic activities include those that provide services, such as in hospital settings, in this paper I argue that the economic value of griefwork, or the labour shared and negotiated between women bereaved by perinatal loss and their caregivers (professional and lay), performed both in the hospital and out, is not recognized as having monetary value.

Breastfeeding, self-sacrifice and mutuality in a child-centered culture

Annemie Dillen

Judith Cockx

The French author Elisabeth Badinter (2010) reacts strongly against the contemporary focus on breastfeeding. She argues that women should not be perfect and sacrifice themselves for the children, that a good middle way in taking care of the children’s and the women’s needs should be found. She also reacts against contemporary forms of feminism, linked with naturalism and ecological interests, and she criticizes breastfeedings-movements as *La Leche League*. We will show the complex relations between feminism, *La Leche League*, a family ideology and Christianity, demonstrating that breastfeeding does not have to exclude the own development of mothers, their involvement in economic life and the experience of mutuality in the relationship with the baby. Therefore we analyse critically various discourses on family, motherhood and the needs of children (see also Ward, 2000). We will show how people may be influenced by the power of various discourses (Badinter, some feminists, *La Leche League*, Christian thinking, ...) and how they can be ‘empowered’ to make own choices, aware of the ambiguity of reality. We will analyze how the idea of a ‘good enough family’ (Dillen, 2009) can be considered as helpful in light of discourses on feminism and breastfeeding.

Dust Storms and Hurricanes: In-law Abuse in South Asian Communities in Toronto

Farishta Dinshaw

Although spousal abuse within the South Asian Diaspora has received some attention in the past decade, the role of the extended family, particularly in-laws, in committing emotional, spiritual or financial abuse, supporting partner assault, or perpetrating violence has been largely overlooked. This article explores the dynamics of the in-law relationship within culture-specific expectations related to the traditional role of women and elders within a joint family, and relationship with family in countries of

origin. This issue has special significance for South Asian immigrant communities as extended-family violence exacerbates immigration-related economic dependence, isolation and lack of social support.

Mothering, Neo-liberalism and the Enforcement of Inclusion

Patty Douglas

This paper struggles with the tension between power and interpretive subject as an alternate way to think and care about mothering and disability in the current neo-liberal economic and cultural context. I situate my analysis within public schools and work with a central paradox: the existence of a massive complex of ‘care’ alongside coercive power and violent practices that *enforce* versions of maternal care and embodiment on normality’s terms. Through an analysis of recent ‘inclusive’ educational policy and practice, I pay particular attention to how neo-liberal modes of governance prefigure citizens in normative and economic terms as autonomous, self-regulating subjects of ‘freedom’ and ‘choice,’ and to the intensification of ways that maternal care and desire is recruited by and implicated in these forms of governance. I also identify how neo-liberal governance is integrally linked to differential power relations and coercive power, enacting exclusions along with a particular interpretive relation to embodiment, one in which the deep mystery and vulnerability of difference *must* be economically and scientifically known and managed at all costs. Through my analysis, I reveal that the very discourses and practices that ‘make’ us also fail to contain us, suggesting a space ‘between’ that cannot be fully governed, a space of relationality, tension, resistance, openness and possibility in terms of the meaning of maternal care, embodiment, disability, and indeed, of being human.

Moral Regulations of Mothers and Informal Economies of Motherhood: Mothering in the Context of HIV/AIDS, Addictions, and the Circulation of Illicit Drugs

Pamela Downe

This paper draws on an ongoing ethnographic study of motherhood in the context of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Saskatchewan. Over thirty women who routinely access the services of AIDS Saskatoon participated in a series of research related activities to represent what it means to claim a mother identity in light of their injection drug use, HIV-vulnerability, and the informal and formal economic situation that grounds their daily experiences. Certainly, the profile of poverty – which, in Saskatchewan, is racialized to disadvantage Aboriginal Peoples – exacerbates the women’s cycle of addiction and the risk of either child apprehension or restricted access to the children who have already been placed in provincially controlled care. However, of equal importance is the women’s marginalization within the informal economies of drug circulation and drug use. Dominant moral discourses of appropriate motherhood are echoed – often in distorted but still discernible ways – throughout the drug using communities that claim AIDS Saskatoon as one of its centres. As a result, mothers often find themselves facing moral and economic marginalization within their network of friends, a network that, paradoxically, they claim as the only caring community they have ever known. The synergies between the informal and formal economic pressures that bear down on the women participating in this research constitute a regulatory regime that has too often been ignored in studies of marginalized motherhood.

To Work Or Not To Work: That Is The Choice

Linda Ennis

This presentation will expand upon the lived experience of working mothers, who have chosen not to work any longer, and the impact this decision has had on their lives and families. In addition, the

experience of working mothers on maternity leave will be explored in relation to the aforementioned group. Even though we speak of women needing the choice whether to work or not, are the choices taken away from them ultimately with this decision?

The beauty of feminism has been to encourage the choices women make in their lives and to support them in their decision-making. However, these decisions have life-altering consequences for women, especially when they become mothers when "basic security" is even more imperative for themselves and their children. How are these decisions made? Are all decisions to be encouraged? How can one change direction once these choices are made? Recommendations will include those of encouraging women, especially mothers, to examine the whole lifespan rather than a moment in time. These are the themes that will be presented in this context.

Marketing Motherhood in the Third Wave: Selling the 'Biological Clock'

Pamela Fox

Elizabeth Velez

In the early to mid-1990s, Elizabeth Bartholet, a prominent feminist law professor and parent to both a "biological" son as well as two adopted Peruvian boys, opened up a new pathway to discussing the politics of reproduction by taking a decidedly pro-adoption stance. Arguing that dominant culture—and its expanding arsenal of reproductive technologies—increasingly pushed women to pursue "natural" motherhood at all costs, she persuasively demonstrated that such "choice" was in fact rooted in an ideology that "glorif[ie]d procreation and childbirth, while at the same time stigmatiz[ed] infertility and adoption." She took feminism to task for its curiously "hostile" and/or "silent" position on adoption, questioning its tantamount alliance with those "pro-natalist" forces restricting the definition of family—and by extension, of women themselves—to biology.*

Since then, we have seen a virtual explosion of writing about motherhood, but surprisingly little seems to heed Bartholet's call to resist the "cult of fertility." Whether discussing the so-called "mommy wars," attachment parenting, or "hip mamas," these memoirs, blogs, and novels typically equate motherhood with childbirth and "blood" ties, rarely mentioning adoption as a desirable alternative.

In this joint presentation, we want to focus on third wave feminism's relationship to this trend by considering Naomi Wolf's *Misconceptions*, Rebecca Walker's *Baby Love*, and Amy Richards' *Opting In*, as well as two anthologies, *Breeder* and *Mothering in the Third Wave*. Wolf, Walker, and Richards are founding, influential figures of third-wave feminism, and all three offer personal narratives of pregnancy and childbirth privileging "natural" motherhood as "authentic" motherhood. *Breeder* and *Mothering* also emphasize personal narratives of biological motherhood, tending to treat adoption as a special-case scenario. We'd like to examine such writing within the context of other popular cultural representations, such as relentless magazine and television marketing of celebrity moms and their baby "bumps." Since these texts all address younger women and present biological motherhood as a newly valued "choice," they embrace the general assumption in our culture that mothering depends on *giving birth*. Thus, any meaningful divide between feminist and dominant representations of motherhood disappears, as biological motherhood is not only presented as a given but similarly sold as a time-sensitive commodity. Furthermore, since pregnancy is fetishized from conception, the pressure to remain *at home* with this infant, who has become almost a physical extension of the maternal self, threatens to become an obligation (although always presented in these texts as a "choice"), and as Leslie Bennetts warns us in *The Feminine Mistake*, the economic consequences of this scenario for women *and* children are dire.

*Bartholet quotes are taken from "Beyond Biology: The Politics of Adoption & Reproduction," *Duke Journal of Gender Law and Policy* 2:1 (Spring 1995) 5-14. Also see her book *Family Bonds: Adoption and the Politics of Parenting* (1993).

Lost Mothering

Kryn Freehling-Burton

Mothers on the science fiction TV hit, *Lost*, elucidate the struggles between mothering as chosen practice and relationship and motherhood as oppressive institution (Rich 1986). The island serves as a microcosm of our society in which women perform years of unpaid labor in the raising of children and are vilified and sainted regardless of the choices we make. Though fathers figure more prominently in the overt storytelling in *Lost*, biological and foster mothers are critical in the unfolding of the stories of the “lost-aways.” The expensive technologies of medical intervention in high-risk pregnancies and birth cannot save the women who conceive on the island. This paper will examine the ways mothers perform mother-work over the six seasons of the series, particularly noting the archetypes of motherhood the writers use to advance the story. Special attention will be focused on the main characters that become mothers during the run of the show. Claire gives birth soon after being stranded; Sun conceives on the island but is rescued before the baby is born; Kate becomes adoptive mother to Claire’s son when Claire disappears and Kate is rescued. Though these storylines are critical in the arc of the show, the children, especially Sun’s daughter, are rarely seen. I will also consider how the economics of advertising capitalize on the plight of the mothers in *Lost*. By examining mothering on the alternate reality of the “lost island,” we should have a glimpse of mothering in our reality.

Life in Real Time: The Impact of Twitter on myths of the "good mother"

May Friedman

Mothers are increasingly using twitter to document their daily lives, reach out to those around them and support and uphold one another. Yet this form of microblogging has shown itself to have a tremendous political impact beyond its role as a social connector. Economically speaking, online mothers have taken on Twitter as a means of social movement creation, using the medium as a means of undermining major corporations (in the famous case of Dooce's altercation with Maytag) and occasionally (as in the case at BlogHer 2009) creating storms of controversy over concerns that turn out to be apocryphal or overblown. From the other side of the screen, the case of Shellie Ross, the mother who tweeted her son's accidental death, caused a media storm, while by contrast, the tweets about the demise of Layla Grace from natural causes were seen as an effective means of raising awareness. It is clear that this form of communication is thus yoked to existing expectations of mothers and exists within a political economy of motherhood that requires further scrutiny.

Mothering in the New Rural Economy: the socio-economic realities of working mothers and their families

Cheryl Gosselin

My paper will focus on the impacts of economic globalization on a rural economy and how mothers are able to maintain sustainable family relations with the help of a local community organization. Situated in the Eastern Townships of Quebec, the Lennoxville and District Women’s Centre’s mission is to serve the English-speaking women who are spatially dispersed in the surrounding rural regions. The Centre provides job training, education, crisis intervention, legal advice and numerous social and cultural services to women who make up a linguistic-minority group in the province. Throughout its 28 year history, the Centre has worked on gender issues and helps women cope with poverty, high unemployment and illiteracy rates, lack of job skills and violence in the home including sexual abuse of children. Today, Anglophone women in this rural area shoulder an enormous economic burden as a result of the effects of the global economy on their local job market through a shrinking

community, loss of jobs, lack of opportunities in the new economy of tourism, a growing ethnic population and reduction of health and social services in their own language. These changes have further entrenched a number of gender related struggles including family breakdown and/or dislocation, poverty, isolation, problems in mental health and violence.

In addition to these economic changes, there are the political shifts affecting Anglophone women as a linguistic minority in a majority French province. Provincial rural development programs and federal money for linguistic minorities appear to be inaccessible to women and their families. The Centre works to lobby government at the provincial and municipal levels for social policies in health and education, economic incentives for working mothers and community economic development programs to ensure positive gender-based results for women.

This paper is based on my current research of the Centre's operations which involves a content analysis of archival material and information gained through interviews with Centre directors, staff as well as members. I will discuss the strategies mothers use to maintain families and their livelihoods, how they cope with unemployment and the changing division of labor in the household due to job losses. I will also focus on the Centre's role in negotiating the gender relations of the region to produce more sustainable socio-economic transformations and empower women in the local as well as global labor markets and in their families.

The Long-Term Transformative Effects of Birth Control and Delay of Family on the Economic Status of All Women's Work

Elizabeth Gregory

This paper is on the transformative effect of birth control and delay of motherhood on women's education and the national economy – both those parts of the economy that are paid and the unpaid parts in which women contribute enormous value. I look at how delay has affected the choices open to both women who do and do not delay.

As women trickle up into policy making roles in business and government, they are changing the economic playing field and opening the possibility of changing the infrastructure support for all mothers, children and families.

This work will be drawn from my current project called “Domestic Product: The Politics and Economics of Women's Work”.

“There is nothing wrong with me. I am a product of your system:” The mental health of lone moms living on social assistance in NL

Diana L. Gustafson

Patricia Meaney

Cherish Wilkes

Janice Parsons

Over the last 20 years Newfoundland and Labrador has undergone dramatic economic and institutional restructuring that is deeply rooted in national and global issues. These dynamic economic changes negatively impact on community health and the health of vulnerable populations. Lone mothers living on social assistance tend to be more negatively affected by the gap between their needs and available resources and services. In 2006, the Public Health Agency of Canada reported that lone mothers are three times more likely to visit health care professionals about their mental and emotional health. However, these poorer health outcomes are too often characterized and experienced as a personal or even pathological problem. The legacy of mother-blaming and the stigmatization of lone mothers lies, in part, on the assumption that medical experts and social bureaucrats do not fail. Rather it is assumed

that it is the exceptional, unfit clients using the social welfare system who fail. Our data collected for a SSHRC funded project soundly reject this assumption by attending less to the personal, pathology and more on the economic and institutional factors that impact on lone mothers' mental health and wellbeing.

Cesarean Section on Demand – Ethical and Global Economic Issues

Manavi Handa

Cesarean section rates are higher globally than ever before. This is due to a variety of reasons, including a newer phenomenon of Cesarean Section on Demand (CSOD) – where women request cesarean without any medical indication. The issue of CSOD has become one of the most fiercely debated topics in contemporary obstetrics. However, this debate is essentially only relevant to the world's most affluent women - women from high income countries and wealthy women from the world's poorest countries. As the world's privileged debate the issue of CSOD, marginalized women globally continue to be deprived of essential services, including medically necessary cesareans. As a result, valuable health care resources continue to get over-utilized for the affluent and redirected from women who need them the most.

In many countries, particularly in Latin America where cesarean delivery has become the norm for wealthy women, there is an increasing trend of poor women – inspired by trends in the rich – demanding cesareans, perceiving them as better care. Thus, the implications of cesarean section by choice are complex and far reaching for women at both ends of the economic spectrum.

