



Motherhood & Culture

International and Interdisciplinary Conference

15–17 June 2015
Jonas 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
Jonas 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**
Jonas Seminar Room
Ground Floor

Chair: Ursula Fanning
Mothering Across Languages
Eglė 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

'Mutterglück'? 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
Becoming and Being a HIV-positive Mother: Insights from a Narrative Study
Denise Proudfoot
Dublin City University

The Case of Jill
Emily Field
University of Western Ontario

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

Mediated Motherhood
Nirsa Seminar Room
Second Floor

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

Digitally Mediated Motherhood
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

Lunch, Phoenix Restaurant

North Campus

14.30–16.00 **Motherhood and Health Services**
Jonas 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

Representations of Maternal Roles in Government Health Material (1970s–1980s)
Nina Holmes
Kingston University London

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 Ségal
University of Hawaii at Manoa

Reflections on Maternal Identity
Nirsa 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**
Jonas Seminar Room
Ground Floor

Chair: Moynagh Sullivan
Lesbian, Bisexual and Queer Mothers Crafting Identity 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

Agata Stasińska
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

Elusive and Illusive: Motherhood and Infertility in Ireland
Jill Allison
Memorial University of Newfoundland

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

Motherhood and Religion
Nirsa 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
Jonas Lecture Theatre (Ground Floor)

Mothering through the Ages (of Woman)

11.30–13.00 **Maternal Discourse across Cultures and Institutions**
Jonas Seminar Room
Ground Floor

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

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

'She did not give birth to me, but she is my mother'. Giving birth, raising 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

'They 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
Nirsa 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

Lunch, Phoenix Restaurant

North Campus

14.30–16.00 **Bloomsday Panel: Mother Ireland**
Jonas Seminar Room
Ground Floor

Chair: Susi Gottlöber
I Hear Fish Drowning
Prach Strong
Sitting 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 Bekaert
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
Nirsa Seminar Room
Second Floor

Chair: Diana Gustafson
Reproducing Punjabi(yat): Family rhetoric 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 and Kristin Eliasson
Centre for Equity in Healthcare in Western Sweden

Health communication and Chinese migrant mothers in the UK
Qian (Sarah) Gong
University of Leicester

16.30–18.00 **Bloomsday Panel: Joyce and Motherhood**
Jonas 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

Mothers Storying the Absent Father: A Graphic Novel
Penelope Mendonça
University of Arts, London

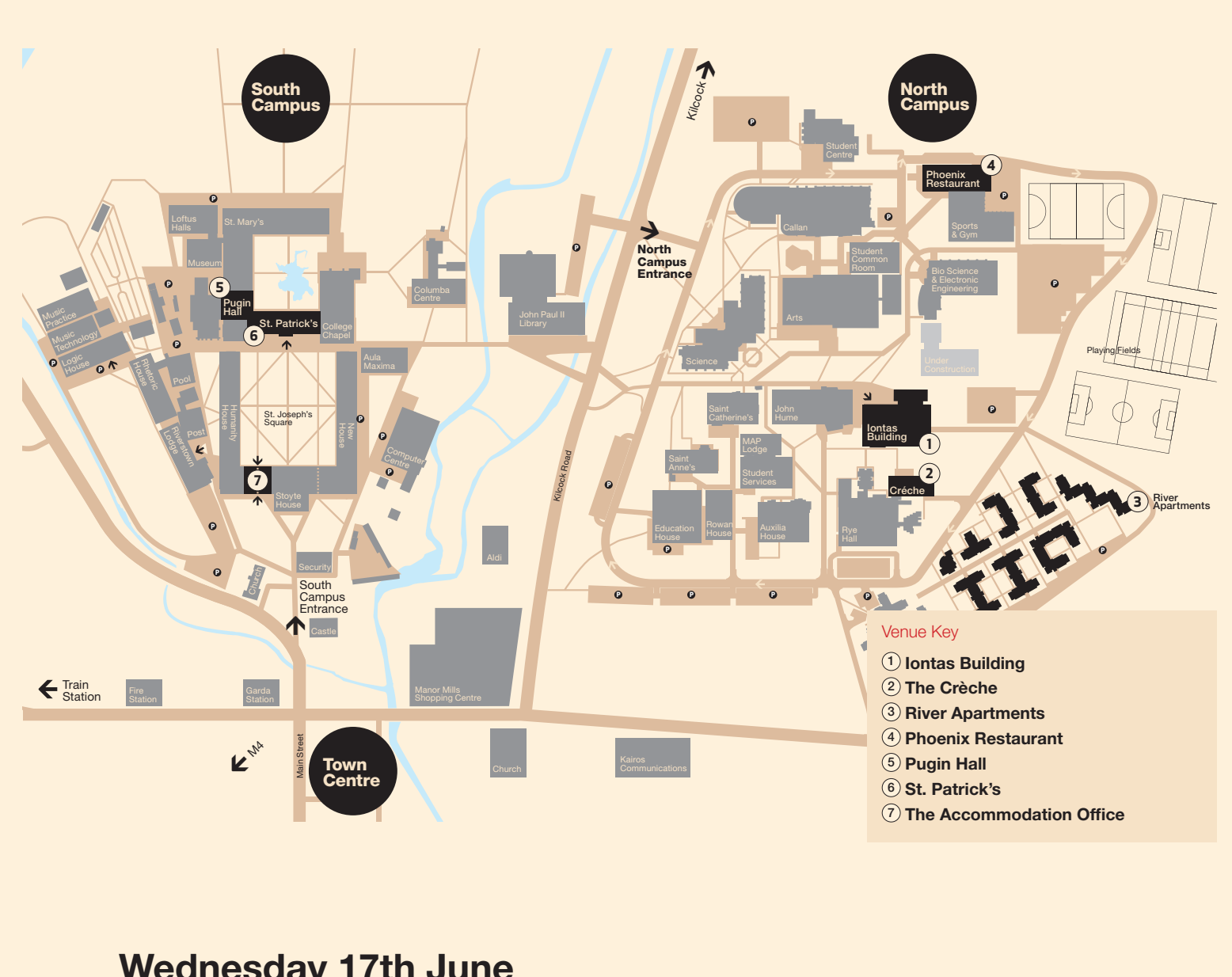
Shifting Patterns of Responsibility: The changing nature of parental responsibility for divorced Irish Mothers
Rosemary Crosse & Michelle Millar
NUI Galway

