

“politically active” midwifery-supporting mothers who chose homebirths were historically seen as “irresponsible, bad mothers” who did not know what was best for themselves or their children, who participated in “risky” behaviour—likened to drug addiction or “driving a car without brakes” (84)—and were thus maligned by state and medical officials. Conversely, these women saw themselves as acting altruistically on behalf of their communities. They believed themselves to be “good mothers” who were educated about birthing methods and whose choice of homebirth was at once rational and safe.

As Craven notes in one of her concluding statements, “the fight for women’s access to reproductive rights, including midwifery, must be waged within the context of a broader social and reproductive justice perspective ... not merely [as] individual claims to consumer rights” (147). Thus, while *Pushing for Midwives* focuses on the state of Virginia, it offers broad insight into the medicalization of reproduction, the “re-birth” of midwifery, and grassroots organizing among diverse populations that support midwifery. The book is a welcome and timely addition to mothering studies and the anthropology of reproduction.

Twenty-First Century Motherhood: Experience, Identity, Policy, Agency

Andrea O’Reilly, ed.
New York: Columbia University Press, 2010.

Reviewed by Stephanie Knaak

Twenty-First Century Motherhood studies “the impact of this new century on how motherhood is practiced and represented as experience, identity, policy, and agency” (3). The volume signals the coming-of-age of maternal scholarship. Not only does it highlight the breadth of this growing discipline, it also manages to strengthen its theoretical core. Each of this book’s twenty-three articles seeks—in unique ways—to engage and advance ideas that now serve as the foundation of maternal scholarship, key concepts and theories developed by thinkers such as Patricia Hill Collins, Susan Douglas, Sharon Hays, Meredith Michaels, Adrienne Rich, and Sara Ruddick.

The book is topical and covers a diverse range of subjects, including mothering transgendered children, mothering on the internet, cross-racial gestational surrogacy, daycare policies, mothering in South Africa in the context of HIV/AIDS, whether men can and do mother, breastfeeding in Kenya, the