There has been discussion in the literature on the various factors that have lead to CSOD, however there has been little discussion of this issue in a global context as it relates to economic distribution. This presentation will examine the phenomenon of cesarean section on demand as it relates to the unequal distribution of reproductive health resources and global health ethics.

'If I Had A Normal Job I Couldn't Do This': Exploring The Economics of Advocacy Motherhood and Education

Elisabeth Harrison

Samantha Walsh

In the current moment, mothers of disabled children are often expected to be their children's full-time advocate. This is particularly true with respect to the education system: Even where policy acknowledges students' right to accessible and inclusive instruction, in practical terms, funding shortages and resistance from education professionals often necessitates parental involvement in order to ensure that disabled children's needs are accommodated and their rights respected. In the overwhelming majority of these situations, this advocacy work becomes the mother's responsibility. The paper seeks to explore the role of cultural and social capital as theorized by Pierre Bourdieu in mothers' advocacy on behalf of their children with disabilities in the education system. The paper will be grounded in Walsh and Harrison's lived experiences as they reflect on the advocacy work that their own mothers did in negotiating access to education for themselves and their siblings in the Ontario school system from the early 1990s until the late 2000s. Walsh and Harrison wish to further explicate the role of access to economic resources in the mother/advocate role. We seek to problematize the current acceptance of the mother/advocate role, highlighting its inaccessibility to those who lack cultural, social and economic capital. As such, the paper will explore opportunities for coalition building in advocacy for inclusive education, as well as considering strategies for mobilizing other key parties.

Motherhood under a Gender-Responsive Lens: Examining the National Budget of Israel

Yael Hasson

Valeria Seigelshifer

A gender audit of Israel's national budget reveals a gap between official statements about the importance of promoting gender equality and actual government practice. The basic problem appears to be a traditional perspective regarding the division of labor, which still views the primary roles of women as wives and mothers and therefore still conceptualizes their workforce participation as that of secondary breadwinners. The corollary is that men are still perceived as the primary breadwinners, while their role in household and care work is seen as optional or secondary.

Gender-responsive budgeting is a strategy that examines how the allocation of resources contributes to greater gender equality. The strategy includes a variety of tools for assessing the influence of government revenues and expenditures on the socio-economic status of men and women and boys and girls (Sharp and Vas Dev, 2004). The strategy aims at changing social policy and the resource allocation deriving from that policy to the end of greater gender equality.

Our paper will present a gender analysis of Israel's national budget to show how the roles of women are viewed and how this view affects the status of women in Israel. We will also point to ways in which that policy can be changed to promote greater gender equality.

A gender audit of national budget for the fiscal years 2009-2010 and the accompanying legislation will show how budget decisions regarding taxation, the funding of social services, and legislation pertaining to the roles of women and men in the home and in the workplace illustrate the contradiction between words and actions.

Easing the Transition Into and Out of Parental Leave: Recommendations for a Three-Stage Process

Jenna Hawkins

The decision for a mother to return to work after childbirth has important implications for labour market participation and the economy. Relating women's real life experiences and expectations of balancing motherhood and paid work to current labour market trends and common obstacles is revealing of what kinds of changes are and will be in demand with regard to government and workplace policy. The current project, focused primarily on the act of returning to work after childbirth (and all the normative and practical implications found therein) seeks to inform potential government and workplace policy changes, with the purpose of creating a more supportive and possible environment for women to balance the roles of mother and worker simultaneously. This research has entailed qualitative interviews with ten (10) participants, consultations with experts in the field, a thorough literature review, and a review of publicly-available statistics. This research has considered the factors of wage replacement rates on maternity/parental leave, length of leave, job protection, family-friendly workplace policies, paternity leave, child care, the opportunity cost of being on leave, and the transition away and back into work.

Framing and funding families: the discursive foundations of Family Allowance and the Universal Child Care Benefit

Mary Rita Holland

The purpose of this paper is to contrast the framing of 'parent' and 'child' in the development of two child benefit policies – Family Allowance (1945-1992) and the current Universal Child Care Benefit program. Both policies represent a commitment to universality, albeit in different forms, and are

therefore useful case studies for the purpose of identifying the responsibilities and entitlements of parents and children in different historical contexts.

Many have argued that family policy has become overwhelmingly child-centric, taking an atomized approach to the welfare of each member (McKeen, Fineman). The discursive turn towards 'child poverty' is an oft-quoted example. Feminist economists (Donath, Folbre, Nelson) have focused on discourse as a signal of the presumption of women's unpaid caregiving inherent in a gendered welfare state while neo-marxist scholars (Mahon, Vosko) insist that women are systematically subordinated through the outdated male breadwinner model on which family policies are based. While economic and socio-political factors are essential in understanding policy shifts, such structural analyses overemphasize the role of neo-liberalism and overlook the significance of language and the creation of social meaning in a particular context (Giddens).

This paper will focus on the federal government's rationale for child benefits (in both the Family Allowance and UCCB eras) as articulated through debates in the House of Commons and major policy statements such as the annual Budget. By analyzing the depiction of 'parent' and 'child' within the context of the rationale of cash payments to families, I hope to illustrate the ideological trend toward deemphasizing the welfare of parents *vis à vis* their children.

Making Connections: Representing Motherhood Through Art of the 18th and 19th Centuries

Linda Hunter

In teaching a classical sociological theory course I have found that viewing historical fine art slides will assist students in understanding the time period and actual theoretical concepts discussed in the class. This presentation will focus on representations of motherhood in historical fine art as related to the various historical events and sociological theories emerging during particular time periods. From earlier mythical and religious images (Madonna and Child) to the age of Enlightenment and beyond, where there is often an emotional connectedness depicted between mother and child, this presentation will examine representations of motherhood and class (from poverty to royalty) over historical time periods. Paintings from the 18th and 19th century portray scenes of the poor and domestic life, demonstrating a respect for the work of mothers as they serve meals or work in kitchens, while their children play. These paintings are in sharp contrast to the elegant art which was patronized by the court and aristocracy. The theme of the 'happy mother' reflects a significant shift in the social view of motherhood that occurred around the Enlightenment period. The art portraying mother and child during the Industrial Revolution, the Enlightenment period and the French Revolution reflects the socio-political issues and social mores of their particular time in history as well as depicts political ideology and social sentiment. The social, emotional and political content of various art works will be discussed in the context of sociological theoretical developments.

Reconsidering Mothering and Grief in Adoption: A Transformative Meeting between a Birth and Adoptive Mother

Kerri S. Kearney

Lucy E. Bailey

This narrative draws from a series of letters the primary author wrote to her daughter from the day she and her husband were contacted about a pregnant woman named Marissa, through the moments in which she and her daughter met the birthmother for the first time. We consider, from a distance of six years later, the significance of this meeting for complicating the social construction of adoptive mothering and mother grief. Both adoptive and birth mothers face a deeply-inscribed ideology of motherhood that defines their experiences and choices as lesser, as unnatural, as poor substitutes for the

“real” mothering that women who create, carry, birth, and raise their own biologically-produced children in traditional normative arrangements, do. Mothers are too often conceptualized as selfish or nurturing *individuals* rather than *shared* actors in collective decision-making and caring that contribute to the development of children. However, as this narrative describes, to talk with the only other person in the world who could fully understand the specific grief, loss, and gain associated with *this* situation and *this* child was a profound gift. Two women, two strangers, two mothers found that despite their ways in which they differed in backgrounds, education, life choices, and socio-economic levels, they shared much more than outsider status in society’s mothering scripts; what mattered most was that they also shared the welfare of this child.

Mother advocates and direct/individualized funding for people with disabilities in Ontario

Christine Kelly

Disability scholars and activists grappling with language have reclaimed a number of words including ‘independence’ and ‘crip’ as a form of symbolic politics that transforms our understandings of disability. Yet other words and concepts remain taboo within disability studies, in particular the term ‘care’ and the role of the mother. In this paper, I explore changing disability perspectives on mothers and care by reflecting on some initial findings from a qualitative study on direct and individualized funding models of support in Ontario. These programs provide funding directly to people with disabilities or in the latter case, their families, in order to hire workers from their communities to assist with personal needs and/or community integration. Parents, and mothers in particular, have had an active role in advocating for the expansion of individualized funding models for their children with all types of impairments and for adults with intellectual disabilities, yet they are notably absent from advocacy efforts around the Ontario Direct Funding Program for people with physical disabilities. I explore the relationships and mutual ambivalence between parent and disability advocates and argue this scenario requires what Garland-Thomson terms “intellectual tolerance” in order to account for the ambiguities of mothering, the aversion of some disability activists to ‘care,’ and the neoliberal implications of direct funding models.

Mothering Fundamentalism: The Transformation of Modern Women into Fundamentalist Mothers

Sophia Korb

The modern-day religious revivalist movement in the United States comprises hundreds of thousands of Christian and Jewish women who have moved from modern communities, with modern conceptions of the self, gender identity, and family, to fundamentalist communities within their own faith tradition, embracing enclavist ideologies that claim a return to roots and tradition. Despite upbringings heavily influenced by modern feminism, many women today choose to identify with new communities who claim to represent and embrace the patriarchal values against which their mothers and grandmothers fought. Motherhood is often one of the most important identities for women in these religious communities, as well as in modern, secular ones. Mothers socialize children, instilling behaviors, attitudes and ideas. Because women’s mothering is so determinative to the family, it is also central to transforming larger social structures and society. How women internally hold what it means to them to be “a mother” or “to mother” may be vastly different in different communities. This study employs a mixed-methods design, incorporating thematic analysis of interviews and survey data to explore how women’s attitudes about being a mother and mothering change when they change religious communities from more liberal, reformist paradigms to fundamentalist, enclavist belief systems.

This presentation will explore the literature review and preliminary findings from the study.

“BirthMarkings”

Margaret Lazarus

I propose a screening of my new film, “BirthMarkings.” The film began when I learned that one of the fastest growing plastic surgeries was the post birth tummy tuck. I thought about what it meant that we want to erase the signs that we have delivered children. I was driven to create a film that reframes and destabilizes our reactions to a woman’s body after she has given birth. I would like to lead a post screening discussion. To see a 2 minute preview go to www.cambridgedocumentaryfilms.org.

Why Buy the Cow When You Can Get the Milk For Free? Breast Milk Exchange and New Forms of Social Relations

Robyn Lee

As the bourgeois model of the family became generally accepted, the privatization of the family was combined with growing censure of closeness with the bodies of those outside the family unit. The production of breast milk has largely become work performed within the context of a monogamous family unit in contemporary North America. Providing breast milk to children who are not your own is considered taboo, and the use of milk banks is very limited due to anxieties concerning disease and contamination. In this paper I will examine the ways in which the exchange of breast milk creates and shapes new social relationships.

Milk kinship has historically been practiced in the Islamic world as a way of binding people together into a familial relationship that is nearly on par with the bonds of blood. I will explore the phenomenon of non-monogamous breastfeeding, or “milk kinship”, in terms of the tension between the domestic and the public spheres of life in late capitalism. In this context I will also discuss the work of Jess Dobkin, who in her 2006 performance of Lactation Station Breast Milk Bar provided samples of breast milk from five different women to audience members.

Infant Feeding, Diabetes and ‘Good Motherhood’: knowledge, choices and experiences

Gayle Letherby

Elizabeth Stenhouse

Background: For women whose pregnancy is complicated by diabetes research has highlighted health benefits of breastfeeding for mothers and infants that has led to active promotion of breastfeeding. Sociological research suggest the ‘Breast is Best’ message has ideological overtones and women who breastfeed are seen to be ‘doing what is best’ for their baby if ‘breast is best’, formula is second best and by association mothers who successfully breastfeed are better mothers. Many women with diabetes find it difficult to initiate and maintain breastfeeding and this has implications for women’s choices and experiences of breast and formula feeding and feelings of self-worth with reference to motherhood.

Project: In a project focusing on mother/daughter relationships during pregnancy for women with pre-existing diabetes, respondents spoke about their views, intentions and experience of infant feeding, including the influence of midwives and other healthcare professionals.

Study findings: Respondents’ talked of the complexity surrounding infant feeding choices and experiences saying they had not received sufficient antenatal information regarding infant feeding, nor support to enable them to breastfeed and felt anxious and defensive about their choices. With some of our respondents feeling both anxious and guilty not only about their choices but also the perceived pressure they would be put under by others to breastfeed.

Conclusions: For women living with diabetes there are many influences affecting infant feeding choices with some mitigating against breastfeeding. If they choose not to or cannot breastfeed their infant this can have a profound effect on feelings of self-worth with reference to motherhood.

Who Cares About Mothers in Neoliberal Times?: The Increasing Invisibility of Low-Income Mothering

Margaret Little

Historically poor single mothers in liberal democratic states were recognized for their caring work, receiving some state support, however minimal. In the last two decades, neo-liberal governments are no longer willing to recognize poor single mothers' caring work. Instead these governments have enacted a number of welfare reforms that see poor single mothers as workers. Workfare and other welfare tied to employment often ignore or minimize the enormous amount of caring work poor single mothers undertake. Through an examination of Canadian welfare policy, this paper explores the growing gap between what poor single mothers do on a daily basis and the state's expectations as revealed by neo-liberal welfare regulations. The author concludes with a template of how feminists need to refine their demands upon the state to ensure support for low-income mothers.

Exploring Activist Practices in Relation to Mothering

Judith MacDonnell

This paper examines social dynamics shaping the lives of activists who became mothers at a young age. The findings are based on secondary analysis of findings from two qualitative Canadian studies. The first involved life histories of health professionals who are involved with LGBT advocacy. The second study collected data through focus group interviews with immigrant women, diverse with respect to age, country of origin and settlement experiences with a goal of examining their understanding and experiences of activism. As a counter discourse to the negative view of young mothers, this paper uses critical feminist analysis to foreground their agency by identifying the complexities of women's lives in relation to mothering discourses and their influence on women's activism across the lifespan.

U.S. Social Welfare Development from the New Deal through the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA): Effects on Poor Mothers

Colleen Mack-Canty

Sue Marie Wright

I discuss poor single mother's unequal treatment in major U.S. social welfare policies, working primarily with New Deal welfare state development and provisions of the 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act. I also give some attention to the intervening time period, note the U.S. "dual welfare system" (i.e., corporate and social) and close with a pragmatic (albeit, somewhat utopian) proposal for a well-funded universal caregiver's entitlement (Fineman2005, Mink 2008, Smith 2007).

