



Motherhood & Culture

International and Interdisciplinary Conference

15-17 June 2015
 Iontas Building
 Maynooth University
 Co. Kildare, Ireland

Monday 15th June

09.15-09.30 **Welcome**

09.30-11.00 **Plenary: Professor Andrea O'Reilly**
 York University, Toronto
 Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement (MIRCI)

Chair: Tanya Cassidy
 Iontas Lecture Theatre (Ground Floor)

Ain't I a Feminist?: Matricentric Feminism, Feminist Mamas, and Why Mothers Need a Feminist Movement/Theory of Their Own

11.30-13.00 **Motherhood and Literature 1: Myths and Identity**
 Iontas Seminar Room
 Ground Floor

Chair: Ursula Fanning
 Mothering Across Languages
Eglé Kackutė
 Vilnius University

'This new drama of being a mother (yes, there are cannibals in my dreams)': Fluids and Subjectivity in Anne Enright's *My Milk*

Claire Brophy
 Maynooth University

'Mütterglück'? On Motherhood and Happiness in Contemporary German Culture
Gillian Pye
 University College Dublin

Motherhood and HIV
 An Foras Feasa Seminar Room
 First Floor

Chair: Máire Leane
 Insights from a HIV-positive Mother: Beginnings from a Narrative Study
Denise Proudfoot
 Dublin City University

HIV and Criminalized Motherhood: The Case of Jill
Emily Field
 University of Western Ontario

Maternal Milk and HIV/AIDS: Controversy, Complexity and Culture
Tanya Cassidy
 Maynooth University

Defending the Choice to be Child-free: Narratives of Non-motherhood in Contemporary Women's Writing in French
Julie Rodgers
 Maynooth University

Voluntary Non-Motherhood: Gendering (Post) Memory in Contemporary French Women's Writings of Trauma and Immigration
Natalie Ségeral
 University of Hawaii at Manoa

Mediated Motherhood
 Nirsia Seminar Room
 Second Floor

Chair: Carrie Smith-Prei
 The Commodification(s) of Motherhood: Mediated Discourses of Consumerism and Celebrity Culture
Natalia Krzyzanowska
 Osnro University

Digitally Mediated Motherhood and Celebrity Culture
Kate Orton-Johnson
 University of Edinburgh

A Maternal Forum of One's Own: Natural Parenting and Media in Francophone Contexts
Florence Pasche Guignard
 University of Toronto

13.00-14.30 **Lunch, Phoenix Restaurant**
 North Campus

14.30-16.00 **Motherhood and Health Services**
 Iontas Seminar Room
 Ground Floor

Chair: Denise Proudfoot
 'One of Life's Most Magical Experiences': Constructions of Motherhood in the Discourse of Pregnancy Advice Literature
Ornaith Rodgers
 NUI Galway

Evolving Maternal Identities: The Role of Early Years Practitioners in a Changing Irish Context
Sheila Garrity
 UNESCO Child & Family Research Centre, Galway

Changes and Consistencies in Birthing: The Case of San Dionisio del Mar, Mexico
Marta Iannetti
 University of Bologna

Voluntary Non-Motherhood
 An Foras Feasa Seminar Room
 First Floor

Chair: Dawn Llewellyn
 Understanding Women's Chosen Childlessness in Ireland: Exploring the Explanatory Value of Individualization and Spoiled Identity
Joan O'Mahony
 University College Cork

Defending the Choice to be Child-free: Narratives of Non-motherhood in Contemporary Women's Writing in French
Julie Rodgers
 Maynooth University

Voluntary Non-Motherhood: Gendering (Post) Memory in Contemporary French Women's Writings of Trauma and Immigration
Natalie Ségeral
 University of Hawaii at Manoa

Reflections on Maternal Identity
 Nirsia Seminar Room
 Second Floor

Chair: Nollaig Frost
 Constructing the Attached Mother in 'The World's Most Feminist Country'
Sunna Simonardottir
 University of Iceland

Constructing Maternal Identities: Transgressive Practice in Scholarly Writing
Diana L. Gustafson
 Memorial University, St. John's

