

Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement 2019 Conference

MOTHERS, MOTHERING, HEALTH, AND WELL-BEING: PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL, SPIRITUAL, CULTURAL, AND EVIRONMENTAL

APRIL 11-14, 2019, York University, McLaughlin College, Toronto

Conference Overview

The conference "Maternal Wellbeing and Health: Emotional, Physical, Psychological, Social, Spiritual, Cultural, and Environmental," hosted by the Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement, explores the complexity of the present state of motherhood as both identity and experience in the context of women's health. Its specific aim is to produce social science and humanities research to address the needs and concerns of women's maternal wellbeing. The topic of women's health has emerged as an important topic in health and women's studies over the last two decades. Since most women become mothers or engage in some form of motherwork, much of the scholarship on women's health has centered on maternal health issues. Likewise, mothers' roles in health promotion have captured the interest of researchers and practitioners because mothers tend to assume responsibility for the health of their children, families, and communities. Consequently, mothering is associated with a loss of physical, emotional, and social wellbeing. Mother-centred concerns, however, are often overshadowed by a medical emphasis on the biological as well as by the legal and social expectation that women assume primary responsibility for parenting effectively. This conference will examine the social determinants of maternal wellbeing and the impact of poor maternal health on social issues, such as women's employability and access to education. Overall, the conference will explore, leverage, mobilize, and implement social science and humanities research on maternal wellbeing that is relevant and useful for activists, service providers, and policy makers who work on behalf of mothers in order to empower mothers through improved social, spiritual, emotional, and physical maternal wellbeing in the context of culture and the environment.

Conference Overview continued

Bringing together scholars and practitioners who research maternal health and wellbeing

from various geographical regions, and political, cultural, and interdisciplinary perspectives, the conference locates maternal health in a cross-disciplinary and crossgeographical context. As well, the conference will examine the ethical, political, sociocultural, economic, historical, racial, spiritual, physical, psychological, and environmental dimensions of maternal health to consider wide and diverse topics and perspectives, including the following: the ways in which culturally dominant ideologies about motherhood and health are taught or challenged; ways in which various paradigms of maternal thinking, being, and acting are constructed, negotiated, embedded, enacted, or resisted in specific health and social situations; ways the medical system can empower or disempower mothers; and the maternal ways of engaging in activism and advocacy work on maternal health from cross-cultural perspectives and on behalf of marginalized and oppressed mothers, childless women, and children. In order to approach the subject broadly, the conference will critically address a range of topics, including pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding, menopause, infertility, addiction, adoption, cancer, cultural identity, peace activism, mothers in conflict zones, gun violence, poverty, and popular culture. Existing at the intersection of health studies and motherhood studies, the proposed conference invites participants to communicate with policy developers, researchers, and community workers in order to engage, move, and change issues concerning motherhood. With over 100 presenters from 11 countries the conference will be an invaluable platform by providing a broad and deep perspective on maternal health theories and issues across global configurations. We are so pleased you are here.

Dr. Andrea O'Reilly,

andree D'Kelly

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE Presented by: Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement

Date: Thursday April 11- Sunday April 14, 2019 Location: McLaughlin College, York University, Toronto, Ontario

MOTHERS, MOTHERING, HEALTH, ANDWELL-BEING: PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL, SPIRITUAL, CULTURAL, AND EVIRONMENTAL

Thursday, April 11

<u>8:00 am to 9:00 am; JCR 014 McLaughlin College</u>: Registration and Continental Breakfast

<u>9:00 am to 9:30 am; JCR 014 McLaughlin College</u>: Words of welcome and exciting updates about MIRCI

9:30 to 11:00 am, SESSION A

A.1: Birth; ROOM 211 McLaughlin College

Chair: Alys Einion

- o Elisabeth Berger Bolaza- "Birth Pleasure"
- o Doreen Balabanoff- "Embodied Experience and Birth Environment Design"
- Alys Einion- "The I-Story: a feminist narrative analysis of midwifery language and discourse"

A.2: Mothers, Mothering: Loss; ROOM 212 McLaughlin College

Chair: Valerie Andrews

- o Donna McCart "Still a Mother"
- Regina Edmonds- "A Gun Took My Child From Me"
- Kayte Thomas "Motherhood Lost: Maternal separation in the family court system"