I target policies based on a mother's relationship to her children's father. For example, New Deal policymakers put the "deserving poor" including widowed mothers of white male wage earners in a Social Security entitlement program, to maintain both of their respectable reputations, while poor non widowed mothers, the "undeserving" poor, were in the means-tested programs, associated with societies' marginalized.

The provisions, for "undeserving" mothers were "reformed" by PRWORA, following the ascendance of neoliberalism in the U.S., and touted as a measure to liberate them from an oppressive

cycle of dependency, while enhancing their individual rights, such as the right to work in the wage labor market. The means-tested provision remained, and two, particularly restrictive, provisions were added: a lifetime, five years or less, eligibility limitation and a “child support” provision. Under the latter, the mother must name her child(ren)’s father and assist the state in pursuing him for support or face severe penalties. These provisions, then raise normative and public policy questions for feminists, such as the regulation of the family, parental rights, the distribution of caregiving costs and burdens, the single mother’s right to poverty assistance, etc., which I further discuss.

On Soma, Oiko(s)-nomics and the Process of Becoming a Mother

Kathy Mantas

Overview of Presentation/Exhibit

In this exhibit I use visual and arts-based narrative approaches to re-explore, re-present and make meaning of my/the experience of becoming a mother through various reproductive technologies. In essence, I will share aspects of this story through the use of various artifacts (created from discards/items collected from several fertility procedures, text and images). More specifically, I examine this topic through the body/soma (soma as/is oikos/home and soma oiko-nomics).

Purpose of Presentation/Exhibit

My intent is that the artifacts presented here will create a safe space for these often silenced stories, buried deep within our bodies, to emerge and be heard as well as raise questions about the economics of becoming a mother through reproductive processes and procedures. In addition, I hope that the exhibit will stimulate dialogue about some of the complexities and complications inherent in becoming a mother through reproductive technologies (experiences that can lead to un-ease and dis-ease, in the body, if left unexamined) and move us towards a greater understanding of this experience/topic. Finally, this collection of artifacts/exhibit also attempts to address the limits of language/text-based discourses and look closer at what the arts have to offer when it comes to re-presenting and making meaning of such complex, multi-layered and dis/embodied experiences.

Type of Submission/Format: Creative Submission/Visual Arts Exhibit (mixed-media)

For this presentation, participants/attendees will be invited to enter a gallery-like space as well as engage directly with the artifacts. They will have the opportunity for individualized discussion with myself the artist-researcher/presenter. I will be responsible for storing, bringing, setting up, supervising, and taking down my artifacts at the end of my session/presentation.

Navigating and advocating for services: Partnership experiences of mothers of children with disabilities in Saskatchewan

Elise J. Matthews

Raissa Graumans

Michel Desjardins

Isabelle Gelin

Mothers of children with physical and intellectual disabilities participated in this research that addresses the lack of continuity and disparities in distribution and accessibility of rehabilitation services, in Quebec and Saskatchewan. This project is guided by the perspectives of ecology, partnership, self-determination, democracy, and participant-driven research, with emphasis on the sharing of knowledge to transform the organization of services. The Reflexive Methodology of Analysis in Partnership (DRAP) (Boudreault and Kalubi, 2006) encouraged mothers in group meetings in Saskatchewan to speak about their experiences of partnerships (between families, professionals, and organizations, and within structure and design) and their proposed solutions for strengthening them. Analysis of semantic networks

among their statements, supplemented by ethnographic notes, revealed several themes related to economic systems and resources, including improving access, funding, and equitability. Overall, mothers spoke of the necessity to become skilled advocates and navigators among partnerships to access services for their children. They also expressed a lack of scenes for exchange and utilized the research meetings as opportunities to share their stories with others. Comparisons between mothers and other family members who participated, and mothers also in professional roles in health and education fields with children with disabilities, will be noted. The implications for service organization and delivery in the Saskatchewan context, and the connections between economics and the experiences of mothering a child with a disability will be discussed, along with the limitations of the research methodology.

This research is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Gender Neutral or Gender Bias? – Making the case for gender budget analysis.

Ailsa McKay

Angela O'Hagan

All public policies operate within a socio-economic environment that is dominated by the relationships and differences between men and women. However, the language and methodological approaches associated with mainstream economics serves to discount gender concerns and therefore attempts to understand the nature of gender inequalities are not easily accommodated within existing analytical frameworks. Despite such limitations the mainstream approach continues to dominate the policy process. The national budget is arguably one of the most important policy statements of any government and the budget statement itself is generally assumed to be 'gender neutral'. That is, the nature and level of budgetary allocations do not normally depend upon whether they apply to men or women.

This paper will argue that the assumed neutrality of public spending allocations mask a particular gender bias, with consequences in terms undervaluing the work women do as mothers and household managers. Gender Budget Analysis (GBA) has emerged as a challenge to the inherent bias associated with public spending allocations and taxation systems and thus, at a practical level provides a bridge between the theoretical analysis offered by feminist economics, and effective public policymaking. Drawing upon the Scottish experience in promoting a more gender sensitive approach to the national budget the paper provides evidence of a persistent undervaluing of womens' work within the context of public sector pay.

The Canadian Birthing Industry in Historical Perspective: Maternal and 'Professional' Labouring Voices, 1875-1920

Judith Mintz

Former midwife and birthing revolutionary Mary O'Brien argued in her classic 1981 text, *The Politics of Reproduction* that men feel cut off from the continuous relationship that women have with their childbearing bodies and their babies, and as a result use science and medicine to exert influence over women's bodies. With Wendy Mitchinson's (2002) admonition against dualism between midwives and doctors in mind, I survey existing literature about the medicalization of birthing in Canada to explore the diverse range of experiences for both the perinatal woman and her caregivers in the late 19th and early 20th century in Canada. This period is of particular interest because as scientific theories and practice became culturally and economically entrenched, a variety of medical means developed through which a woman might bring a child into the world. I agree with Mitchinson that while midwifery has been much maligned by the medical profession, birth reformers and other writers have also romanticized it. In addition to gender, a woman's social class and race impacted her subjective as well as material

perinatal choices and outcomes, and I will demonstrate Canada's imperialist goals in creating mothers of the nation by examining pregnancy and birthing practices; situating the roles of the midwife and state regulation and medicalization of birthing and mothering. The question underlying this historiography concerns the reclamation of the physical body as feminist subject. How do we interrogate the white female body as national body and mother of the nation in relation to the medicalization of birthing?

Mommy and Money

Mitzi Grace Mitchell

Frosty light of winter's dawn,
Pierces my eyes and mind.
You sleep in your cradle softly
Afloat in your baby dreams.
Small sounds of movement
Drift up from your father,
Readying for his work day ahead.
That is no longer for me;
Laced excitement of the coming day,
Full of fellow earners and challenge,
The companionship of a job well-done.
That is no longer mine;
I hold in empty arms a career,
Interrupted in mid-flight,
Falling to earth in your cradle.
No longer ahead of me that climb,
Step by accomplished step up that ladder,
From pay peak to pay peak,
From position to higher glory;
That is no longer for me – but
Then you open your sweet eyes,
Lift warm chubby arms towards me,
And utter that priceless word –
“Mommy”

She Gesticulated Wildly: Maternal Eroticism and the Function of Gesture in Articulating Embodied Knowledge of Queer Birth

Joani Mortenson

Maternal eroticism locates the intense and intimate mother-child relationship on a continuum of sensuality and sexuality. The nature of the mother-child relationship is marked by the bodies of the mother and child in close physical and intimate contact. The erotics of maternal life are a significant source of power and vulnerability for women; often fraught with conflicting sensations and feelings. In order to consider moving the erotic from the silent margins that delimit the discourse on mothering and to contest the often internalized ideology of asexual motherhood, it is important to address the impact patriarchy and heteronormativity have had on motherhood as a theory and practice, and specifically how these elements discursively work against ideological and corporeal possibilities of eroticism between mother and child. Prominent mothering theorist Andrea O'Reilly suggests a feminist practice/theory of mothering could function as a counter-narrative to the dominant patriarchal and heteronormative

discourse in order to promote a view of mothering that is empowering to women. Expressions of eroticism and sensuality in the relationship between mother and child not only contests master narratives, but widens the space for other realms of 'being' for the maternal dyad/dialectic.

Drawing upon Foucault, Butler, Cixous and Grosz, this presentation will apply constructivist and post-structural theory to maternal eroticism, gesture and embodied knowledge with a view towards widening of the terms of reference for the corporeal and the erotic when exploring the mother-child relationship, using readers theatre and performance to engage the audience in troubling the discursive practices that limit experiences for mothers, and especially for queer mothers. This presentation will experiment with theory, performance and sound to invite the audience to consider the erotics of mothering as ir/reverent, deaf/erential and in/glorious.

Lessons of Izzat

Mandeep Kaur Mucina

The lessons of izzat (honour or reputation) are a part of my earliest memories and were passed on through an unspoken language by a circle of women that nurtured my upbringing. These women carried the responsibility of passing down lessons of izzat, as they had been passed on to them. However, my interpretation of izzat is reflective of my identity as a second-generation South Asian woman living in Canada, and is further impacted by the racism, oppression, and discrimination I experienced from a mainstream White society. Through narratives of my childhood to adulthood, I will be sharing lessons of izzat as they were passed down to me by my mother(s), reflecting on the complexities of being a second-generation Punjabi women grappling with this cultural knowledge in the Canadian Diaspora. Furthermore, these narratives will reflect the struggle of my mother(s) responsibility to maintain izzat in the Canadian context.

Breastfeeding: "Extreme" Caregiving?

Chris Mulford

Consider breastfeeding from three viewpoints.

#1, a method of caring for babies and young children

#2, nutrition and protection for babies and young children

#3, a relationship between two partners

Breastfeeding as care

Babies and young children require care, whether they get it from parents, other family members and friends, hired caregivers, or care provided by the state. At last, feminist economists are drawing attention to the value of care, and even the ILO has started to look seriously at care work. Breastfeeding (the behavior) and lactation (the physiological state of a breastfeeding woman) involve the caregiver's body intimately and extensively. They influence her short-term and long-term health, her nutritional status, her fertility, and her body shape in ways that are rarely seen with other types of caregiving. Breastfeeding might indeed be considered as an "extreme" on a continuum of caregiving, with casual child-minding at one end and total care of a profoundly disabled person near the other.

Breastfeeding as nutrition and protection

A number of writers have attempted to place a value on breastfeeding. It is the one caregiving behavior that involves a "product." Milk normally passes directly from mother to child without entering the marketplace; thus, it has traditionally been overlooked in the official estimates of economic activity such as GDP. This situation is unfair. It also puts breastfeeding in danger.

Morbidity and mortality data show increased risks for babies who are weaned early—the degree of risk depending on the family’s access to resources. Thus another way to value breastfeeding, (besides imputing a dollar value to the milk) is to figure the health care cost savings for health problems averted.

Breastfeeding as relationship

Rather than trying to be factual about this very personal aspect of breastfeeding, I’ll go with art—*Villanelle*, a poem about breastfeeding by a Scottish mother, which I set to music and will sing (taking you at your word about “creative submissions” and “alternative formats.”)

Breastfeeding has economic value—even though it is difficult to quantify. Breastfeeding provides care, nutrition, protection, and affiliation, all of which are necessities for babies and young children. They can be provided in other ways. Whatever way they are provided, they do not come free. Breastfeeding uses a woman’s time and energy, and it has opportunity costs for her. If she were not breastfeeding, could she be doing something that would have more value? More value to whom?

These days it seems as if women’s empowerment is all about money. An NGO that works to lower maternal mortality says “Invest in women → Nations thrive → Economies grow.” From the Grameen Bank to the “Girl Effect,” everybody’s keen to put women to work as the way out of poverty. Here is what worries me. Given the invisibility of breastfeeding and the difficulty of demonstrating its economic value, what’s to prevent women, communities, or nations from losing breastfeeding as they develop economically? I’ll offer some solutions and end with a breastfeeding “power” song.

An Epilogue of an Autoethnography

B. Lee Murray

The autoethnography regarding my “secrets of mothering” is never over; it is never finished. Every day is another story. And stories bring possibility and hope. Stories break the silence and stories shed a light on secrets. As I reflect on my dissertation I see my stories differently, from a new perspective. I reflect on the choice to use autoethnography as methodology, the ethics approval process, the academic mom, the single mom, the illegitimate mom and see things in a different light. This paper is an epilogue to an autoethnographic dissertation. It is an autoethnographic story looking back on a journey that is bitter sweet in its ending. Of course, it feels wonderful to be at this point of completion in my work. However, it also means an ending to my regular meetings with my co-supervisors. And at the moment, the sadness related to the ending overshadows the joy of completion. I am wondering if this dissertation is an ending or merely a beginning. The presentation of the epilogue includes narrative reflection, photos and audio-visual representation.

Disciplining Children and Mothers in East End Vancouver

Karen Bridget Murray

Drawing upon original research conducted in an east end Vancouver neighbourhood (Grandview-Woodland), this paper engages two lines of social theory. The first is social investment state theory, which took on a growing prominence in the literature on governmental realignment in Canada in the early twenty-first century. The theory holds that states target children for a variety of strategies aimed at creating future citizen-workers capable of meeting the challenges of insecure work and precarious employment characteristic of the global economy. Along a second, though closely related analytical plane, states are said to have placed an increasing emphasis on non-profit, charitable, and philanthropic entities – typically under the discursive rubric of “communities” – as antidotes to problems of exclusion and marginalization. This paper bridges these two lines of inquiry, showing how children were construed

over the field of communities as both targets of and mechanisms for new governmental practices aimed at managing rather than eradicating disadvantage. In these assemblages, images of disadvantaged children are intertwined with and vital to contemporary governmental processes. In developing this argument, the paper brings to the fore how this realignment hinges on a new discourse on "normal" mothers that aligns with a naturalization of more extreme forms of child poverty. The paper advances both of the aforementioned theoretical streams, by adding a street-level analytical lens to social investment theory and by placing the growing emphasis on communities within a broader discussion of shifting problematizations of child poverty and motherhood.