The Constructed Identity of Motherhood - Female Teleology as an Expression of Biological Limitation
Susi Gottlöber
 Maynooth University

16.30-18.00 **Queer(fing) Motherhood**
 Iontas Seminar Room
 Ground Floor

Chair: Bex Harper
 Lesbian, Bisexual and Queer Mothers Crafting Narrative Narratives with Media Representations
Elizabeth Reed
 University of Sussex

Queering the Concept of Motherhood by Families of Choice in Poland
Joanna Mizielińska
 Polish Academy of Sciences

Polish Academy of Sciences & University of Warsaw

'Une maman, une papa'? Lesbian Mothers in France
Gill Rye
 Institute of Modern Languages Research, University of London

Reproductive Technologies
 An Foras Feasa Seminar Room
 First Floor

Chair: Kate Orton-Johnson
 Merit Making: Money and Motherhood: Women's Experiences of Commercial Surrogacy in Thailand
Elina Nilsson
 Uppsala University

When IVF Fails: Renegotiating Normality in Contemporary Italian Novels
Laura Lazzari
 Franklin University Switzerland

Motherhood and Religion
 Nirsia Seminar Room
 Second Floor

Chair: Florence Pasche Guignard
 Maternal Silences: Motherhood and Voluntary Childlessness in Contemporary Christianity
Dawn Llewellyn
 University of Chester

At the Feet of Mothers: Islam, Reproduction and Forced Migration among Somalis in Nairobi, Kenya
Lucy Lowe
 University of Edinburgh

Anna Magnani and the Italian 'Earth Mother': Ideologies of the Mother and Nationhood in Cinema
Melissa Powell
 University College London

Tuesday 16th June

09.30-11.00 **Plenary: Professor Nancy J. Chodorow**
 University of California, Berkeley
 Harvard Medical School/Cambridge Health Alliance

Chair: Valerie Heffernan
 Iontas Lecture Theatre (Ground Floor)

Mothering through the Ages (of Woman)

11.30-13.00 **Maternal Discourse across Cultures and Institutions**
 Iontas Seminar Room
 Ground Floor

Chair: Sheila Garrity
 Mothering and the Navigation of Schooling: Russian, Palestinian, and Jewish Mothers in Israel
Lauren Erdreich
 Levensky College of Education and MOFET Institute

Performing Immigrant Motherhood in Super-Diverse Urban Contexts
Agata Lisiak
 Humboldt University, Berlin

'She did not give birth to me, but she is my mother'. Giving birth, Raising children and the intricacies of Motherhood in Apiao, Chiloé (Chile)
Giovanna Bacchiddu
 Pontificia Universidad Católica, Santiago de Chile

Motherhood and Psychoanalysis
 An Foras Feasa Seminar Room
 First Floor

Chair: Petra Bueskens
 What's Motherhood Got to Do with it?
Rosemary H. Balsam
 Yale University and Western New England Institute for Psychoanalysis

'I said that there was a little bit of hair and a tiny piece of bone in it: that means I can finally call myself a mother'.
Anthony McCarthy
 National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street, Dublin

Pluralistic Theoretical Understandings of Second-time Motherhood: Different Insights or more insight?
Nollaig Frost
 Middlesex University London

Milk and Motherhood
 Nirsia Seminar Room
 Second Floor

Chair: Julia Mason
 My Breast, My Self: Maternal Subjectivity in the Cultural Depiction of Breastfeeding
Sharon Tugwell
 Birkbeck College London

Race and 'Good' Motherhood: Black Women's Experiences of Breastfeeding
Patricia Hamilton
 University of Western Ontario

Mothering as 'Identity Work': Ethnographic Reflections on Contemporary Parenting Culture
Charlotte Faircloth
 University of Roehampton

13.00-14.30 **Lunch, Phoenix Restaurant**
 North Campus

14.30-16.00 **Bloomsday Panel: Mother Ireland**
 Iontas Seminar Room
 Ground Floor