<u>A.3: Empowering Mothers; ROOM 213 McLaughlin College</u>

Chair: Judith Mintz

- o Patricia Sotirin- "Research Shows Guns Are Bad for Mothers' Health--Or Does It?"
- o Diane Shoos- "Re-screening Domestic Violence"
- Nada Alfeir "Communication Privacy Management Practices of Middle East Mothers with Children in U.S. Public Schools' Sexual Education Programs"

11:00 am to 11:15 am: BREAK

11:15 to 12:45 pm: SESSION B

B.1: Empowering Mothers; ROOM 211 McLaughlin College

Chair: Patricia Sotirin

- Taila Esnard- "Cultural Conundrums of Mothering as Black Female Entrepreneurs: The Case of the Caribbean"
- Katie Garner- "How Feminism Failed the US Childcare Movement and What Empowered Moms Can Do About It"
- Judith Mintz "Never Not Mothering: Mothering, Self Care and the Feminist Ethics of Yoga"

B.2: Young Mothers; ROOM 212 McLaughlin College

Chair: Regina Edmonds

- Deborah Byrd- "Gimme (Age-Appropriate) Shelter': Young Mothers' Reflections on U.S. Supportive Housing Facilities for Low-Income Families "
- Lauren Kirshner- "Young Mothers and Creative Writing: What Their Stories Can Teach Us"
- Erin Kuri "Challenging the Invisibility of Queer "Young Mothers" within Pre and Postnatal Healthcare"

 Valerie Andrews – "Psychological Impact for Surrendering Mothers and Their Children"

B.3: Mothers And Children; ROOM 213 McLaughlin College

Chair: Madison Banks

- Dianne Fierheller "Good" Mothers, "Risky" Mothers and Children's Health"
- Denise Ferris-"Mary Leunig: The Art of Inspiring Blood and Guts"
- Rebecca Bromwich- "Concussions and Constructions of Girl as Athlete: The Rowan Stringer Case – "Law Reform and Mother Blame"

12:45 to 2:00 pm: LUNCH

<u>2:00 to 3:30 pm; JCR 014 McLaughlin</u>

College Keynote Panel: Indigenous Maternal Health

Chair: Rebecca Bromwich

- Hannah Tait Neufeld and Jamie Cidro "Indigenous Maternal Health Through a Post-colonial Lens"
- Elder Betty McKenna "Four Seasons of Health"

3:45 to 4:00pm: BREAK

<u>4 pm to 5 pm: JCR 014 McLaughlin, Keynote Speaker</u>

Chair: Rebecca Bromwich

-**Lesley A. Tarasoff** "'I don't want to turn totally invisible': Experiences of plurisexual mothers through pregnancy and the early years of parenting"

<u>Friday, April 12th</u>

<u>9:00 am to 10:00 am; JCR 014 McLaughlin College</u>: Registration and Continental Breakfast

10:15 am to 11:45 am SESSION C

<u>C.1. Empowering Mothers; ROOM 211 McLaughlin College</u>

Chair: Joan Gavan

- o Haile Eshe Cole "Showing Up: A Black Feminist Ethic of Radical Care and Love"
- Gertrude Lyons "Expanding Mothering: Raising a Woman's Awareness of the Opportunities of Personal and Psychosocial Growth and Development in Mothering"
- Elenora Joensuu- "Everyday World-Making: Toward an Understanding of Mothering and Affect"
- o Lorna Turnball- "Matricentric policy evaluation and development"

C.2: Mothering and Popular Culture; ROOM 212 McLaughlin College

Chair: Fiona Green

- Michelle Hughes Miller and Tamar Hagar– "Not just the Opposite of Good: Examples of the Bad Mother Trope in *Bad Mothers: Regulations, Representations and Resistance*" (Demeter Press, 2017)
- Chantal Bayard "Maternal Body: discourses and representation on social media"
- Tessa Pyles- ""mother! and the Making of Maternal Monsters
- Victoria Bailey "Can I have some more Mom? Mother monitored media diets "