Making motherhood safer at Community level using paired groups of Private Midwives (PMWs) and Village Health Teams (VHTs) in Rural Uganda

Catherine Nantongo

Over the last twenty years the international community—realizing that the tragedy of women dying during pregnancy and in childbirth could no longer be tolerated—launched a series of initiatives aimed at making safe motherhood a cornerstone of health services in all countries. Making pregnancy and delivery safe events is particularly complex, as it involves infrastructural and logistic, as well as technical, issues. Women die because they have no access to skilled personnel during pregnancy and at the time of delivery and because—if an emergency situation arises—they cannot reach a facility where emergency obstetric services are available. HIV/AIDS transmission has made things worse. Occurrence of Mother-To-Child-Transmissions (MTCT) of HIV suggest that women become infected either prior to or during pregnancy or after delivery. Routine HCT during pregnancy and repeat HCT at the earliest possible opportunity after birth- which would other reinforce condom use and replacement feeding promotion among HIV positives are rarely conducted in Uganda -which increases the risk of MTCT. The above problem is further aggravated by the fact while PMTCT and SRH programs run parallel in most health units or are located far apart in different units; staffing levels are low, leading to limited support supervision.

My presentation will introduce the detailed rationale upon which the project using paired groups of “PMWs and VHTs ” was conceived, go on to describe strategies and methods for implementation , monitoring , and evaluation in terms of pregnancy outcomes, utilization and effects of the intervention and economics.

Our Mothers’ Handbook: A Personal Practical Experience of Learning the Art of Mothering from the Mothers of the Economy

Grace Bosibori Nyamongo

In many traditional African societies children learn domestic and production roles from their parents. Although mothers take full responsibility of caring and educating their children up to about the age of 10 years, afterwards the process of educating young boys and girls take a different aspect as it focuses on specific sex roles. Daughters and sons learn specific socio-economic roles from their mothers and fathers respectively. Mothers and fathers (female and male family members and/or other respected community members) take the responsibility of educating their daughters and sons on various reproduction and production roles. Mothers educate their daughters how to become respected hard working future mothers by instilling in them a range of skills of mothering such as child caring, house keeping, cooking, traditional education, and many other domestic chores. Girls also learn how to intermingle with the opposite sex in preparation for motherhood. Mothers strongly encourage their daughters from a tender age to take up farming activities as well as selling farm products and other commodities in the markets by working alongside them. Furthermore, in societies where women and

girls continue to face various challenges such as violence and discrimination in sharing of family and national resources, mothers support their daughters' formal education in an attempt to address gender discriminatory practices. Therefore, mothers' main concerns are geared towards shaping their daughters into future conscientious and hard-working mothers of the economy. This paper is a reflection of my personal experience of how I gained the knowledge of mothering from the mothers of the economy.

Social Capital and its influence on Parenting Styles

Helen O'Brien

The research on child developmental outcomes underscores the importance of exploring the construct of parenting, as well as identifying the multifactorial and intergenerational dimensions of parenting styles. Exploring what informs individual parenting styles, especially the influence of social support amongst a sample of Irish immigrant mothers, was the focus of this research.

The findings of this descriptive study suggest that when compared to their mothers, the Irish immigrant participants showed a stronger authoritative (AV) parenting style, a stronger permissive (P) parenting style, and a weaker authoritarian (AT) parenting style. A standard multiple regression was conducted to determine which independent variable(s) were predictors of Irish immigrant mothers' parenting style. The variables that emerged, as most significant, were grandmothers parenting style score (G1 score); perception of social support (SSA), and working outside of the home.

The finding related to social support is the focus of the paper. This study utilized the Social Supports Appraisals Scale (Vaux, 1986). The theoretical range for the SSA, is between the lowest score of 23 and the highest score of 92. Based on the range of scores, the mean SSA score of 76.3 reflects a high perception of social support amongst the sample.

The paper will present the relationship between social support and social capital and its impact on sustaining and supporting family systems, especially among immigrant populations. The findings suggest that this sample experienced social support and were utilizing more democratic and supportive parenting styles (authoritative), which has the opportunity to play a critical role in the development of their child, as authoritative parenting styles have been associated with positive developmental outcomes.

Ma'at: The Catalyst For My Remembering

Adwoa Onuora

Afro-indigenous maternal pedagogy has been a topic of limited interest to scholars of the past. To date, there is a crucial gap in comparative analyses of the cultural knowledges of mothers of African descent, honing in on how these women have and continue to blur the boundaries between teacher and learner. This paper attempts to fill this critical gap. It proffers an examination of African maternal pedagogies, locating the African mother as a vehicle for the transmission of African indigenous knowledge and more importantly the survival of African indigenous cultures. Guided by the philosophy of African centred feminism(s) and Afro-indigenous theory, it asks and, wherever possible, proposes answers to the following questions: What are some of the indigenous educational practices African women engage in while mothering? How, why and under what circumstances have these practices of knowledge production and dissemination changed? Are African women's maternal pedagogies transferable or even relevant to African centred educational settings or to African Diasporic contexts such the Caribbean and Canada? In sum, what are the "epistemic consequences" of validating African maternal pedagogies? Using the methodology of autoethnography, I draw on my embodied experience and individual memory as sources of knowledge in an attempt to answer the above questions. My intention here is to be able to use my personal anecdotes to encourage new understandings and generate

new conversations about the ways in which mothers and community/othermothers of African descent both draw upon and are central to the dissemination of Afro-indigenous knowledges.

(Breast)Milking the Situation: Bonding through Nursing in Sherley Anne Williams's *Dessa Rose*
Abigail L. Palko

Sherley Anne Williams' *Dessa Rose* (1986) features what is perhaps the only literary scene that explicitly depicts a white woman nursing a black baby. Extending its narrative gaze back to slavery's highly codified race relations, the novel artistically represents an interracial interaction that developed into a productive collaboration, while also modeling a complementary concern for women's position within history. Williams thus theorizes the gap between recorded history and lived history through her evocations of the (feminine) alliances made by Dessa with Rufel, depicting the confrontations that bell hooks advocates as necessary components of revolutionary change, answering hooks' call for women to bond and develop political solidarity.

In *Dessa Rose*, solidarity serves a new kind of politics: female characters cross racial barriers to contest the patriarchal hegemony that subordinates them. This challenge takes the form of asserting a feminized community that, in a Bakhtinian carnivalesque manner, overturns the (masculine) status quo. In a critical commentary on Second Wave feminism, the novel complicates white institutionalized assumptions by positioning this alliance within the framework of motherhood. The cultural currency by which this alliance is formed is breastmilk: Rufel's decision to nurse the runaway slave's newborn saves his life, forcing each woman to confront her own prejudices about the other. This act empowers them as well to free themselves from their respective bondage. Resisting the urge to offer a utopian ending, *Dessa Rose*, through its realistic evocation of women's interracial alliances, highlights the political potential of feminine friendships and motherhood.

Navigation, Adaptation, and Challenge: Lives of Non-Custodial Mothers After Divorce
Laura Pennington

When divorces involving children are settled, it's common for the woman to be at an economic disadvantage, particularly as she adjusts to a new income level and often is returning to the workplace after a long hiatus. While many people think of mothers as the primary custodial parents following divorce, a growing number of non-custodial mothers are struggling to make ends meet. These non-custodial mothers, often the former spouses of abusive husbands, find themselves in the dangerous situation of giving up certain parental rights and time with their children and navigating a new life financially, sometimes even being forced to pay child support. These women are often unable to receive much government assistance and unable to accept full-time employment as a result of the negotiated partial-parenting schedule, leaving them without enough support or income to alter this situation. This project covers the results of interviews with non-custodial mothers about how post-divorce life has affected them both financially and as mothers. The outcome is that non-custodial mothers lose their role as primary caregivers and try to adjust as they face an economic spiral downward.

The Resilience of Women
Zanna Pillars

A presentation of a play, based on interviews conducted and recorded, of mostly American mothers from different cultures and backgrounds and their relationship to money as mothers will be presented. The stories show the resilience of these women in that the play is a comedy, though based on stories that, framed differently, would be considered tragic. Assembled by the women's creative collective Powerful Women Create and daughter organization Nurture Mothers, the material for this play

is based out of the Metro Detroit community in three physical women's community centers. Detroit is an important place in assessment of economics, and this shines through the presentation. The stories included were chosen for ease in relating the complexities of mothers and economics by crossing multiple categories, as called for in the conference description. Some topics covered include: the meaning behind the term mompreneur, marketability of the term "MILF", unemployment leading to creative pursuits, technology and its impact on work from home possibilities, as well as the personal experiences of mothers who do run businesses from home, stories of students who sold their eggs to pay student loan debt and the emotions behind, and shocking accounts of discrimination of mothers in top ranked professional graduate programs and their relation to the idea of the female breadwinner.

When Ends Don't Meet? Economic Survival Strategies for African American Grandmothers Raising their Grandchildren

LaShawnDa L. Pittman-Gay

In this paper, I examine how grandmothers compose a life in the wake of raising their grandchildren; specifically, the ways in which they manage the added financial strain of grandparent caretaking. I show that low-income, urban black custodial grandmothers used five economic survival strategies when their lives were "unsettled" by the assumption of primary caretaking responsibilities; they (1) modified their labor market participation, (2) supplemented low-wage work or public assistance with "off the books" work, (3) relied on partners, family, and friends for income assistance, (4) utilized "leverage-producing" social ties to gain access to much needed public resources and services, and (5) altered their expectations of what they could provide themselves and their grandchildren.

Mediating Moms: An Overview of Mothers in Popular Culture

Liz Podnieks (Ryerson University)

Now that the baby boom generation has come of age in America, mothers are suddenly back in Vogue - and in Time, The New Yorker, and The Wall Street Journal too. Indeed, mothers are suddenly everywhere and their influence is everywhere felt.

Mothers are indeed everywhere, as Julie Tharp and Susan MacCallum-Whitcomb affirm in *This Giving Birth*, above. In a related spirit, *Chatelaine* editor Sara Angel explains the rationale for the magazine's "first-ever Motherhood Issue" in May 2007: "At no point in history has being a mother, a daughter – or both – been as complicated as it is now. We are working to maintain relationships, careers, homes and ageing parents. Playgrounds have become political forums for battles in competitive parenting. Bookstore shelves overflow with manuals on how to do right by your child, and the mommy memoir is its own literary genre. Meanwhile, as the age of first-time mothers climbs higher than ever before, the topic of getting pregnant is a media obsession." The topic of motherhood in general is "a media obsession," as Judith Timson explains in an article for the *Globe and Mail* on 15 April 2008: "we have guided tours of every nook and cranny of modern motherhood and every possible blogging subset of moms." She concludes that "we've become, as one blog has it, MUBAR: 'mothered up beyond all recognition.'" In this paper, I offer an overview of some of the ways that mothers are imaged *by* and *in* the media; how mothers mediate or negotiate these images according to their historical, corporeal, and lived personhoods; and how scholars mediate the popular and academic discourses of motherhood in order to register and, in diverse fashion, both strengthen and alleviate the tensions between representation and reality.

The Costs of Motherhood Revisited: Job Exits, Labour Market Intermittency, and Women's Occupational Status Attainment

Sarah Reid

Using fixed effects structural equation modeling, this research paper estimates the effects of labour market intermittency ('time models') and reasons for exiting jobs ('context models') on how well women do in the labour force. I disentangle the direct and indirect effects of time and context on women's job-by-job job achievement over their complete employment histories. Findings indicate that 'what matters' to a woman's labour market success largely depends on two factors: the number of jobs held across a woman's career and stage of career. In particular, job exits related to the maternal role reveal costly effects, though these consequences are mediated by career stage and length. For women with shorter careers, the effects of motherhood largely explained by time out of the labour force. However, for women with longer careers, a motherhood penalty is revealed. For this group, exiting jobs for family reasons are nearly twice as costly compared to involuntary job exits and job exits due to working conditions, net of the non-employment durations these leaves engender. Findings caution against prevailing economic models that attribute working mothers' labour market barriers to career interruptions. Instead findings point to a more complex, direct tension between motherhood and paid employment.

Creating Economic Structures for the Recognition of Parenting as Work: A New Zealand Case for Tax Reform to Allow for Income Sharing.

Christina Reymer

In the rights based culture of the 21st Century, it is beyond belief that parents raising their own children are denied the status of workers, and are expected to do that work for nothing. That all important work remains invisible in our economic structures, unless it is done by someone other than the parents themselves, or they do it alone, i.e. as single parents.

In 1893 New Zealand women were the first in the world to be granted the vote. We gained recognition as citizens in our own right, and thereby political visibility. Kate Sheppard, who led the campaign, went on to fight for economic visibility for "[women] who [elect] to superintend [their] own household, and be the mother of children..." arguing for her right to an equal share of her husband's income.

In August 2010, 117 years later, a Bill to allow income sharing for couples raising children, has been introduced in Parliament.

This paper traces the story of the campaign for income sharing. It challenges the boundaries of paid and unpaid work, insisting that parenting be regarded as "work". It proposes reform of tax structures to allow couples to registrar their partnerships in recognition of their shared responsibility for both the support and care of their children. It creates economic independence for the primary caregiver, whether part-time or full time at home.

Whether for social, political, cultural, biological or historical reasons, the majority of parenting work is still done by women. Recognition of this work has been described as "the unfinished business of the women's movement".

'I Know I'm a Good Mom': Young, Low-Income Mothers' Experiences with Intensive Parenting Advice

Amy Romagnoli

Intensive mothering, which fits within neo-liberal notions of individual responsibility and is based on middle class ideals, is widely accepted as the 'proper' mode of child-rearing. State-driven interventions aimed at promoting intensive mothering practices target 'at risk' young mothers in particular, as a means of maximizing child outcomes and reducing poverty. This study explored the lived experiences of young, low-income mothers with intensive parenting advice that focused on child cognitive development. Age and social class intersected to determine the meaning of intensive mothering as a prescriptive force in their lives. Educational programs that promoted intensive mothering were mandated for young, low-income mothers as a condition of maintaining safe housing and child custody, and represented to them the state-regulation of their motherhood. Despite this, they negotiated their own self-perceptions regarding motherhood by resisting, to some extent, the internalization of intensive mothering ideals as well as the guilt and self-discipline that often accompanies intensive mothering for older middle class mothers. In the face of a definition of 'proper' motherhood which excludes them, they saw themselves as capable, 'good' mothers.