Chair: Susi Gottlöber
 I Hear Fish Drowning
Sarah Strong
 Practising Artist

Burying Terra Mater: The Myth of Mother Ireland and the Figure of the Absent Mother in Contemporary Irish Narrative Cinema
Niamh McLoughlin
 University of Limerick

Divine Maternity: Marianism, Motherhood, and Moral Control in 20th Century Ireland
Michael Flanagan
 St. Nicholas Montessori College

Maternal Identity and Stigma
 An Foras Feasa Seminar Room
 First Floor

Chair: Charlotte Faircloth
 Embodied Resistance, Legitimising Stories: How Teenage Women Describe their Pregnancy Decisions from Abortion to Motherhood
Sarah Beakaert
 City University, London

Using Statistics to Write Out our Cultural History of Concealed Pregnancy
Sylvia Murphy Tighe
 Trinity College Dublin

Good Mother - Bad Mother: Exploring Maternal Ambivalence through the Experience of Depression and Anxiety during Pregnancy
Aleksandra Staneva
 University of Queensland

Migrant Mothers and Healthcare
 Nirsia Seminar Room
 Second Floor

Chair: Diana Gustafson
 Reproducing Punjabiya: Family Phetic and Birth Control among Indian Migrant Women in Italy
Sara Bonfanti
 University of Bergamo

What they talk about when they talk about Motherhood: Perceptions of Motherhood among Somali-born and Swedish-born Mothers and Child Health Nurses
Erik Olsson & Kristin Eliasson
 Centre for Equity in Healthcare in Western Sweden

Health Communication and Chinese Migrant Mothers in the UK
Olan (Sarah) Gong
 University of Leicester

16.30-18.00 **Bloomsday Panel: Joyces and Motherhood**
 Iontas Seminar Room
 Ground Floor

Chair: Maggie O'Neill
 The Last Word: Molly Bloom
Paul Schwaber
 Wesleyan University

Abjection in James Joyce's 'The Dead'
Barry Ryan
 University of Gothenburg

Single Motherhood
 An Foras Feasa Seminar Room
 First Floor

Chair: Anna Kingston
 The Story of Choice and Single Motherhood
Yianna Liatsos
 University of Limerick

A Graphic Novel
Penelope Mendonça
 University of Arts, London

Shifting Patterns of Responsibility: The Changing Nature of Parental Responsibility for Divorced Irish Mothers
Rosemary Crosse
 NUI Galway

Motherhood and Anthropology
 Nirsia Seminar Room
 Second Floor

Chair: Shauna Wilton
 Negotiating Motherhood in Swedish Society: Literary, Medical, and Media Discourses
Margaretha Falgren & Anna Williams
 Uppsala University

The Decision to become a Mother in Spain
Bruna Alvarez
 Autonomous University of Barcelona

To be a Mother in the Norwegian Welfare State: National Identity, Social Policies, and CitizenSHIP
Irina Casado I Aijón
 Autonomous University of Barcelona



- 1 Iontas Building
- 2 The Crèche
- 3 River Apartments
- 4 Phoenix Restaurant
- 5 Pugin Hall
- 6 St. Patrick's
- 7 The Accommodation Office

Wednesday 17th June

09.30-11.00 **Motherhood and Literature 2: Motherhood across Ages**
 Iontas Seminar Room
 Ground Floor

Chair: Gillian Pye
 The Concept of Motherhood among Teenagers, Adult, and Older Women
Amparo Moreno
 Autonomous University of Madrid

Samuel Beckett's 'Historical Old Hags': The Ageing Maternal Feminine in Beckett's Radio Play *All That Fall*
Brenda O'Connell
 Maynooth University

Feminism and Activism
 An Foras Feasa Seminar Room
 First Floor

Chair: Natalia Krzyzanowska
 Knowing Emotional Mothers: Affective and Epistemic Activism in Irish Childbirth Politics
Máire Leane
 University College Cork

Motherhood and Postfeminism: Awkward Political Connections
Carrie Smith-Prei
 University of Alberta and Visiting Fellow, Maynooth University

#RegrettingMotherhood: Between Maternal Taboo and Feminist Protest
Valerie Heffernan
 Maynooth University