C.3: Three Mothering in the Academe; ROOM 213 McLaughlin College

Chair: Nicole Willey

- Jennifer Heisler "Relational Dialectics and Academic Motherhood: The Tensions and Coping Strategies of the Departmental Chairperson"
- Ginger Bihn- Coss "Family Friendly" or "Worker Penalty" Policies: Inhibitions and Barriers to Parental Leave"
- Erin Graybill Ellis & Jessica Spears "In/Visibilty: Performing Wellness in the Academy"

C.4: Maternal Identities and Practices; ROOM 214 McLaughlin College

Chair: Heather Dillaway

- Florence Pasche Guignard "Health and Spirituality in the Francophone Contexts of Natural Parenting"
- Karen Nelson Villanueva and Annette Lyn Williams "Multicultural Navigations in Step-parenting"
- o Heather Dillaway- "Transitions: Reflections on Menopause and Reproductive Aging"

11:45 to 12 Noon: BREAK

12:00 noon to 1:30 pm SESSION D

D.1: Mid Life Mothering; ROOM 211 McLaughlin College

Chair: Laurie Kruk

Lorinda Peterson, Nicole Willey & Kathy Mantas – "Midlife Mothering and Health and Well-being"

D.2: Mothers and Children; ROOM 212 McLaughlin College

Chair: Deborah Byrd

- Eleonora Joensuu "Blood, Mud, Poop, and Vomit: Reimagining Disgust through the Mother-Child Relationship"
- Fiona Joy Green- "Feminist Mothering: Fostering the Wellbeing of Mothers and Children"
- o Kate Greenway- "Spiritual Alchemy: Art, Adoption and Healing"

D.3: Mothers and Mothering in the Academe ROOM 213 McLaughlin College

Chair: Michelle Hughes Miller

• Anita Ewan- "Teaching with care: Exploring the effectiveness of critical nurturing pedagogy"

- Erin Graybill Ellis "Mental and Physical Health Impacts of Graduate School on Graduate Student Mothers"
- Karla Knutson- "Mothering While Teaching Abroad"
- Cheryl Neale-McFall and Mary Hermann "Job satisfaction, enrichment, and institutional policy: listening to faculty mothers"

D.4: Maternal Health: ROOM 214 McLaughlin College

Chair: Joan Gavan

- Alys Einion "At the point of creation: a feminist analysis of midwifery and its relationship with the surveillance, control and definition of women, reproduction and families"
- Rosana Edwards "First-time mothers 35 and older- Their breastfeeding experiences, becoming a mother, and quiet acts of rebellion"
- Emma Posca "Indian Hospitals- The Impact on Mothering and Motherhood in Indigenous Communities"
- Linda Hunter "Understanding HIV Related Stigma Experienced by Mothers: The Next Generation and Implications of the New Ontario Health Education Curriculum"

<u>D.5: "On Wanting Motherhood: The Art of Maternal Desire and Infertility";</u> <u>ROOM JCR 018 McLaughlin College</u>

Chair: Robin Silbergleid

- Maria Novotny
- Elizabeth Walker
- Robin Silbergleid

1:30 - 2:30 pm: LUNCH

2:30pm - 4:00 pm SESSION E

E.1: Mothering in the Academe Part 2; ROOM 211 McLaughlin College

Chair: Nicole L. Willey

- Nicole L. Willey "Making it While Mothering in the Academy: Mentors, Friends, and Networks"
- Robin Silbergleid "Thirteen Ways of Looking at Infertility and Academe"
- Sherri Rose "Are you looking for Maman or Madame?: My Dual Identity as French Professor and Parent"

E.2: Mothers and Literature; ROOM 212 McLaughlin College

Chair: Donna Sharkey

- Linn Baran –"I Dwell in (Im)possibility: Rebellious Motherhood and Gothic Domesticity in Novels and Memoirs of the Twentieth First Century"
- Veeksha Vagmita "Fathers, 'mothering', and public responsibility in *The Hero's Walk*"
- Andrea O'Reilly "Coming to Understand What is Still Incomprehensible to Me:" Loss and Learning in Sue Klebold's A Mother's Reckoning: Living in the Aftermath of Tragedy"