Paid Labor and Lactation: The Effects of Labor Force Re-Entry and Workplace Practices on Breastfeeding

Louise Marie Roth

Amanda Marie Lubold

Public health professionals aim to increase breastfeeding rates and reduce health disparities in breastfeeding, while feminist scholars view support for breastfeeding as an issue of gender equity and reproductive justice. Feminist analyses argue that all mothers should be able to breastfeed, but that experiences of gender inequality affect breastfeeding decisions. In the workplace, ideal worker notions assume male career patterns and treat women's reproductive activities, including breastfeeding, as deviant (Acker 1990). Workplace "accommodations" are then based on deviations from a male standard (MacKinnon 1987). Moreover, unevenness in workplace flexibility and accommodation for pregnancy and breastfeeding aggravate known racial and class disparities in breastfeeding. The breastfeeding rates and experiences of white affluent women differ substantially from those of low-income African-American and working-class white women, and differences in length of maternity leave and the breastfeeding-friendliness of their workplaces are likely to contribute to these effects (Blum 1999). Using American data from the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Infant Feeding Practices Study II (IFPS), we investigate how the timing of a mother's re-entry into the labor force and organizational support for breastfeeding practices in the workplace affect mothers' likelihood and duration of breastfeeding. We also analyze how differences in labor force re-entry and organizational support influence disparities among mothers by race, income, and education. In doing so, we examine how contemporary workplace structures may aid or impede breastfeeding, and how they contribute to breastfeeding disparities among women.

Unequal Motherhood: Racial-Ethnic and Socio-economic Disparities in Cesarean Sections in the United States

Louise Marie Roth

It is well-known that there is inequality in healthcare in the United States and also that c-section rates are very high, yet there has been little scrutiny of connections between cesareans and racial, ethnic,

and income disparities in healthcare. This research uses data on all recorded births in the United States in 2004 to test for differences in the probability of a primary or repeat cesarean by race, ethnicity, marital status, and education. The analysis reveals that Black, Hispanic/Latina, unmarried, and less educated mothers are more likely to have cesarean deliveries than white, non-Hispanic, married, and more educated mothers, controlling for clinical indications. Maternal request is unlikely to motivate these disparities in cesareans because the most vulnerable mothers, who are likely to have the fewest choices, have higher odds of cesarean delivery. In contrast, structural inequality in provider-client relationships may play a significant role in the likelihood of cesarean delivery, with significant health implications for vulnerable populations. Thus, the results support structural inequality theories and contradict theories that maternal request or differences in clinical profiles are driving disparities in cesarean deliveries.

Cleaning Our Own House: Economics, “Mothering” and the (Re)production of Oppression in the Academy

Danielle Roth-Johnson

In recent years, prominent feminist thinkers such as Chandra Mohanty and Vandana Shiva have warned that, as a result of economic globalization, universities are being transformed into “transnational bureaucratic corporations” (Mohanty, 2006:180) where the professorate is being deskilled and proletarianized, thereby creating a permanent underclass of professional workers in higher education. These increasing links between the generation of knowledge and the generation of profit are creating a growing conflict of interest between the public and private interests of the university and the expectation and standards of the academy as opposed to those of private enterprise. Such shifts in the function and purpose of the university are intensifying questions about the “value” of programs such as women’s studies and ethnic studies. In this philosophical reflection upon mothering, the market and the academy, I will use the works of such economic thinkers as Marilyn Waring to discuss the increasing devaluation of the less “productive” aspects of our work (e.g., the transmission of knowledge to the next generation and the mentoring/nurturing of students), as well as the larger purpose of the university and how that relates to the currently low educational levels of our students in the United States (with a particular emphasis on the current state of education in Nevada). In particular, I will examine how such ideologies are impacting decisions about decreases in funding from the public sector and the means by which differing economic values are being assigned to workers in the academy.

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What’s in a Last Name?: Patriarchy, Inter-Ethnicity and Maternal Training

Sarah Sahagian

This paper examines the intersections of hybrid racial identity and how this affects the gender identities and gender performances of inter-ethnic children. In Western tradition, after all, the last name is passed down to children in a patrilineal fashion, yet mothers still do the majority of cultural training, socialization and raising of children. Children often have their fathers' last names but are raised more in step their mothers' cultures and the gender performances deemed acceptable. Still, such children will frequently be identified by outsiders as having at least some membership to their fathers' cultural group because of their monikers. This can result in children who feel culturally lost, as they find themselves unable to perform an ethnic background with which they are commonly identified. In this essay, I use the

lens of empowered mothering discourse to find a way to change parenting practices so they do not result in ethnically hybrid children with such asymmetrical understandings of their cultural heritage.

I argue that men must engage more meaningfully in parenting practices in order for inter-ethnic children to feel more evenly engaged with all the sides of their ethnic selves. To illuminate my argument, I use my own upbringing as an inter-ethnic, part WASP, part Armenian hybrid ethnic subject as a case-study.

I ultimately contend that, while mothers are certainly not at fault for the cultural blind spots that lead them to favour their own ethnic identities while performing the cultural training of their children, men must mother too if hybrid ethnic children are ever to develop robust notions of their hybrid selves.

Mothers of Sexy Dancing Daughters: Maternal Influence in the Hypersexual World of Competitive Dance

Lisa Sandlos

Constructions and (re)presentations of young female dancers' bodies have become increasingly and alarmingly eroticized in dance recitals and competitions across North America over the last decade. In this paper, I consider the significant role mothers play in the hypersexualized and commodified world of competitive dance. How do mothers of young female dancers think about the objectification of female bodies in contemporary mainstream capitalist society and the normalized hypersexual standards of youth culture? Using a methodology of ethnographic observation and interviews, I identify mothers' responses to and interpretations of eroticized representations of their dancing daughters. My interpretation of the interview data focuses on understanding how mothers navigate, negotiate, perpetuate or resist assumptions and expectations that their daughters must be portrayed as sexually provocative in order to succeed in dance. Drawing upon theories of motherhood in relation to consumerism, girlhood studies, gender construction, and sexuality, as well as the, I argue that greater awareness needs to be fostered among mothers about the development of their daughters' sexual identities within the dance studio environment, and I begin to imagine and advocate for alternatives in the experiences of young female dancers. Videotaped performances of young dance competitors will accompany my presentation.

Reclaiming Faith: South Asian Mothering and Spirituality

Jasjit Kaur Sangha

This paper will use the form of art-informed autoethnography to explore how my values have shifted and evolved in my last decade of mothering and stepmothering a bi-racial stepfamily. I will examine how faith and spirituality have started to play an increasingly important role in my family as I mother my birth children and seek to impart my South Asian values onto them. I will also explore how this reclamation of values from my Sikh childhood are affecting the secular upbringing of my stepfamily.

“I’m Not a Maid!” – A Critical Look at Au Pairs vis-à-vis Migrant Domestic Workers

Anna Kuroczycka Schultes

The au pair program is known as a cultural exchange providing its participants with the ability to see what life is like in a different part of the world. Advertised to potential host parents as one of “the most affordable childcare options available” (“Program costs \$ Cultural Care Au Pair”), au pairs are intertwined with the global market of migrant female domestic workers. The au pair program can be analyzed in conjunction with globalization not only from the standpoint of the transnational mobility of services, but also due to the clearly defined division of reproductive labor and intra-gender power relations that this type of work entails. Women entering the professional sector to work in high-powered

managerial positions have contributed to the rise of what Saskia Sassen calls “professional households without a „wife.”” As a consequence, domestic roles get reconfigured: professional women leave the home, providing room for the young student from abroad in the form of an au pair.

The following paper is a qualitative analysis of the role of the au pair in light of her responsibilities as a domestic worker within the household. Data gathered for this paper have been a result of my work over a period of six months (January – June 2009) with a group of ten au pairs, serving the North Shore of Chicago, who were my students in conversational English as a Second language classes. After meeting on a weekly basis in the academic setting throughout the course of the semester, each woman sat down with me for two hours in a mutually agreed upon setting to discuss her role as a cultural exchange visitor in the United States, and as a member of the host family, with which she resided. The au pairs who are the participants in this study range in age from 19-26 and descend from both European and South American countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Italy, Brazil, Bolivia, and Colombia).

Child Care Needs: Mother, Child, and Community Exclusion within a Proposed National Child Care Program

Olivia Scobie

This paper recognizes the limitations of Canada’s current child care policies and advocates for Canada to develop a National Child Care Program. Often, the existing child care program in Quebec is cited as a strong model for which Canada could adopt at the national level. While the Quebec model of child care does offer a significant support for many families, this paper examines the ways in which certain communities, children and family structures are excluded from wholly accessing the public child care services. This is true for families in rural communities, at home mothers, children with disabilities, parents working outside of the traditional nine-to-five work week, families without Canadian citizenship or particular immigrant families, and families in need of emergency child care. This paper argues that it is not enough to extend the Quebec model of child care to the national level; more consideration and inclusion of *all* children must be considered forwarding any such program.

The Economics of the Mothering Body: A Visual Art Presentation

Leesa Streifler

My presentation will involve a discussion of mothering from the perspective of subjectivity and the maternal body. My presentation will focus on my visual artwork created since becoming a mother in 2003. Based on my experience as an older, first-time mother of a son, my art critically examines socially prescribed norms of mothering on issues including maternal responsibility, domestic labour, body image, sexuality, aging, anxiety, guilt, and parenting practice. My work is in the areas of painting and photo-based, intertextual work involving drawing and text overlaid on photographs, thereby creating a dialogue between objective and subjective truth.

The Neoliberal Context of Mothers’ Carework after Separation/Divorce in Canada: Responsibilization, Reform and Real Choice?

Rachel Treloar

This paper describes the collective impact of neoliberal discourses of choice and responsibility and familialistic policies and practices on the economic, emotional and physical well-being of separated and divorced mothers. I draw on secondary data concerning mothers’ primary carework of parenting during separation and divorce, and on examples from Canadian family policy. Recent policy decisions

have been justified with reference to the principle of *family responsibility*; while at the same time promoting personal responsibility and independent choices. The concept of ‘choices’ minimizes women’s difficulties in navigating the tensions between their productive and reproductive lives; promoting a limited and neo-liberal view of work that obscures the gendered dimensions and material costs. Research on the greater economic consequences of divorce for mothers is extensive; further, family work and intimate labour by women continues to be undervalued. The invisibility of this work in the economic sphere and its absence from dominant notions of social citizenship, highlight the lack of social value and recognition afforded to mothers’ carework. I suggest that the ways in which divorced mothers exercise choice with regard to familial caring roles is both shaped by, and rooted in, the Canadian socio-political context of neo-liberal reforms. In BC, for example, cutbacks to services, the elimination of funding for most family law issues, and family law reforms that ignore economic and social inequities accompany a greater privatization of responsibility for carework. I conclude with recommendations for changes to policy and practice.

Mothers in Court

Lorna Turnbull

When mothers claim benefits related to their employment (for example Employment Insurance or Canada Pension Plan) how do the standard tests of “workforce attachment” function for them? Very well as long as their patterns of work look just like a typical male pattern. But when a mother experiences disruptions in her work because of her responsibility for children (birth or caregiving) she may find that she is not eligible for any benefits. This presentation will examine two cases that have recently been before the courts to review the way laws are applied to women and reinforce their position of inequality. In one case the mother of a disabled child who was not able to enter school until he was more than 8 years old was prevented from claiming disability benefits on her own behalf when she later became disabled. In the second case, a mother whose child was born prematurely was also ruled ineligible for disability benefits because she had not contributed sufficiently to the CPP in the year her child was born. Even when presented with compelling evidence from expert witnesses about how current measures of workforce attachment disproportionately impact women, the courts have been unwilling to find any violation of the woman’s equality rights.

Women’s Economic Inequality

Lorna Turnbull

Poverty touches different members of our communities differently, and in particular women the world over experience economic inequality relative to men. The unpaid work that primarily women perform, especially the work of caring for children, contributes to this inequality. In Canada, poverty is a significant problem. There is a growing gap between the richest 20% and the poorest 20% of the population in Canada. The richest receive nearly ten times the average after-tax income of the poorest citizens. Women are more frequently represented among the poor and experience greater depths of poverty than men. The average annual pre-tax income in 2003 of women aged 16 years and older from all sources is a mere 62% of the figure for men. Compounding this are other disadvantages experienced by many women in Canada. Aboriginal women, women with disabilities, immigrant women, and women of colour all experience even deeper poverty. The most recent Global Gender Gap Report of the World Economic Forum which considers the economic participation and opportunities, educational attainment, political empowerment and health and survival of women in countries around the globe ranked Canada 25th in 2009, down from 18th in 2007 and 13th in 2006 and behind countries such as the Philippines, Latvia, Lithuania, Sri Lanka and Croatia.

For women with children the gap between them and men is even greater. The major factor contributing to the wage gap is the presence of children, not age, marital status or education. The “motherhood earnings gap” shows that average hourly earnings of mothers are about 12% lower than those of women who do not have children, yet three quarters of all women with children under 16 years living at home participate in the paid labour force, three quarters of these full time. Even in the 21st century women still perform the lion’s share of domestic tasks on top of their paid hours in the workforce, resulting in a gendered division of paid and unpaid work. The allocation of time to non-market as opposed to market work limits the household income that women control directly and also contributes to women having less paid work experience, and/or more interruptions to their paid employment, factors which often translate into lower earnings overall. The effects of such inequities during their working years follow women into their senior years. More than sixty percent of women do not have private workplace pensions, and their earnings from the Canada Pension Plan are much lower than are men’s.

How can we promote women’s economic security and the social inclusion that such economic security can help to insure, in a way that takes account of the work of caring for children (or other dependents)? The Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women lays out measures that governments should take to promote women’s equality. This presentation will closely examine the implementation of CEDAW in Canada and more specifically in Manitoba paying special attention to budgetary measures that directly impact women’s economic situation.

Household economic strategies among young mothers in Greater Jakarta

Iwu Dwisetyani Utomo

Peter McDonald

Terry Hull

Ariane Utomo

Gavin Jones

Budi Utomo

Heru Suparno

Dadun Dadun

In this paper, we define young mothers as those aged between 20-34 years old. The paper is based on the *2009/2010 Indonesian Transition into Adulthood Survey* of 3000 respondents based on random household listing in Jakarta, Bekasi and Tangerang. The survey is funded by the Australian Research Council, WHO and the National University of Singapore. In this paper young mothers’ involvement in the securing of an independent household economy is investigated through their participation in the labour market, having side jobs for additional income, managing their husband’s and their own income. We examine the juggling of work and family and extended family responsibilities and young mothers’ well being, both psychological and physical.