Motherhood and Anthropology
Nirsa Seminar Room
Second Floor

Chair: Shauna Wilton
Negotiating Motherhood in Swedish Society: Literary, Medical, and Media Discourses
Margaretha Fahlgren & 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



Wednesday 17th June

09.30–11.00 **Motherhood and Literature 2: Motherhood across Ages**
Jonas Seminar Room
Ground Floor

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

The Guilt Goes On: The Aging Mother and the Adult Daughter in Recent Austrian Women's Writing
Petra Bagley
University of Central Lancashire

Samuel Beckett's 'hysterical 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: Bex Harper
Knowing Emotional Mothers: Affective and Epistemic Activism in Irish Childbirth Politics
Máire Leane
University College Cork

Motherhood and Popfeminism: Awkward Political Positions
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
Nirsa 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 (NCP), 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**
Jonas 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
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 Antiheros: 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
Nirsa Seminar Room
Second Floor

Chair: JaneMaree Maher
The dilemma of choice for '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, Learning 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

For further information and/or to register for this session, please email Dr Valerie Heffernan at valerie.heffernan@nuim.ie

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

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

Chair: Ornaith Rodgers
Materiality: Matter and Monster in Hoffmann's *The Sandman*
Jeffrey Champalin
Bar College

'You have too much blood in him': Narrative Fear of Maternal Biology
Berit Åström
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 Intergenerational Difference in *Die Fremde* and *Kuma*
Cordula Böcking
Maynooth University

Lovely Morales' A Crushing Love: Redefining Latina On-screen Motherhood
Catherine Leen
Maynooth University

Politics of the Home
Nirsa 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 Garner
University of Illinois at Chicago

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

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

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

For further information and/or to register for this session, please email Dr Valerie Heffernan at valerie.heffernan@nuim.ie

16.30–18.00 **Motherhood and Literature 5: Maternal Writing**
Jonas Seminar Room
Ground Floor

Chair: Katie Stone
'Maternal Dislocations': Memory, Selfhood and Mother-Tongue in Gollarda Sapientza's and Elena Ferrante's *Wicks*
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

Maternal Aesthetics and the Matrifocal
Moynagh Sullivan
Maynooth University

Motherhood and Death
An Foras Feasa Seminar Room
First Floor

Chair: Berit Åström
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
Nirsa 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 Kingston
University College Cork

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

Keynote Speakers

Nancy J Chodorow is Professor Emerita in Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley, Lecturer on 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, *Toni Morrison and Motherhood: A Politics of the Heart* (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 ourselves; culture is not only a reflection of our values, our beliefs and our practices, it also influences and shapes those values, beliefs and practices.