E.3: Mothering and Reproduction: ROOM 213 McLaughlin College

Chair: Maythee Rojas

- o Lakshmi Nair "Reaching into the Dark: A Root Re-Vision"
- Maythee Rojas "Expectations of Flight"
- Joyce White "Lòt Bó Dlo: The Other Side of the Water"

E.4: Motherlines: ROOM 214 McLaughlin College

Chair: Lorna Turnball

- Lena Elodie Rebecca Richardson "Journeying to the Cave of Cats: An Autoethnographic Inquiry into the Role of Being Mothered by Land-Based Connection"
- Networking Children and Grand Children Around the World"
- Muna Saleh "Stories We Live and Grow by as Canadian Muslim Mothers and Daughters"

4:00 pm to 4:15 pm: BREAK

<u>4:15 pm to 5:45 pm: JCR 014 McLaughlin College</u>

Keynote Panel- "Pregnancy, Birth and Post Partum

Chair: Alys Einion

- o Ann Marie A Short and Abigail L. Palko "Cultural Representations of Breastfeeding"
- Lesley A Tarasoff "The embodied experience of pregnancy and women with physical disabilities: Challenges and opportunities"
- Claire Dion Fletcher "Indigenous midwifery: Decolonizing health care and strengthening our families"

Friday 5:45 pm to 9:00 pm: JCR 014 McLaughlin College; Reception and Launch

Saturday, April 13^h

<u>8:00 am to 9:00 am: JCR 014 McLaughlin College:</u> Reception and Continental Breakfast

9:00 am to 11:00 am: JCR 014 McLaughlin College; Matriarchal Societies

Chair: Heide Goettner-Abendroth

- o Heide Goettner-Abendroth- "Matriarchies as Societies based on Motherhood"
- o Barbara Alice Mann- "R-E-S-P-E-C-T Find out What It Means"
- Patricia Mukhim- "Stresses and strains in Khasi Matriliny: Need to reclaim lost values"
- Kaarina Kailo "The Great Ma and Ancestral Deity of Slavic and Finno-Ugric Peoples--from Stone Babas to the Golden Woman"

11 am to 11:15 am: BREAK

11:15 am to 1:15: JCR 014 McLaughlin College; The Gift Economy

Chair: Letecia Layson

- Genevieve Vaughan A solution hidden in plain sight: the maternal gift economy
- Angela Dolmetsch "Nashira an other alternative practices, living examples of the Gift Economy"
- Dr. Erella Shadmi- "Non-populist activism: The revival of the gift economy and the possibility of Human security and well being"
- Sherri Mitchell "Erasing Patriarchal Pathology"

1:15 pm to 2:30pm: LUNCH

2:30pm to 4:00 pm: SESSION F:

<u>F.1: Mothering and the Academy: Four Mother-Teacher-Scholars' Journeys:</u> <u>ROOM 211 McLaughlin College</u>

Chair: Gloria Park

- o Gloria Park
- Mellissa Carr
- Kris Lowrey
- Laurel Black

F.2: Birth: ROOM 212 McLaughlin College

Chair: Doreen Balabanoff

- Ellen Heed "Women's Sexual Pain After Childbirth: Development of a Somatic Model for Scar Tissue Remediation, Education, and Management"
- Joan Garvan- "Pregnancy and birth outcomes for vulnerable and disadvantaged women in Australia's national capital"
- Martina Hynan "Birthing Grounds: Mapping Places of Birth in Rural Ireland"

F.3: Empowering Mothers: ROOM 213 McLaughlin College

Chair: Emilie St.Hilaire

- Lynn O'Brien- "Starting Early and Young: Laying the Groundwork for Mothers' Psychological Health and Well-Being before (Young) Women Become Mothers"
- Amy Lee Wai Sum- "Healthy Mothers and Healthy (New) Lives in Hong Kong: Contributions to Maternal and Fetal Health by Traditional Knowledge Reinvented"
- Emilie St. Hilaire "Are reborn mommies okay?"