Though in the public sphere, Indonesian women are moving closer progressively towards gender equity by having higher education and professional as well as political careers, “the duty” of maintaining the household economy and household economic survival strategies of the family rests upon their shoulders. Social norms expect fathers to bring money home, but, in most cases, his money is not enough for the survival of the household, thus the mother also looks for income-earning opportunities both as a formal worker earning regular income as well as having side jobs for the livelihood of the household. When the family is short of money, she looks for ways to get by either by borrowing, going to the pawn shop, turning to parents and relatives or making household products or food that can be sold for additional daily earning. This paper focuses on young mothers’ economic strategies and their impact on her

psychological as well as physical wellbeing.

Disjuncture: Mothers Experiencing Homelessness in Toronto, Loss of Child Custody, and Canada's Social Welfare System

Melinda Vandenberg Giles

The social imaginary regarding motherhood in Canada is in a state of flux. The “natural” motherhood discourse, once considered a feminist resistance movement, now competes for hegemonic space with the patriarchal, normative biomedical mothering discourse. Within this hegemonic space of “good” versus “bad” mothering practices, decisions to breastfeed or use formula, have an epidural or water birth, or allow your child to watch TV become the benchmarks for determining mothering “success.” Yet even the “bad” mothering blogs, increasingly appearing as a resistance movement to the “natural” mothering discourse, remain firmly entrenched within the normative socially acceptable limits of what a “bad” mother looks like—a mother who uses disposable diapers and feeds her baby mashed carrots from the jar.

While this middle-class Canadian “good” versus “bad” mothering discourse is applauded for being inclusive, pluralistic and multicultural, one segment of society effectively excluded from this discourse are homeless mothers. Homeless mothers provide the necessary negative reflective lens through which the middle-class Canadian “good” versus “bad” mothering discourse can assert its supremacy. Anna Tsing points out in her “Monster Stories” article about women charged with perinatal endangerment how “By setting a “bad example,” these women, in all their diversity, direct those who hear their stories toward the singular path of propriety.” (Tsing 1995: 296) Like the “monster stories,” the invisible and silenced category of “homeless mothers,” are required by society to validate the socially appropriate “nurturing mother” discourse.

Through a combination of cultural studies (exploration of normative Canadian mothering discourses defining the “Canadian mother” and the “Canadian family” through media representations and state institutions) and extensive ethnographic research of a family shelter in Toronto—participant observation, extensive interviews with mothers and their families, social workers, public health officials and community volunteers—a marginalized sector of society will be given prioritized focus rendering them visible and disempowering their representative role as a negative societal reflection.

Tsing, Anna. “Monster Stories: Women Charged with Perinatal Endangerment.” Eds. F. Ginsburg & R. Rapp. *Conceiving the New World Order*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995.

Mindful Mothering: Teaching Meditation and Mindfulness to Our Children

Liana Voia

This presentation focuses on the benefits of mindfulness and meditation in strengthening Mother-Child relationship/bond, and also on how mindfulness can be utilized in our mothering practices. Based on Buddhist philosophy, mindfulness increases the awareness and appreciation of the present moment, and helps both Mother and Child develop healthy inter-personal communication and thinking. The presenter will offer examples and simple and engaging mindfulness-based exercises that can be used daily. Prior understanding/practice of mindfulness or meditation is not necessary.

Healing Ourselves: Mothers' recovery from grief and loss

Sydney Weaver

Background & Rational: Research conducted with poor, drug-using mothers has demonstrated the existence of barriers to care for women experiencing child loss through apprehension by child welfare authorities; these include stigma, guilt, shame, and blame. These barriers may lead to unresolved chronic grief, placing women at risk of significant psychological and social problems. In a recent study of young homeless mothers in Canada, researchers identified a need for unique bereavement support for women who lose custody of their children. The report suggests mothers' own experiences of being wards of the state, and factors that contributed to their apprehension, are important considerations.

Methodology: Using participatory action research methods an advisory committee of mothers who had lost children to apprehension or death was recruited from Vancouver's downtown eastside. Twelve focus groups were conducted with the mothers. This data was analyzed and coded by the research team, revealing themes relating to support needs of mothers who use alcohol and other drugs and have lost children to apprehension and/or death. This initial assessment identified gaps in services with respect to these needs.

Outcomes: Based on findings of this first phase of the research, a psychosocial intervention was developed to assist mothers in healing from these experiences of grief and loss. Containing multiple components, the intervention, or toolkit, includes resources and activities that may be used by individuals experiencing grief and loss resulting from child apprehension. The toolkit is designed to be used individually or in group settings; with peers or with service providers.

Motherhood is no Place for Sissies: The Dynamics of Families, Feminism and the Impact on Women Artists and their Art"

Mary Weidner

The wisecracking feminist artists group the Guerrilla Girls have listed "working without the pressures of success" and "having the opportunity to choose between career and motherhood" among the perks for women artists. Is it economically and emotionally possible to successfully balance being an artist, a mother, and an academic? During the height of the feminist movement many were influenced by Miriam Schapiro, Judy Chicago, and the groundbreaking work they did with *Womanhouse* in California.

Yet, when Schapiro, a mother herself, praised a show of my work and learned I had no children, she advised me to keep it that way. I wondered why?

I started a family, nonetheless, and my work has dealt with that theme ever since. For the panel, "*Motherhood is no Place for Sissies*" a group of artist/mother/academics will present art, which focuses on the realities of mothering children, from infancy to adulthood and beyond. Works will address the complexities of familial life; how families form and mold us, provide for and provoke us; how they are applauded and maligned, idealized and disparaged. Media will include painting, film, performance art, sculpture and electronic. Panelists will also discuss particular challenges that female artist mothers face in academia and galleries. My colleagues speak of art as a calling, as a mission. The personal is the political. I was the second female art professor ever granted tenure at my university. There are currently 10 tenured women artists, and 10 tenured men. The women have 3 children: the men have 15. Why?

Negotiating the traffic between motherhood, mothering and economics in Ontario's HPV vaccination programming

Michelle Wyndham-West

In this presentation, I will discuss a portion of my doctoral research findings focusing upon in-depth interviews with Toronto mothers concerning their negotiation of the HPV vaccine for their daughters. This includes mothers with daughters at or near the subsidized middle school HPV vaccination program age and older daughters, who are not eligible for state-funded vaccination. Specifically, I am focusing upon the “traffic” (Rapp, 2000) of the discourses of motherhood (Rich, 1967) -- as propagated by governmental and pharmaceutical campaigns – and those of mothering (Green, 2004; O’Reilly, 2004) -- the experiences of women in their daily lives. Traffic is positioned as the everyday consternation and contestation of risk (Douglas, 1992) as it intersects with biological citizenship (Rose & Novas, 2002) and gender (Butler, 1990) within the neo-liberal climate of public health. Within this context, I explore a spectrum of responses to gendered risk and medicalization, which run from outright resistance to strategic accommodation. These “choices” co-exist and produce a creative ‘friction’ (Tsing, 2005) with the discourses of being a “good mother”, intensive and empowered mothering. Thus, I am analyzing how “objectification” can be tapped as a source of agency and a continually unfolding sense of self (Thompson, 2005). This is an opportunity to unpack how objectification can bring about new forms of agency hitherto unrecognized or developed. However, in this discussion I am mindful of the classed nature of the HPV vaccine as the most expensive childhood vaccine in Canada and how this comes to bear upon vaccine negotiation.

All Keynote Presenters' Biographies
(alphabetical order by last name)

Martha Albertson Fineman, Robert W. Woodruff Professor at Emory University, is an internationally recognized law and society scholar. A leading authority on family law and feminist jurisprudence, Fineman is founding director of the Feminism and Legal Theory Project, which recently published *Transcending the Boundaries of Law: Generations of Feminism and Legal Theory* (Routledge 2010). Her scholarly interests include the legal regulation of intimacy and the implications of human dependency and vulnerability. Fineman's publications include *The Autonomy Myth: A Theory of Dependency*, (New Press, 2004); *The Neutered Mother, The Sexual Family and Other Twentieth Century Tragedies*, (Routledge, 1995); and *The Illusion of Equality* (Chicago, 1991).

Andrea Doucet is Professor of Sociology at Carleton University. She is the author of *Do Men Mother?* (University of Toronto Press, 2006), which received the John Porter Tradition of Excellence Book Award from the Canadian Sociology Association, and co-author of *Gender Relations: Intersectionality and Beyond* (with Janet Siltanen, Oxford, 2008) and *A Guide through Qualitative Analysis: Listening, Seeing and Reading Narrative Data* (with Natasha Mauthner, Sage, 2012). She has published widely on themes of gender, work and care; mothering and fathering; care and justice; reflexive sociology; and knowledge construction processes. She is currently writing a book on North American primary breadwinning mothers. She is the mother of three daughters (one young adult and twin teenagers).

Bonnie Fox is a sociology professor at the University of Toronto. She is the author of *When Couples Become Parents: the Creation of Gender in the Transition to Parenthood* and editor of *Family Patterns, Gender Relations*. Her current research is on parents and their young adult children.

Pat Gowens is founder of Welfare Warriors and editor of its international journal Mother Warriors Voice. For 24 years Gowens and the Welfare Warriors have created mamas media, organized hundreds of public actions for economic justice, and inspired the creation of dozens of moms groups organizing for economic justice.

Marilyn Waring is a Professor of Public Policy at AUT University, New Zealand and has held Fellowships at Harvard and Rutgers Universities. She has a BA Hons (VUW), DPhil (Waikato), and is Personal Chair: Public Policy. She was elected to New Zealand parliament at the age of 23 in 1975 and served 3 terms. During that time she chaired the Public Accounts and Public Expenditure committees. Internationally known for her work in political economy, development assistance and human rights, she has worked throughout the Pacific and Asia. She is an Expert advisor on gender to AusAID and UNDP. Marilyn has been appointed as one of only two international members of the Canadian Index of Wellbeing, is the Treasurer of the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) and is a lay member to the Board of Judicial Studies. This Board oversees the Institute of Judicial Studies which is the professional development arm of the New Zealand Judiciary. She has been a Board Member of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand. She is the author of *Counting for Nothing: what men value and what women are worth*, one of the major outstanding international contributions to political economy. It was the subject of a best-selling documentary made by the NFB Canada *Who's Counting: Marilyn Waring on sex, lies and global economics*. In 2008, Marilyn received one of New Zealand's highest honours, becoming a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM), for services to women and economics.

All Regular Presenters' Biographies
(alphabetical order by last name)

Heidi N. Abbey is a Humanities Reference Librarian and Archivist at Penn State Harrisburg. Ms. Abbey holds a B.A. in art history and biology (Juniata College), an M.A. in art history (University of Maryland), and an M.L.S. (SUNY-Albany). Prior to joining Penn State, she worked at the University of Connecticut Libraries for twelve years. Her research interests are interdisciplinary and include art, archives, digital and popular culture, and women's history.

Dr. **Sharon Abbey** is a professor in the Faculty of Education at Brock University and Director of the Centre for Adult Learning and Community Outreach. Her current research focuses on the socialization of mothering, creativity in adult learning and arts-based inquiry. Dr. Abbey teaches course in language arts curriculum, foundations of education and women's studies.

M. Cristina Alcalde is an Assistant Professor in the Gender and Women's Studies Department at the University of Kentucky. Her research focuses on violence, gender, migration, masculinities, and motherhood in Peru and among Latinas/os in the U.S. Her book, *The Woman in the Violence: Gender, Poverty, and Resistance in Peru*, was just published.

Bitá Amani is an Associate Professor at Queen's University, Faculty of Law and Co-Director of Feminist Legal Studies Queen's and Adjunct Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School where she was a Distinguished Visiting Scholar to the Institute for Feminist Legal Studies. Professor Amani is a past editor and annotations editor for the Ministry of the Attorney General, Office of the Legislative Counsel (OLC) on the E-Laws Project, and was a legislative drafter for the 37th Legislature's Session, Ontario (2001). Her monograph, *State Agency and the Patenting of Life in International Law: Merchants and Missionaries in Global Society* (UK: Ashgate Publishing Inc., 2009) is now available.

Peggy Arcadi works in rural upstate New York as an advocate with teen mothers, and has a background in research, work, and activism related to poverty, welfare, women, and work. She was a 2005-2006 Cornell Civic Leaders Fellow for a project on challenges faced by low-income mothers.

Medora W. Barnes is an assistant professor of sociology at John Carroll University in Cleveland, OH. Her main research interests lay in the intersections of family, gender and work. Her current research examines the links between individual decision making and beliefs about gender and parenting during the transition to parenthood.

Melanie Bayly is a mother and a graduate student in the MA/PhD rollover program at the University of Saskatchewan. Her research interests are broad and include women's experiences of pregnancy, childbirth, and mothering, and how these experiences are shaped and enacted within different contexts.

Margunn Bjørnholt is a sociologist with a broad field of research interests, including mothering and gender equality, men and masculinities, alternative financial institutions and public sector change. Her most recent research project is a longitudinal follow-up study of an experimental project on gender equality in Norwegian families from the early 1970s, the Work-Sharing Couples project, with a focus on intergenerational transmission and fathers and sons in particular. The study was carried out at the department of Sociology and human Geography, University of Oslo and funded by the Research Council of Norway.

Monica Bock is a sculptor and installation artist currently affiliated with Soho 20 Gallery Chelsea in New York City. She is Associate Professor of Art in the Art and Art History Department at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, where she has served as MFA Program Coordinator. Monica has exhibited widely in venues that include Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art, Pittsburgh's Mattress Factory, Mobius in Boston, and Art in General in New York City. She received her BA '82 in Art and Art History from Oberlin College, and spent three years in Japan on a post-baccalaureate fellowship from the Oberlin Shansi Memorial Association. She received her BFA '89 and MFA '91 in Sculpture from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where she became an Adjunct Assistant Professor before accepting her current teaching position in Connecticut in 1996. She has received a variety of awards including an Arts Midwest/NEA Regional Visual Arts Fellowship.

Catherine Bryan is a PhD student in Social Anthropology at Dalhousie University. She completed her BA at the University of Winnipeg in Women's Studies, and has a master's degree in social work from McGill University. Her research focuses on the global reorganization of care through care labour migration.

