Forthcoming



October 2018 Bearing the Weight of the World **Exploring Maternal Embodiment** Edited by Alys Einion and Jen Rinaldi

The maternal body is a site of contested dynamics of power, identity, experience, autonomy, occupation, and control. Rep-resentations of the maternal body can mis/represent the child-bearing and mothering form variously, often as monstrous, idealized, limited, scrutinized, or occupied, whilst dominant discourses limit motherhood through social devaluation. The maternal body has long been a hypervisible artifact: at once bracketed out in the interest of elevating the contributions of sperm-carriers or fetal status; and regarded with hostility and suspicion as out of control. Such arguments are deployed to justify surveillance mechanisms, medical scrutiny, and expecta-tion of self-discipline.

This volume helps to develop a more critical understanding of what it means to be an embodied mother. The materiality of maternity and its centrality to family and social life remains too often viewed as a 'fringe' subject, the province of feminists, activists, hysterical women. For too long, the maternal body has been subject to 'expert' advice, guidance, censure, and control. Those of us maternal bodies are at risk of being commodified and diminished, having our bodily realities reduced to mechanis-tic functions and our lived experience disregarded. From art to breastfeeding, poetry to Indigenous community, dance to body size, the critical eye of the academic and the lived experience of the mother bring into being in this work a body of understand-ing, of expression, of knowledge and the power and author-ity of the lived experience, through and about the embodied mother. This critical-creative work encompasses new insights, new research, and redeveloped perspectives which combine the personal with the pervasive and point to new meaning-making in critical motherhood studies via the medium of the maternal body.

"This complex book thoughtfully explores the nuances of wom-en's relationships to their bodies and bodies' relationships, in turn, to their contexts and environments. A must-read for any-one who seeks to make sense of the intersections of emotion, embodiment and critical feminist thought."

-May Friedman, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Ry-erson University

"This collection of works is an example of how childbearing these days is receiving the scholarly attention it requires. It brings together fascinating topics and fresh perspectives from across disciplines and theoretical and methodological approach-

-Sallie Han, SUNY Oneonta, author of *Pregnancy in Practice:* Expectation and Experience in the Contemporary United States and co-editor of *The Anthropology of the Fetus: Biology, Cul-*

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November 2018 200 pages \$29.95 ISBN 978-1-77258-174-4

November 2018 Heavy Burdens: Stories of Motherhood and Fatness Edited by Judy Verseghy and Sam Abel

Heavy Burdens: Stories of Motherhood and Fatness seeks to address the systemic ways in which the mor-al panic around "obesity" impacts fat mothers and fat children. Taking a life-course approach, the book begins with analyses of the ways in which fatphobia is enacted on pregnant (or even not-yet-pregnant) women, whose bodies immediately become viewed as objects warranting external control by not only medical professionals, but family members, and even passers-by. The story unfolds as adults recount childhood stories of growing up fat, or growing up in fear of being fat, and how their mothers' relationships with their own bodies and attempted weight-loss experiences shaped how food, exercise, and body management were approached in their homes in sometimes harmful ways. Finally, the book concludes with stories of women who have since become mothers, examining the ways in which having their own children altered their views on their own bodies and their perceptions of their mothers' actions, and working to find fat-friendly futures via their own parenting (or grandparenting) techniques.

This book contains the artwork, stories, and analyses of nearly 20 contributors, all of whom seek to change the ways in which fatness is perceived, experienced, and vilified. It is the editors' hope that these works will compel readers to reconsider their negative views on fatness and to retain softness toward every mother and child who are simply fighting to exist in the face of fatphobia.

"*Heavy Burdens* takes up the important discussion of fat and motherhood by blending both scholarly and personal analyses. This collection looks both "up" at mothers (from a child's view) and "down" from motherhood, complicating ideas about motherhood, responsibility, and individuality through the rocky terrain of weight stigma." – Dr. May Friedman, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Ryerson University

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June 2019

Motherhood and Social Exclusion Edited by Christie Byvelds and Heather Jackson

Though the negative effects of social exclusion are well docu-mented, there is a paucity of research on women's experiences of social exclusion as they relate to mothering within the insti-tution of motherhood. Social exclusion is a socially constructed concept; it refers to a multi-dimensional form of systematic discrimination driven by unequal power relationships. It is the denial of equal opportunities, resources, rights, goods, and services for some, by others, within economic, social, cultural, and political arenas. Carrying, birthing, and mothering children place women in a unique position to face social exclusion based on their role as mothers. Perhaps at no other time in our lives could we benefit more from feeling as though we are engaged in our community than when we enter into and are experiencing the patriarchal institution of motherhood. As the widely used proverb states, "It takes a village to raise a child", it also takes a village (of societal institutions) to support mothers.

This collection explores motherhood in the context of social ex-clusion. The book is divided into four parts, each exploring the topic from a different perspective: A Historical Look at Mother-hood; Mothers and Crime; Disability, Care Work, and Mother-hood; and Personal Narratives.

"This compilation provides an insightful new angle to the inher-ent experience of social exclusion by mothers. Understanding the ways in which motherhood can be associated with exclusion is crucial for mothers themselves, their social networks, mental health practitioners, child care professionals and policy makers."

Christie Byvelds is a mother and registered social worker. She is a sessional instructor with the School of Social Work at Carleton University, and she practices both clinically and as a private research consultant.

Heather Jackson, a former teen mom, is now a 30-something single mom of a teen. She is often mistaken as her daughter's friend or sister! She is a former site producer of girl-mom.com. Currently, she works as a birth doula and an early childhood counsellor in Rhode Island. She published a chapter in The Bak-ken Goes Boom regarding the change of maternal health re-lated to the oil boom in North Dakota (where she grew up!). In addition to this, she is also co-editor of Feminist Parenting and is currently co-editing Motherhood and Abortion anthologies through Demeter Press (http://demeterpress.org/). Her writing has also been published on thepushback.org, hipmama.com, girl-mom.com, muthamagazine.com, books, and zines. She loves bike riding, going to the beach, playing guitar, drums, and ukulele, going to shows, making zines (etsy shop: ramonegirl), and writing.

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The Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement (MIRCI) (formerly the Association for Research on Mothering) is the first activist and scholarly organization devoted specifically to the topic of mothering-motherhood. MIRCI is an association for scholars, writers, activists, professionals, agencies, policy makers, educators, parents, and artists. Our mandate is to provide a forum for the discussion and dissemination of feminist, academic, and community grassroots research, theory, and praxis on mothering-motherhood. We are committed, in both membership and research, to the inclusion of *all* mothers: First Nations, immigrant and refugee mothers, working-class mothers, lesbian mothers, mothers with disabilities, mothers of colour, and mothers from other marginalized communities. We welcome memberships to MIRCI and submissions to the *Journal of the Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement* (formerly the *Journal of the Association for Research on Mothering*), our biannual publication from all individuals.

This special issue on "Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Post-Partum" features 13 articles, eleven book reviews and a poetry folio featuring the work of Adrianne Kalfopoulou. Articles include:

- Post-Partum Support For New Mothers
- Birth Stories on Mommyblogs
- Trauma and Mothering
- Placental Thinking
- Childbirth: From Curse to Creation