F.4: Mothers Writing: ROOM 214 McLaughlin College

Chair: Deborah Byrd

- Laurie Kruk "Mothering &/as Health, Wholeness, Happiness: My Continuing Journey as a Mom-Poet"
- Melinda Vandenbeld Giles "Exploring Social Justice through Narrative Ethnography: Families Living in Toronto Motels"
- Therese Novotny- "(Re)Imagining Motherhood and Spiritual Health: The Medieval N-Town Play"

4:15 pm to 4:30 pm: BREAK

4:30 pm to 6:30 pm: JCR 014 McLaughlin College

<u>KEYNOTE PANEL "Fertile Truths: Nine short films about bodies, brains, birth and bias"</u>

Chair: Deborah Byrd

Speakers: Reproducing Stigma Film Circle

Description: This courageous collection of nine micro-documentaries explores themes of body image and weight stigma in the realms of fertility, pregnancy, reproduction and parenting. Filmmakers worked with RedLab (Re-Visioning Differences Mobile Media Arts Lab) in order to tell stories about their bodies, families of origin and families of the present in dynamic and innovative ways. Blending story, music, and rich visual materials, the collective impact of these films is a grappling with the stories we carry about ourselves, our bodies and minds, our appetites, and our relationships to reproduction. Talk back with the filmmakers will follow the screening.

<u>Sunday, April 14th</u>

<u>8:00 am-9:00 am</u>: <u>JCR 014 McLaughlin College:</u> Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 am to 11:00 am: JCR 014 McLaughlin College

<u>Keynote Panel: Global Maternal Health</u>

Chair: Regina Edmonds

- Margaret MacDonald "The global campaigns to reduce maternal mortality; from 'neglected tragedy' to cause célèbre"
- o Tanya Hayles- "Why Black Moms Connection Matters"
- Elsie Amoako "Racialized Maternal Health"
- Candace Johnson "Delivering Global Maternal Health: Considerations from Feminist

Theory and Praxis"

11:00 am to 11:15 am: BREAK

11:15 am to 12:45 pm SESSION G:

G.1: Young Mothers: ROOM 211 McLaughlin College

Chair: Katie Garner

- Madison Banks "Resistance, Resiliency and Perseverance: An Exploration of the Situated Knowledges of Young Mothers"
- Andrea O'Reilly- "Matrifocality, Maternal Empowerment, and Maternal Healing: Conceiving Empowered Young Motherhood in Miriam Toews' Summer of My Amazing Luck"
- Heather Bergan- "Keeping our spirits up": Stress and strategies for well-being in the lives of young mothers"

<u>G.2: Maternal Health: ROOM 212 McLaughlin College</u>

Chair: Judith Mintz

- o Emily Saunders "Maternal Mental Health in Newfoundland"
- Samar Khan "Barriers to Maternal Mental Healthcare among Migrant South Asian Women with symptoms of Postpartum Depression"
- Katherine Wardi-Zonna "Adverse Childhood Experiences and the Impact on Women's Health and Wellness"
- Kelly Diane MacCready "Mothering Over the Long Haul: Social Constructs and Women's Experiences"

12:45 pm to 1:00 pm: BREAK

1:00 pm to 2:30 SESSION H

H.1. Mothers in Academe: ROOM 211 McLaughlin College

Chair: Lynn O'Brien Hallstein

- Kimberly Hillier "Graduate Studies and Motherhood: Experiences of Graduate Student Mothers in a Southwestern Ontario Context"
- Heather Robinson "Mother-Bodies, Desire and Well-Being in Academic Spaces"

H.2. Mothers and Literature: ROOM 212 McLaughlin College

Chair: Victoria Bailey

- o Rohni Bannerjee "Beyond Agni Pariksha"
- Liz Podnieks "Matrifocal Voices in Literature"
- Annisa Wardi- "Ecosystems of Memory and Midwifery in Ntozake Shange's Sassafrass, Cypress and Indigo"

Useful Information

CONFERENCE LOCATION:

The conference will take place at McLaughlin College. Building 51 on MAP Keynote Panels will take place in Common Room (JCR) (Rm 014 McLaughlin)

FOOD:

A continental breakfast will be served as well as coffee and light refreshments during breaks. Vegetarian options will be available. A reception with refreshments and cash bar will take place Friday evening.