Dr. **Deborah Byrd** is Associate Professor of English and Women's & Gender Studies at Lafayette College. She is co-editor of *Teaching Against the Isms: Feminist Pedagogy Across the Disciplines* and the author of articles on service-learning pedagogy, mentoring programs for teen moms, and 19th and 20th-century British writers. She is a committed community activist and a single mom trying to survive raising a teenage son.

Alana Cattapan is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Political Science at York University. Her dissertation examines experiences of citizenship related to the regulation of assisted reproductive technologies in Canada.

Tzu-Hui Chen is a Ph.D. candidate who majors in Lifespan developmental psychology in Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University. She is from Taiwan. Her research interests are immigrant women's motherhood, immigrant family, cultural nature of human development, and multicultural education from a critical perspective.

Rosa Cintrón is an associate professor at the University of Central Florida. Her research interests are related to issues of access and retention of students at the postsecondary level. She can still hear the words of her illiterate grandmother as she augured, 20 years in advanced, with puffed up pride '...when you graduate from the University...'

Judith Cockx is PhD student at the Faculty of Theology, K.U.Leuven, Belgium, doing research on experiences of mothers and fathers.

Deborah Davidson, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in York University's Department of Sociology. Her research focuses on reproduction, death, dying, and bereavement, as well as on broader issues related to health.

Annemie Dillen, PhD, is assistant professor at the Faculty of Theology, K.U.Leuven, Belgium. She published on family ethics, childhood studies and domestic violence. She is involved in a project on power and mutuality in the family.

Farishta Murzban Dinshaw, M.Sc., M.A.: Farishta works at COSTI Immigrant Services to raise awareness within ethnocultural communities about family violence and problem gambling. She also teaches in Ryerson University's MA in Immigration and Settlement Studies program. Farishta has presented nationally and internationally and has co-led research studies on issues related to settlement in Canada.

Patty Douglas is a PhD student in the Department of Sociology and Equity Studies, at OISE, University of Toronto. She taught disabled youth in the public school system and is the mom of an Asperger's identified youth. Patty is interested in feminist knowledge production, neo-liberalism, and mothering and disability studies.

Pamela Downe is an Associate Professor and the Department Head of Archaeology & Anthropology at the University of Saskatchewan. As a medical anthropologist, her work focuses primarily on issues related to maternal health, infectious disease, motherhood, girlhood, and addictions.

Dr. **Linda Ennis** is a psychoanalytic therapist in private practice and is a lecturer at York University. She has a Ph.D. in Psychology & Education, a Masters in Education, a Diploma in Child Study and a teaching degree (B.Ed.) from the University of Toronto. Dr. Ennis has written extensively and presented at conferences in the area of balancing parenting with employment.

Pamela Fox is an Associate Professor of English at Georgetown University. She is a feminist scholar of literary and cultural studies whose research, teaching, and 3 books focus on intersections of gender and class. She co-teaches a course on U.S. cultural constructions of motherhood with Prof. Elizabeth Velez, and the two are co-writing an article about mythologies of "natural" motherhood.

Kryn Freehling-Burton, M.A., is a women's studies instructor and on-line major advisor at Oregon State University. She has studied activist theatre, student mothers, and performances of Birth. Kryn lives with her partner and their four children. They are pleased that they share their parents' love for science fiction!

May Friedman lives in downtown Toronto with her partner and two children. She blends graduate work, social work and teaching. May's Twitter account is, sadly, defunct at this time.

Dr. **Cheryl Gosselin** is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology at Bishop's University in Sherbrooke, Quebec. She teaches courses in Gender Studies, Sociology of the Family, Ethnicity, Quebec Society and Feminist Theory. She is also coordinator of the Women's Studies Program. Her current research focuses on women's centres throughout Canada, their history, activities and strategies associated with achieving women's rights.

Elizabeth Gregory, Professor of English, directs the Women's Studies Program at the University of Houston and is the author of <Ready: Why Women Are Embracing the New Later Motherhood> (Basic Books, 2008). She blogs on the politics and economics of motherhood and women's work at www.domesticproduct.net.

Diana L. Gustafson is an Associate Professor of Social Science and Health in the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University where she pursues her commitment to health-related equity and social justice issues in teaching, research, and community life. Recently she joined a CURA research team investigating social inclusion among single mothers living on social assistance.

Manavi Handa is a midwife in Toronto, where she has worked for the past decade. She also holds a faculty position in the Midwifery Education Program at Ryerson University. Manavi is deeply committed to caring for immigrant and marginalized women. Her graduate work was in Bioethics at the University of Toronto.

Elisabeth Harrison is a first year PhD student in Critical Disability Studies at York University. She holds a Masters degree in Women and Gender Studies from the University of Toronto, and a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree In Women's Studies from Trent University.

Yael Hasson is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Haifa and coordinator of the Israel Women's Budget Forum. (The Israeli Women's Budget Forum includes more than 30 Israeli organizations: women's organizations, human rights and social change organizations, and academic associations. The Forum works to advance the mainstreaming of gender in the design, analysis and execution of policy, with the goal of promoting equality between men and women.)

Jenna Hawkins is a fourth year undergraduate student at Memorial University of Newfoundland. She is completing a double major in Philosophy and Sociology. She is presently conducting primary and secondary research funded by the Strategic Partnership Initiative in the area of 'mothering and the Newfoundland and Labrador economy'.

Mary Rita Holland, BA (UNB); MA, MPA (Queen's), is currently a PhD. Candidate in Public Policy at Carleton University. Her research interests include child benefits, caregiving, and the role of ideology and discourse in public policy. She lives in Kingston, Ontario with her husband and three year old daughter.

Linda Hunter is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Guelph as well as the Department's Undergraduate Coordinator. Dr. Hunter has published journal articles on the depiction of gender in the media, HIV awareness health campaigns, young mothers, communication and HIV prevention, and on the support needs for HIV positive women and mothers. She is currently researching teaching methods and the application of interdisciplinary programs such as fine art, to the study of sociology, with a focus on the representation of motherhood. Linda has worked with the AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County and the Stonehenge Therapeutic Community. She has made numerous presentations on topics of health, gender, and media, to organizations, conferences, schools, and the community and has worked as a regular gender and media columnist for CBC national radio.

Kerri Kearney is an assistant professor in educational leadership at Oklahoma State University. As related to this particular presentation, she is also both an adoptive and a biological mother. She is published in the areas of leadership, the emotional impacts of human change, and visual methodologies in qualitative research.

Christine Kelly is a PhD Candidate in the School of Canadian Studies at Carleton University. Her research interests include attendant services for people with disabilities, disability activism, Independent Living, feminist disability studies, and the feminist political ethic of care.

Sophia Korb is a doctoral student at the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology. Her interest in mothering as an instrument of social change was piqued by her clinical training as a therapist for families in homeless shelters in the Bay Area. Shayna currently lives and writes in New York City.

Margaret Lazarus is an Academy Award winning documentary filmmaker. For over 25 years she has made films about social justice with a particular focus on women's issues. She has taught, "Producing Film for Social Change," at Tufts University for three years. She is one of the co authors of the chapter on violence against women in the many editions of *Our Bodies, Ourselves*.

Robyn Lee is a PhD candidate in Social and Political Thought at York University. Her research focuses on breastfeeding as a model for embodied subjectivity, through readings of Irigaray, Levinas and the later Foucault. She earned an M.A. in Philosophy from the University of Victoria and a B.A. from the University of King's College in Contemporary Studies and Philosophy.

Gayle Letherby is Professor Sociology at the University of Plymouth, UK. She researches and writes in a variety of areas including reproductive and non/parental identity. Key interests in this area include reproductive loss, infertility and involuntary childlessness, teenage pregnancy and young parenthood and chronic illness and pregnancy. She is also interested in all things methodological. With Ross Coomber (Plymouth) she is currently the editor of *Sociological Research Online* <http://www.socresonline.org.uk/>.

Margaret Little is an anti-poverty activist and academic who works in the area of single mothers on welfare, welfare/workfare reform, and retraining. She is a Full Professor, jointly appointed to Gender Studies and Political Studies at Queen's University. Her two books are: *If I Had a Hammer: Retraining that Really Works* (UBC Press, 2005) and the award-winning *No Car, No Radio, No Liquor Permit: The Moral Regulation of Single Mothers in Ontario, 1920-1997* (Oxford Press, 1998).

Judith MacDonnell is an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing, Faculty of Health, York University. Research interests include a focus on equity, mothering and women's political practice.

Colleen Mack-Canty, independent scholar, has a Ph.D. Political Science. Her former positions include professorships at the University of Idaho and Montana State University. Her research in third wave feminism, parenting, and postcolonial feminism includes articles/book chapters with *The Journal for Research on Mothering*, *NWSA Journal*, *The Journal of Family Issues*, Routledge, SUNY, and Greenwood.

Kathy Mantas is a teacher and artist-researcher. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Education at Nipissing University in North Bay, Ontario. Kathy's research interests include teacher development and adult education, arts education and (co)creative processes, artful and creative methods of inquiry, creativity and wellness in women, and women's issues.

Elise Matthews (BA, BSN) is a graduate student in Culture and Human Development (Psychology), University of Saskatchewan. Her research interests include: narratives of experiences of voluntarily childless couples; meaning-centered approaches to parenthood motivation; and constructions of parenthood after childhood maltreatment. She is the recipient of a SSHRC Master's Scholarship.

Ailsa McKay is Professor of Economics at Glasgow Caledonian University and a founder member of the Scottish Women's Budget Group. She has acted as technical expert on a number of country based

gender budget initiatives and has served as special advisor on the budget to the Equal Opportunities Committee of the Scottish Parliament.

Judith Mintz holds a B.F.A from York University. She has worked in artist-run centres, taught yoga and practiced shiatsu therapy, and is the mother of two young daughters. Judith is pursuing her M.A. in Canadian and Indigenous Studies at Trent University. Her research focuses on women's life writing and childbirth.

Mitzi Grace Mitchell has been a Lecturer in the Faculty of Health, School of Nursing, at York University since 2004. Previously, she was an Educator at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto Ontario. As a Registered Nurse, Mitzi has pursued a career as a gerontological specialist for over twenty years. During this time, she has continually studied to upgrade her knowledge. Presently, she is pursuing a PhD in Public Health with gerontology as the focus of her research. She has written a book chapter in the text, "*Fundamentals of Nursing: The Nature of Nursing Practice in Canada*" (2nd ed.) (Pearson, 2009). Recent publications include articles in "*Nursing Philosophy*", "*Perspectives*", and "*The Alberta Journal of Educational Research*". In 2004, Mitzi appeared as a guest on TVO's "2nd Opinion" where she spoke about ageism in healthcare. Mitzi is an active member of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario. She has served on the executive committee of the Clinical Nurse Specialist Interest Group as a Student Member, President, Past President, and currently is the Director of Membership and Education. Mitzi has presented her research work at national and international conferences and has been a keynote speaker at many workshops and seminars.

Joani Mortenson is an FCCS Interdisciplinary PhD Candidate. Joani's doctoral research collects and maps the conception and birth narratives of queer-identified parents who access midwifery services. Joani is interested how research partners use gesture to demonstrate embodied knowledge. These personal stories will provide valuable contributions to the culture of motherhood and midwifery care in BC.

Mandeep Kaur Mucina: As a practicing social worker, youth worker, and community worker for the past 10 years, Mandeep aspires to bring awareness and contribute to the fight against violence against women. Mandeep is currently working towards a PhD in the Adult Education and Community Development program at OISE and finished a Master's degree in Social Work, from the University of Toronto. Born and raised in a small community on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Mandeep finished a BA in Human and Social Development at the University of Victoria. Since arriving in Toronto four years ago, Mandeep has been active in the South Asian community, working as a counselor to provide therapeutic support and education to South Asian communities in the area of Violence Against Women (VAW). Mandeep also uses the arts to promote consciousness around violence against women and participates in the community play, *Meri Kahahi: My Story*. Currently, she is focusing her research on second-generation South Asian women and their experiences of honour-related violence, particularly exploring women from this generation negotiate cultural knowledges, such as honour, in the Canadian context.

Chris Mulford, mother of two grown-ups, has been a breastfeeding advocate since 1970, as well as a nurse, lactation consultant, and lay counselor. She has written widely about breastfeeding as a women's issue, with particular emphasis on breastfeeding and work. She still has more questions than answers on this topic.

Dr. **B. Lee Murray** specializes and teaches in the area of child and adolescent mental health. Her research interests include: Suicidal adolescents and their families, sexual health and healthy peer relationships of adolescents with developmental disabilities, and mothering. Dr. Murray also uses autoethnography as methodology to explore the normative discourse of mothering and to unravel the secrets of mothering.

Karen Murray is Associate Professor of Political Science at York University. Her research weds political theory, governance and urban studies. A study of poverty governance in Vancouver's east end is forthcoming in *BC Studies*. Related research has been published in *Canadian Historical Review*, *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*, and *Canadian Public Administration*.

Catherine Nantongo, with a Bachelor Degree in counselling, has been working as Senior Counselor with WIRDA operating in rural Central Uganda, since 2005. In her multiple roles as counselor, by counseling and referring hundreds of vulnerable rural pregnant women to care and support services, she has saved lots of life.

Grace Bosibori Nyamongo is visiting Scholar at Dartmouth College. She attended Kenyatta University and University of Nairobi before receiving her doctorate in Women's Studies at York University, Canada. Grace is the author of "Gendered Silence: Sexual Violence against women during ethnic Conflicts in Kenya" in the *Asian Women Journal Vol 23, No.4 (2007)*. Her PhD dissertation examined women Small-scale Tea Producers in Kenya. Grace's research interests include gender issues in Sub-Saharan Africa, violence against women, and African sexuality.

Helen O'Brien received her master's degree in social work (M.S.W.) from Columbia University in 1989 and Ph.D. from New York University (2007). Her dissertation was on the intergenerational influences on parenting styles of Irish immigrant mothers. She is currently replicating the study in Ireland to explore the influences on parenting styles of Irish mothers. Dr. O'Brien also received training in Family Therapy from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Her clinical practice from 1989-2008 was primarily in: HIV/AIDS, mental health in both in and out-patient settings with children and their families. Dr. O'Brien joined Monmouth University's School of Social Work in the Fall of 2008. She is teaching in both the graduate and undergraduate programs. She serves as a reviewer for *Affilia, Journal of HIV/AIDS & Social Services, Health and Social Work*, and remains as trainer for NASW's HIV Spectrum Project, nationwide. Dr. O'Brien has presented on clinical practice with Irish immigrants internationally, as well as presenting at conferences on HIV/AIDS nationally.

