



Journal of the Motherhood Initiative

Matricentric Feminism

Spring/Fall 2019

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The defining mission of the Journal of the Motherhood Initiative is to promote and disseminate the best current scholarship on motherhood, and to ensure that this scholarship considers motherhood both in an international context and from a multitude of perspectives, including differences of class, race, sexuality, age, ethnicity, ability, and nationality, and from across a diversity of disciplines.

Subscription Information

Effective January 1, 2020, JMI will be available on-line and in open access format. No subscriptions will be required; and no print copies will be distributed.

Submission Guidelines

The journal will only consider material which is not under consideration at any other journal or publication. Please contact us for a list of upcoming themes as well as a copy of our style sheet: info@demeterpress.org. Articles should be typed, double-spaced, and between 4000 and 6000 words. Art or photographs may accompany your work. JMI reserves the right to edit manuscripts for length and conformity to our editorial guidelines and house style. We will not publish writing that is sexist, homophobic, racist, or in any way discriminatory. Submissions will be blind-reviewed by a guest editorial board. Articles published by the journal do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, the staff of the journal, or of our funders. Contributors retain copyright. No reproduction of any part of this journal is permitted without prior written permission from JMI.



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ANDREA O'REILLY

JMI: A Journal of Our Own

This special double issue on matricentric feminism marks the fortieth issue of the *Journal of the Motherhood Initiative*, formerly the *Journal of the Association for Research on Mothering*. Due to the new funding regulations of our granting agency, SSHRC, this will be the last issue available in print format. Beginning, 1 January 2020, *JMI* will be available online in open access format.

Over the last twenty years, *JMI/JARM* has published forty issues on every imaginable motherhood topic; including health, law/politics, literature, popular culture, peace, violence, maternal activism, feminism, motherliness, pregnancy/childbirth, the environment, migration, maternal subjectivities, art, history, reproduction, academe, education, the economy, bereavement, militarism, poverty, carework, race/ethnicity, grandmothers, spirituality/religion, sex/sexuality, becoming a mother, lesbian mothers, mothers in a global context, mothers in the African diaspora, mothers and daughters/sons.

Our inaugural issue, honouring Rich's revolutionary distinction between the institution of motherhood and the experience of mothering, was entitled *Mothering and Motherhood*. The issue opens with my article "Inaugurating the Association for Research on Mothering" wherein I explain why I began The Association for Research on Mothering, and its journal. I wrote these words: Over the last year as *ARM* was being born, I found myself, as mothers will often do, describing in the minutest detail the labour of their beloved child: every contraction, rush, pain, thrill I have shared with colleagues, friends, family acquaintances, and, more often than I care to admit, passerbys at airports, restaurants, in taxis, and at the mall. And while most people listened patiently and congratulated the birth, many expressed puzzlement: "Why would I want such a "baby"; or more to the point, was such a baby really needed? In other words, "Why do we, society, university, government depending on the context, need an association about motherhood?" Such remarks while certainly not welcome were hardly surprising.

Over the last two plus decades as a motherhood researcher and publisher I have heard countless stories from motherhood scholars about how their work has been ignored, dismissed, invalidated, or trivialized by academic feminists: how the women's studies conferences they attend have few, if any papers, on motherhood; how motherhood is seldom a topic of discussion in women's studies classrooms and rarely included in academic feminist textbooks; and how articles on motherhood or reviews of motherhood books are all but absent in the leading women's studies journals. However, despite the disavowal of motherhood in academic feminism, we do have a feminist theory and movement of our own. *JMI/JARM* is certainly a testimony of this with more than six hundred articles published in its forty issues. It is thus most appropriate that our last print issue is on the topic of matricentric feminism, an issue that resoundingly conveys and documents that we have indeed, despite the naysayers, created in the words of Virginia Woolf "a room of our own"—a feminism for mothers.

Matricentric Feminism

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Front cover

Allegra Holmes, *Nolite Te Bastardes Carborundorum*. A monument to the nursing relationship, refocusing the value of breastfeeding from milk and nutrition to the transformative power of the mother/baby dyad. “As a matricentric feminist artist, I actively reject the notion that mothering and art making are mutually exclusive, and have developed my art practice as one that is intrinsically linked with the daily work of raising my children.”

Matricentric Feminism