Motherhood and Visual Art
 Nirsia Seminar Room
 Second Floor

Chair: Mercedes Carbayo Abengozar
 Simone de Beauvoir's Conception: Envisioning the Maternal Body
Rosemary Betterton
 Lancaster University

New Maternalist Aesthetics: Motherhood, Subjectivity, and Visual Art
Eti Wade
 University of West London

Mothers make Art
Susan Hogan
 University of Derby

Information Session for Postgraduate Students and Early Career Researchers
 Room 1.26, First Floor

Individual Research Opportunities in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
Jennifer Brennan
 European Advisor (ICP), Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and National Delegate, Excellent Science Pillar

Maynooth University as a Host Institution for a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship
Aoife Shanley
 Maynooth University
 Research Development Office

11.30-13.00 **Motherhood and Literature 3: War and History**
 Iontas Seminar Room, Ground Floor

Chair: Gill Rye
 Motherhood in a World at War: Elizabeth Bowen's *The Heat of the Day*
Maggie O'Neill
 University of Limerick

Motherhood at War: The Impossibility of the 'Good-enough Mother'
Maria-José Blanco
 King's College London

Mothers and Mothering: Maternal Representations
Ursula Fanning
 University College Dublin

Motherhood and Television and Television
 An Foras Feasa Seminar Room
 First Floor

Chair: Cordula Böcking
 From Northern Europe to North America: The Changing Face of Motherhood in the adaptation of *Forbrydelsen* to *The Killing*
Kim Akass
 University of Hertfordshire

Mothers and Antieros: Analyzing Agency, Power and Representation in *Weeds*, *Sons of Anarchy* and *Breaking Bad*
Julia Mason
 Grand Valley State University

All you need is Love?: Soap Opera's Ambivalent Contribution to Recent Debates about Motherhood in Germany
Katie Stone
 Maynooth University

Motherhood and Neoliberalism
 Nirsia Seminar Room
 Second Floor

Chair: JaneMaree Maher
 The Dilemma of Choice for the 'Working Mothers' in Ireland
Clare O'Hagan
 University of Limerick

Lean in, Opt out: Media and Policy Discourses and the lived Experiences of 'Stay-at-Home' Mothers
Shani Orgad
 London School of Economics

Momprenuers, Leaning in and Opting out: Work/Family Choices under Neoliberalism
Shauna Wilton
 University of Alberta

Masterclass for Postgraduate Students/Early Career Researchers
 Room 1.26, First Floor

Motherhood and Digital Feminism Part 1
Carrie Smith-Prei
 University of Alberta and Visiting Fellow, Maynooth University

Please registration required. Please contact Carrie Smith-Prei at carrie.smith-prei@ualberta.ca for further details.

Motherhood and Digital Feminism Part 2
Carrie Smith-Prei
 University of Alberta and Visiting Fellow, Maynooth University

Please registration required. Please contact Carrie Smith-Prei at carrie.smith-prei@ualberta.ca for further details.

13.00-14.30 **Lunch, Phoenix Restaurant**
 North Campus

14.30-16.00 **Motherhood and Literature 4: Fear of the Maternal**
 Iontas Seminar Room
 Ground Floor

Chair: Ornath Rodgers
 Maternity: Matter and Monster in Hoffmann's *The Sandman*
Jeffrey Champlin
 Bard College

'You have too much blood in him': Narrative Fear of Maternal Biology
Barrit Aström
 Language Studies, Umeå

Monstrous Motherhood: Genetic Manipulation and Hybrid Babies
Evelyn Tsitas
 RMIT University, Australia

Motherhood and Cinema
 An Foras Feasa Seminar Room
 First Floor

Chair: Kim Akass
 Floral Imagery and Private Space: Representing East German Motherhood in Recent German Film and Television
Bex Harper
 Maynooth University

Migrant Mothers in Recent Turkish-German and Turkish-Austrian Film: Charting Inter-generational Difference in *Die Fremde* and *Kuma*
Cordula Böcking
 Maynooth University

Sylvia Morales' *A Crashing Love*: Redefining Latina On-screen Motherhood
Catherine Leen
 Maynooth University