Adwoa Onuora is a doctoral candidate in the department of Sociology and Equity Studies in Education at The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education/University of Toronto (OISE/UT). Her main areas of specialization include African feminist theory, African Diasporic Cultural Studies, Indigenous knowledge production, African/Diasporic spiritual traditions, Women and Education.

Abigail L. Palko will receive her PhD in Literature, with a graduate minor in Gender Studies, from the University of Notre Dame in May 2010. Her dissertation is entitled "Motherhood, Declined: Negotiating Maternal Subjectivities in Irish and Caribbean novels, 1934-2007"; her research focuses on twentieth-century women's novels of the Atlantic Triangle.

Laura Pennington will receive her master's in political science degree from Virginia Tech in May, 2010. She is a graduate of Randolph-Macon Woman's College and is completing her thesis on the challenges facing "mail-order brides" with regards to domestic violence and U.S. citizenship.

Zanna Pillars, a University of Michigan Medical School student, founded creative collective Nurture Mothers: three centers and virtual community, offering networking and mentoring in entrepreneurship, writing, music, etc. Zanna developed the curriculum for these unique childbirth classes. She's a writer, decorated activist and leader, speaker, musician, academic researcher, and single mother.

LaShawnDa L. Pittman-Gay is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the sociology department at Northwestern University and a dissertation fellow at Hiram College. She received her M.A. in Sociology from the University of Connecticut and B.S. in Urban Policy from Georgia State University. Her areas of interest include social inequality; urban poverty; race, class, and gender; and carework. Her dissertation "Standing in the Gap: African American Caretaking Grandmothers" uses in-depth interviews and ethnographic fieldwork to investigate custodial grandmothers' caretaking experiences from their own perspectives.

Elizabeth Podnieks is an Associate Professor in the Department of English and the Graduate Program in Communication and Culture at Ryerson University. Her teaching and research interests include mothering, life writing, modernism, and popular/celebrity culture. She is the author of *Daily Modernism: The Literary Diaries of Virginia Woolf, Antonia White, Elizabeth Smart, and Anaïs Nin* (McGill-Queen's UP, 2000) and the co-editor of *Hayford Hall: Hangovers, Erotics, and Modernist Aesthetics* (Southern Illinois UP, 2005). She is also the co-editor, with Andrea O'Reilly, of the scholarly collection *Textual Mothers, Maternal Texts: Motherhood in Contemporary Women's Literatures* (Wilfrid Laurier UP, 2009).

Sarah Reid is a fifth year PhD Candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of Toronto. Her paper comes out of her dissertation project on women's status attainment across their employment histories. Her objective is to mitigate between potential costs and benefits associated with different job exit types on women's labour market outcomes. Of special interest is the association between motherhood/ family-related job exits and women's labour market success.

Christina Reymer: A partnered mother of five, and long time campaigner for recognition of the parenting as work, Christina Reymer is the instigator of *Parents As Partners*, a lobby group for tax reform to allow for income splitting. Christina is vice President of the National Council of Women of New Zealand, and Director of *Mahitahi*, Catholic Overseas Volunteers. She holds a Masters Degree from the University of Waikato, New Zealand.

Amy Romagnoli is a recent graduate of the Master's program in the Department of Sociology at Wilfrid Laurier University. Her main research interests include gender, poverty and health, working within a feminist framework and with an eye towards using research in politically emancipatory ways. Amy is currently the Early Years Data Analysis Coordinator for Waterloo region, working with various community partners to research and understand resource gaps that exist for families in various neighbourhoods across the region, and to promote community action.

Terry Roman, MSW, is Director of Easton Area Neighborhood, Inc., a non-profit agency that provides assistance to moderate- and low-income residents of the city and county. For many years, Terry served as director of Behavioral Health Services for a nearby county.

Louise Marie Roth is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Arizona. Her primary research interests are gender, family, organizations, and law. Her earlier work analyzed gender inequality on Wall Street, and publications from this research include *Selling Women Short: Gender Inequality on*

Wall Street (2006). Her current research examines institutional influences on reproduction and childbirth, especially health insurance and medical malpractice using quantitative data on cesarean sections and interviews with medical, insurance, and legal practitioners.

Danielle Roth-Johnson is a professor in the Department of Women's Studies at UNLV. Recent publications include "Environments and Mothering" (Andrea O'Reilly and Geoffrey J. Golson, Eds., *The Encyclopedia of Motherhood* [forthcoming]). Current research focuses on the impacts of public policies on women's health and women in environmental justice movements.

Sarah Sahagian is a second year PhD student at York University's PhD in Women's Studies. She holds an undergraduate degree in history and gender studies from Canada's Queen's University and a master's in gender from the UK's London School of Economics. While at the LSE, Sarah was a recipient of the school's graduate merit scholarship, an award given to the top thirty graduate students entering the LSE. At York, she is currently the holder of the university's Elia scholarship. Sarah's academic specialty is considering questions of ethnic and diasporic hybrid identities from a maternal theory lens.

Lisa Sandlos is a faculty member of both the Department of Dance and the School of Kinesiology and Health Sciences at York University. Currently a Ph.D. candidate in The School of Women's Studies (York), Lisa holds an M.A. in Dance (York) and certification in Laban Movement Analysis (UQAM).

Jasjit Kaur Sangha is currently teaching Women Studies and Sociology at Brock University. She uses the framework of intersectionality to critically assess and analyse the experiences of mothers. Her current research explores the complexity of stepmothering and mothering as a woman of colour. She is currently working on a book on South Asian Mothering that is due to be published in the Spring of 2011 by Demeter Press.

Anna Kuroczycka Schultes is currently a Ph.D. candidate in English-Modern Studies focusing on migrant women domestic workers at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Her recent publication appeared in *The Journal of Research on Women and Gender*, entitled "I'm Not a Maid!" – A Critical Look at Au Pairs vis-à-vis Migrant Domestic Workers." She has been awarded the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Women's Studies Graduate Student Research Award in 2009 for her paper on "Becoming Modern – Fashioning the American Immigrant Woman." She holds a Master of Arts Degree from Warsaw University, Poland, and a Master of Science in Instruction from Northeastern Illinois University.

Olivia Scobie is graduate student of Sociology at York University and a mother of two. Her Master's thesis examines the needs of mothers post incarceration and she is also interested in rhetoric surrounding breastfeeding. She currently resides in Toronto.

Valeria Seigelshifer is a doctoral candidate in the School of Education at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and advocacy expert of the Israel Women's Budget Forum. (The Israeli Women's Budget Forum includes more than 30 Israeli organizations: women's organizations, human rights and social change organizations, and academic associations. The Forum works to advance the mainstreaming of gender in the design, analysis and execution of policy, with the goal of promoting equality between men and women.)

Leesa Streifler's art practice is divided into two areas: painting, and digital photography combined with drawing and text. Streifler is a Canadian artist, born in Winnipeg and based in Regina, Saskatchewan, and is a faculty member in the Visual Arts Department at the University of Regina, where she teaches painting and drawing. She is the recipient of numerous grants and awards from bodies including the Canada Council for the Arts, the Saskatchewan Arts Board and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). Her work is in the collections of the National Gallery of Canada, the Saskatchewan Arts Board, the Winnipeg Art Gallery, the MacKenzie Art Gallery, the Dunlop Art Gallery, the City of Regina, the City of Winnipeg. Streifler is known for her critical, feminist work on body image and socially prescribed conventions of femininity. Her practice engages with identity and gender theory as well as notions of memory and the psychology, through the lens of narrative. She is currently focussing on family dynamics, sexuality and the aging body. Her well known body of photographic work, *NORMAL*, (1997), has been exhibited widely and is in the collection of the National Gallery of Canada as well as the MacKenzie Art Gallery in Regina.

Rachel Treloar is an Interdisciplinary PhD student (Sociology, Public Policy and Law) at Simon Fraser University. Formerly the Director of Counselling: Parents and Children at the Victoria Separation and Divorce Resource Centre, her current research explores the construction and transformation of high conflict divorce from a critical and feminist perspective.

Lorna Turnbull: A graduate of the International School of Geneva (Switzerland), Queen's University, the University of Ottawa and Columbia University in New York City, Dr. Lorna Turnbull has taught and published in both law and women's studies. She is currently an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba. She recently published *Double Jeopardy: Motherwork and the Law* which is recognized nationally and internationally as "essential reading" on motherhood and law. In addition to teaching and academic writing, Dr. Turnbull has been involved in social development at the grassroots level for most of her life. Currently she is involved as part of an advisory group on gender based analysis of budgets and legislation. Dr. Turnbull currently resides in Winnipeg with her three children.

Iwu Utomo is a Fellow at the ADSRI-ANU. She also teaches Social Research Design and Gender and Population. She was granted the *Merdeka Fellowship* to do her post doc and won several Australian Research Council research award as well as the 2007 Australian Development Research Award-AusAID.

Melinda Vandenbeld Giles is a University of Toronto PhD student in the Department of Anthropology. Her dissertation research involves exploring normative Canadian "good mother" discourses, and those marginalized and excluded from these discourses. She is currently doing ethnographic research of a family shelter in Toronto.

Elizabeth Velez is Academic Director of the Community Scholars' Program at Georgetown University, which provides first-year, first-generation students with intensive academic support. She also teaches in the Women's and Gender Studies Program and the English Department, including the course *Cultural Constructions of Motherhood*, co-taught with colleague Dr. Pamela Fox. The two are working on an article about mythologies of natural motherhood, and Velez is working on an article about resistance to cultural norms of motherhood in 1950's sitcoms.

Between 2001 and 2003, she co-edited and wrote reading guides for three feminist anthologies of poetry published by Warner Books.

Liana Voia is a Hypnosis, Mindfulness and Meditation Practitioner who maintains a private practice in Ottawa, Ontario. She has a background in education, social work, counselling, hypnosis, mindfulness, and Yoga.

Samantha Walsh is a Second year PhD student in Sociology and Equity Studies at the University of Toronto. She holds a Masters degree in Critical Disability Studies from York University, and a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree In Sociology from the University of Guelph.

Sydney Weaver MSW, RSW is a doctoral student and sessional instructor at the School of Social Work, University of British Columbia. Sydney is currently coordinating research exploring mothers' grief and loss resulting from child apprehension, and is conducting research assessing father engagement in mothers' addictions services.

Mary Weidner is a Professor of Art at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA. She has lectured widely; exhibited throughout the United States, at the Poznan Academy of Fine Arts, Poland, at the Nagoya-Zokei College of Art and Design and Aichi Prefectural Museum, Japan; and received travel grants to Italy, Spain, Germany, Mexico and Central America.

Sue Marie Wright, Ph.D., serves as Director for the Children's Studies Program at Eastern Washington University. She holds a position as Professor in the Department of Sociology and Justice Studies, teaching courses on children, gender, and family. Published articles include "Bridging Third-Wave Feminism and Family Pluralism" (2004).

Michelle Wyndham-West is a mother of two boys and a PhD candidate in the Social Anthropology department at York University. Her interdisciplinary research on the gendering of HPV, the vaccine and related policies in Ontario draws inspiration from post-structuralist social theory, social science approaches to risk and feminist praxis.

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CALL FOR PAPERS

The editorial board is seeking submissions for Vol. 3.1 of the *Journal of the Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement (JMI)* to be published in spring/summer 2012.

Mothers and the Economy: The Economics of Mothering

The journal will explore the topic of Mothers and the Economy from a variety of perspectives and disciplines. We welcome submissions from scholars, students, activists, government agencies and workers, artists, mothers, and others who work or research in this area. Cross-cultural, historical and comparative work is encouraged. We also welcome creative reflections such as poetry, short stories, and artwork on the subject.

Topics can include (but are not limited to):

the economics of maintaining sustainable family systems; mothering, appropriate technology and economics; mothering and microcredit; mothering and economic activism; mothering and economic activism through the arts; mothering with reduced resources; social and economic supports for mothering; mothering within the neoliberal context; motherwork and valuation of motherwork, mothering and the economics of unpaid labour; mothers-as-providers, mother-led cooperatives; the effects of privatization/commodification on women; mothering and the economics of raising children with disabilities; the economics of maternal mortality rates; the “selling” of mothering and the economics of consumerism; consumption and the marketing of mothering; the economics of reproductive technologies and surrogacy; structural adjustment policies and mothering; the financial implications for mothers of family law reforms and welfare state developments, the economic impacts of environmental degradation on mothering; quantifications of mothering/caregiving/parenting as a part of the base structure of the economic productivity of society; children as economic assets/burdens; the actual value of domestic/unpaid labour; motherhood and the gender pay gap, mothering and the feminization of poverty; mothering, occupational segregation and the wage gap; the impacts of economic globalization on mothering and kinship networks; the envisioning and articulation of more human-centered economic systems and policies to enhance mothering/caregiving practices; transformations of male breadwinner-female caretaker models; the economics of caregiving/parenting in nontraditional households; mothering and the “new home economics”; mothering, feminist economics and social justice; mothering and welfare policies; mothering and health care costs; the commodification of domestic labour; global and transnational motherhood, transnational families in the new global economy; the economics of the second shift; global care chains; mothering/caregiving/parenting and economic justice, motherwork in organisations; mothers’ economic transactions; mothers’ labour paid and unpaid; mothers in enterprise and mothers in alternative enterprise; mothers and non-monetary economic flows; mothers in the workplace; homeschooling mothers; mothers as consumers; mothers and Marxism; mothers and neo-liberalism; mothers in a capitalist economy; mothers in a diverse economy; mothers and food economies; mother’s milk and breastfeeding; the economic roles of mothers in undeveloped economies; the economic roles of mothers in non-Western cultures; mothering and economic subjectivity; mothers as alternative economic activists.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Articles should be 15-18 pages (3750 words) including references.
All should be in MLA style, WordPerfect or Word and IBM compatible.

Please see our style guide for complete details:

<http://www.motherhoodinitiative.org/journalsubmission.html>

SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY November 1, 2011

**** TO SUBMIT WORK ONE MUST BE A MEMBER OF MIRCI**

Please direct your submissions to:

Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement (MIRCI)
140 Holland St. West, PO Box 13022, Bradford, ON, L3Z 2Y5