Lunches will be on your own; numerous eating-places in Student Centre and York Lanes: 10 min walk from conference location

PLEASE NOTE: THE CONFERENCE LOCATION IS SCENT-FREE

INTERNET: For non-York conference attendees please use Air York Guest and follow the instructions

BOOK LAUNCH AND BOOK SALES: We will be holding a gala Demeter launch during the Friday night reception. As well Demeter titles will be available for sale at 40% off; Back JMI issues for \$10/back JARM issues for \$5.

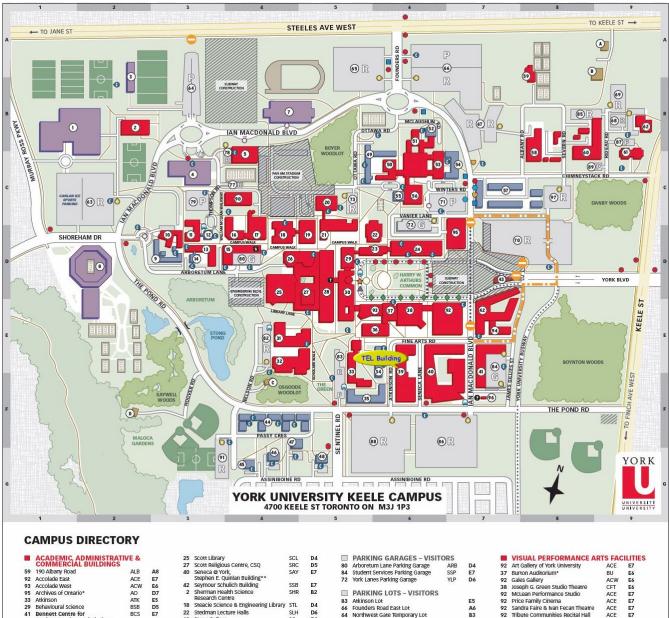
TRANSPORTATION:

To York University: Parking is available at LOT 66 on map: Visitor parking (not reserved) part of the lot. Cost is \$10 per day; paid via machine and credit card There are two subway stations at York University; about equal distance to the McLaughlin College: Pioneer Village and York University. https://www.google.com/maps/@43.7739092,-79.4998269,15z Taxis: Beck Taxi: (416) 751-5555

HOTEL INFORMATION

Residence Inn Marriott, Vaughan 11 Interchange Way Vaughan ON, L4K 5W3 Phone 905 8111 Link to hotel <u>https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/yyztv-residence-inn-toronto-vaughan/</u> The hotel is an 8 to 15 minute taxi ride to McLaughlin College, York University

The hotel is a 5-7 minute taxi fide to McLaughin Conege, Fork University The hotel is a 5-7 minute. Walk to subway station: 1 or 2 stops to conference location depending on stop you get off to access McLaughlin College.



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Ross Building R D5	

	VISUAL PERFORMANCE AR	IS FAU	ILIIIES
92	Art Gallery of York University	ACE	E7
37	Burton Auditorium*	BU	E6
92	Gales Gallery	ACW	E6
38	Joseph G. Green Studio Theatre	CFT	E6
92	McLean Performance Studio	ACE	E7
	Price Family Cinema	ACE	E7
	Sandra Faire & Nan Fecan Theatre	ACE	E7
92	Tribute Communities Recital Hall	ACE	E7
	SPORT & RECREATION FAC	ILITIES	
1	Canlan Ice Sports*	ICE	B1
4	Tait McKenzie Centre	TM	C3
8	Tennis Canada – Rexall Centre*	TC	D2
7	Track & Field Centre*	TFC	B4
3	York Stadium	STA	A2
20	HISTORICAL HOUSE		
С	Hart House	HH	F4
D	Hoover House	HOH	F2
в	Stong Barn	SB	A9
A	Stong House	SH	A9
•	Shared use		
**	Non-York facility		
~	Temporarily Closed		

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Please visit www.yorku.ca/mapskeele for the most up to date version of the campus map

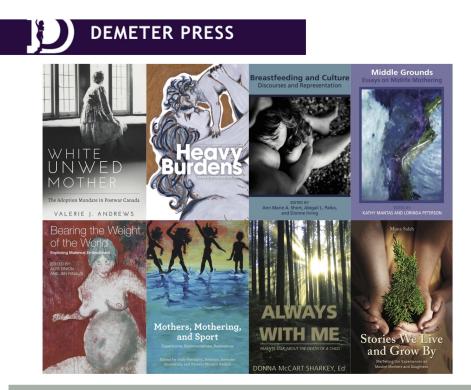
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AUGUST 2013

DEMETER TITLES AND JM/JARM JOURNAL ISSUES AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT CONFERENCE

All Demeter titles 40% off, back issues of JMI; \$10 (regular \$22), back issues of JARM: \$5 (regular \$22). Cash and cheque made out to "Demeter Press" are accepted as well as major credit cards and debit.