Politics of the Home
 Nirsia Seminar Room
 Second Floor

Chair: Clare O'Hagan
 Embodied Working Mothers? Work, Injury, and Fractured Motherhood
JaneMaree Maher
 Monash University

The Reproduction of Empathy in the Novel Terrain between Mothers and Nannies
Katie Bodendorfer
 Chicago
 University of Illinois at Chicago

Mothers in Transition: Gender Dynamics in the Home through Strategic Absence
Petra Bueskens
 Australian College of Applied Psychiatry

16.30-18.00 **Motherhood and Literature 5: Maternal Writing**
 Iontas Seminar Room
 Ground Floor

Chair: Katie Stone
 'Maternal Dislocations': Memory, Selfhood and Mother-Fongue in Gollarda Sapientza's and Elena Ferrante's *Wolfs*
Katrin Wehling-Giorgi
 Durham University

Motherhood in the Autobiographies of Lithuanian Women Writers of the 20th Century
Solveiga Daugirdaitė
 Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore, Vilnius

Motherhood and Death
 An Foras Feasa Seminar Room
 First Floor

Chair: Berit Aström
 The Stories we tell about (Dead) Mothers
Jutta Fortin
 University of Vienna

I, too, am a Warrior Mama: Empty Arms, Broken Heart, and a Grieving Womb
Marcy Paul
 Texas Women's University

Climbing the Family Tree: Reconciling Reproductive Mortality through Familial Correspondence
Morwenna Chaffe
 University of East Anglia

Motherhood and Disability
 Nirsia Seminar Room
 Second Floor

Chair: Julie Rodgers
 Mothering Children with Disabilities: The Under-De-valuing of the Primary Caregiver Role
Sophia Brock
 University of Sydney

Mothering on the Edge: Maternal Work, Special Needs and Challenging Sexual Behaviours
Anna Karin Kingstone
 University College Cork

Mothering Disability Against Narratives in Schools and Society
Guy Wilgus
 City College of New York

Keynote Speakers

Nancy J Chodorow is Professor Emerita in Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley, Lecturer in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School/Cambridge Health Alliance, and Training and Supervising Analyst at the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute. Her curiosity about the inner worlds of women and women's taken-for-granted roles resulted in *The Reproduction of Mothering* (1978), which spearheaded feminist efforts to reclaim motherhood. In the preface to the 1999 second edition of this foundational work, Professor Chodorow reflects on how her understanding of motherhood has evolved in line with her clinical experience and shifting social attitudes to parenting. Chodorow's most recent book is *Individualizing Gender and Sexuality: Theory and Practice* (2012). Chodorow is in private practice in Cambridge, MA, USA.

Andrea O'Reilly is Professor in the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies at York University, Toronto. She is founder of the first and still only research association, journal and press on motherhood (Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement and Demeter Press). She has edited and contributed to eighteen volumes on motherhood including most recently *Mothers, Mothering and Motherhood across Cultural Difference: A Reader* (2014) and published two monographs, *Hani Morrison and Motherhood: A Politics of the Tort* (2004) and *Rocking the Cradle: Thoughts on Motherhood, Feminism and The Possibility of Empowered Mothering* (2006).

Overview

This conference seeks to analyse the cultural meaning of motherhood in the contemporary era through exploring the stories we tell ourselves about mothers, mothering and motherhood through history, across diverse media and from various cultural, national, racial, class and gendered perspectives.

Stories about motherhood have powerfully shaped critical and theoretical directions at least since the publication of Simone de Beauvoir's intellectually powerful feminist work, *The Second Sex* in 1949, which devalued maternal labour, a tendency then critiqued by Sara Ruddick's key work, *Maternal Thinking: Towards a Politics of Peace* (1989), which defined maternal thinking and practice as a discipline.

Recently what has been termed the 'maternal turn' in critical theory examines how positioning and expressing motherhood in a range of contexts is critical for understanding changing cultures, populations and media. As Clifford Geertz has argued, culture is the ensemble of stories we tell ourselves about our values, our beliefs and our practices, it also influences and shapes those values, beliefs and practices.