Book Launch

Friday, April 12, 6 - 9 pm

Junior Common Room 014 McLaughlin College York University, Toronto Light Refreshments and cash bar

Titles

- White Unwed Mother: The Adoption Mandate in Postwar Canada, By: Valerie J. Andrews
- Heavy Burdens: Stories of Motherhood and Fatness, Edited by: Judy Verseghy and Samantha Abel
- Breastfeeding and Culture: Discourses and Representation, Edited by: Anne Marie A. Short, Abigail L.Palko and Dionne Irving Middle Grounds: Essays on Midlife Mothering, Edited by: Kathy Mantas and Lorinda Peterson
- Bearing the Weight of the World: Exploring Maternal Embodiment, Edited by: Alys Einion and Jen Rinaldi
- Mothers, Mothering, and Sport: Experiences, Representations, Resistances, Edited by: Judy Battaglia, Rebecca Jaremeko Bromwich and Pamela Morgan Redela Always With Me: Parents Talk About the Death of a Child, Edited by: Donna MacCart Sharkey
- Stories We Live and Grow By: (Re) Telling our Experiences as Muslim Mothers and Daughters, By: Muna Saleh



CALL FOR PAPERS

The editorial board is seeking submissions for the Journal of the Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement (JMI) Vol. 11. 1. & 2. will be published in summer 2020

SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE ON MATERNAL HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Sub topics could include,

Ethical, political, sociocultural, economic, historical, racial, spiritual, physical, psychological, and environmental dimensions of maternal health to consider wide and diverse topics and perspectives including the following: the ways in which culturally dominant ideologies about motherhood and health are taught or challenged; ways in which various paradigms of maternal thinking, being, and acting are constructed, negotiated, embedded, enacted, or resisted in specific health and social situations; ways the medical system can empower or disempower mothers; and the maternal ways of engaging in activism and advocacy work on maternal health from cross-cultural perspectives and on behalf of marginalized and oppressed mothers, childless women, and children. There is the possibility to explore perceptions, patterns, implications, and intersections of maternal health and wellbeing across a wide range of perspectives, themes, and topics.

We welcome submissions from scholars, students, activists, artists, writers and community workers and mothers. We are open to a variety of types of submissions including academic papers from all disciplines and creative submissions and alternative presentations including creative writing and art. Community based and participatory/action research is encouraged.

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

SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 1st 2019! * TO SUBMIT WORK ONE MUST BE A 2019 MEMBER OF MIRCI

Please mail a copy of article to address below (with a separate cover sheetwith name, email and address)

JMI 2546 10th Line Bradford, Ontario L3Z 3L3

Also email article with a separate cover sheet with name, email and address, to:info@demeterpress.org



MIRCI bids Adieu...

After over twenty-two years of operation and fifty conferences, MIRIC says farewell on June 1st and will become the, International Association of Maternal Activism and Scholarship, directed by Dr. Katie Garner and located in Chicago.

I will remain as editor of *The Journal of the Motherhood Initiative* (though name of journal will likely change) and publisher of Demeter Press.

2019 MIRCI members will retain MIRCI membership privileges until the end of 2019 and full/sustaining members will receive the 2019 JMI issues. MIRCI 2020 memberships will convert to 2020 memberships of IAMAS.

I am deeply humbled and honoured to pass my beloved baby MIRCI to the caring and capable hands of Dr. Garner and will be remain a devoted other-mother to the International Association of Maternal Activism and Scholarship (IAMAS).

I hope to see you all at the inaugural IAMAS conference with the theme of, 'caring about mothers', happening May 1-3, 2020 in Chicago.

In Sisterhood,

Dr. Andrea O'Reilly

Andree D'Kelly

Welcome to the new IAMAS

(International Association of Maternal Activism and Scholarship)

We are so excited to begin the next chapter of MIRCI's great history as a collective of maternal scholars.

Mothers are essential to a thriving country and the businesses within it, but here's the thing: We need to act like it. That means using our infinite skills as a group to demand better. Women create, and we must create a society that respects mothers (not just reveres them). This cultural change requires education and coalition building. IAMAS must continue to build a coalition of bright, feisty, and determined women who are teachers, politicians, activists, social workers, journalists, and businesswomen to talk to one another and develop critical theory that can better inform policy and business decisions in our respective countries. We take a wide-reaching look at the interplay of economic, psychological, sociological, cultural, and legal issues facing mothers in order to create smarter policies that support families and permit mothers to do their work in more authentic ways. IAMAS.com is about connecting women around ideas that change lives and then moving transformative messages to the mainstream. Progress is happening, but information often remains out of reach of those who need it most or is presented in venues that lack the diversity needed for broad social support. Alliance building is at the heart of this movement and the new site, IAMAS.com, will provide an engaging place for these ideas to be exchanged, solidified, and nurtured. Motherhood is hard, always has been, always will be, but right now it's harder than it needs to be. That's why IAMAS is zeroed in on the deep-rooted changes that must happen to make the "hard" more manageable. At IAMAS, our core beliefs are:

1. Women carry an unfair burden of child-rearing via the demands of intensive mothering and severe wage inequality.

Our governments and economic sectors should contribute more to the work of child-rearing (specifically via childcare and family leave reform), thereby acknowledging that this labor is done not only as a matter of personal choice but strengthens the future of civic and economic vitality.
Women must be better informed and organized in order to demand the substantial support that is required. The current set-up of dual low-wage worker families and single-parent/income families is unsustainable.

4. One's gender and sex organs aren't always the same, but we need to talk about how moms have different needs - and need different protections - legally, economically, and socially. Modern feminism is doing little on this front to help mothers.

5. Motherhood can and should be a place of empowerment, not oppression. Our countries and employers require women to continue to replace our population. Let's claim the power in that. 6. Women need support so that they can mother effectively and be economically independent. Much of the "choice" regarding opting out of work is an illusion. This can harm economically strained families and creates a massive drain of resources that our countries and businesses need to have our country succeed.

7. Children need stable care and mothers should have the opportunity to provide that care.

All mothers can benefit from the work done through IAMAS.com. We welcome new members to this important cause. Making motherhood better for all.

Unite. Educate. Advocate. Lead the Change. Learn more at https://iamas.com

IAMAS CONFERNCE 2020

Theme: Caring About Mothers

Dates: May 1-3, 2020 (may be extended if number of applications warrants it)

Location: Chicago, IL, USA



This international conference will offer scholars, writers, mothers, artists, and more a venue to explore the critical issue of motherhood empowerment. In nearly every country around the world, mothers are *revered* for their life-giving and care-giving abilities, but that does not always mean they are *respected*.

While mothers are often the caregivers of others, who cares about mothers and the work that they do? Do people (including ourselves as mothers), communities, businesses, governments, and other entities empower, or fail to empower, mothers? What ideologies, cultural practices, work habits, government policies, and family dynamics require deeper analysis and why? What might the impact of change look like and how might this be important? Who would be impacted? How do race, class, gender, sexuality, single motherhood, religious beliefs, citizenship, and ableism (among other factors and markers) shape this empowerment, or lack thereof?

Often women's caregiving skills are dismissed as essential traits that do not need to be compensated. What are the harms of essentialism in this framework? Are there any benefits? How does 'choice feminism' shape the ways that we talk about motherhood? How does outsourced care and paid carework alter the ways that we think about caregiving? How might trickle-down feminism come into play when women outsource childcare and what might the alternatives be? In what ways might capitalism and the changes therein (e.g., austerity measures, universal income, the gig economy, national childcare, etc.) help or hinder women individually or as a group based on sociological markers?

This conference will explore the ways that mothers care for others, the importance of supporting carework, and the feminism that informs both. We hope you can join us! Confirm your interest at <u>www.iamas.com</u> today.