## Social Work, Motherhood, and Mothering: Critical Feminist Perspectives

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## **Notes on Contributors**

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**Denise Colón** is special counsel for the New York State Unified Court System's Office for Justice Initiatives. Ms. Colón oversees access to justice initiatives that protect the rights of mentally impaired, disabled, and older adult litigants. Before pursuing a legal degree, Ms. Colón worked as a medical, community-based, and oncology social worker. She obtained a BA from Yale University (1992), a MSW from Columbia University (1995), and JD from Rutgers University School of Law-Newark (2003).

Helene Connor, (PhD) is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Education and Social Work, the University of Auckland, Aotearoa/New Zealand. Her research is located within a transdisciplinary platform, which includes gender, ethnicity, cultural representation, and mothering across socio-cultural contexts. She is also interested in indigenous and settler relations and New Zealand colonial history. Helene is of Māori, English and Irish descent. Helene is a doting mama to her daughter, Carabelle Tangiora Connor.

**Janis Favel** is originally from the Kawacatoose Cree Nation in Treaty 4 Territory. She has lived in the Treaty 7/Calgary area for most of her life. She is the mother of three wonderful boys and auntie to numerous nieces and nephews. She works towards healing within her own life, family, and community while striving to lend a helping hand to the families that she is privileged to work with.

Dianne Fierheller, BSW, MSW, RSW, PhD candidate, has worked for many years as a paediatric healthcare social worker and is colead of the Family and Child Health Initiative (FCHI), where she works alongside community members and organizations to ensure service user's experiences are central in the design and evaluation of health care systems and services. Dianne is a PhD candidate at McMaster University, School of Social Work. Mothering experiences guide her ways of knowing and thinking about child, family, and community health

**Geovana Prante Gasparotto** has a bachelor's degree in social work from ULBRA (2006), a master's in social work from PUCRS (2013), and a PhD in social work from PUCRS (2017). She is currently a social worker at the Federal Institute of Rio Grande do Sul (IFRS), Campus Restinga. She is a researcher in a research group on violence (NEPEVI) at PUCRS.

Elisabeth Gedge, PhD, MTh, is a recently retired associate professor of philosophy at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. She has published on reproductive technologies and law and recently copublished in the area of spirituality and addictions (*Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics*, 2014).

Patricia Krieger Grossi has a bachelor's degree in social work from PUCRS (1987), a master's in social work from PUCRS (1993), and a PhD in social work from the University of Toronto (2010). She is currently a professor in the master and doctoral program in social work, School of Humanities at Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), Brazil. She also coordinates a research group on violence (NEPEVI) and is a productivity researcher from the National Council on Scientific and Technological Development.

Erin Kuri, PhD(c), RP, CCC-S, OATR, is a mother and a PhD candidate at McMaster University's School of Social Work/Gender and Social Justice. She has fifteen years of community-based practice experience as an advocate, psychotherapist, and clinical supervisor, specialized in art therapy and trauma, primarily working in areas of child welfare, gender-based violence, and maternal and infant mental health. Erin's SSHRC-funded doctoral research explores how young mothers make meaning of the concept of support within the context of service provision.

Laura Lewis, PhD, MSW BSW RSW, is an associate professor at King's University College in the Faculty of Social Work. Prior to her academic appointment, she worked for many years at a family service organization providing individual counselling and facilitating many psycho-ed and therapeutic groups. Her research agenda has centred on loss and grief. She has conducted qualitative research into the use of objects in mourning and communication at the end-of-life between family members.

Ksenija Napan, (PhD) is an Associate Professor at the School of Social Work, Massey University, Auckland, Aotearoa / New Zealand. The focus of her research is the integration of the personal, political, professional, spiritual, and cultural in order to develop healthier and more connected communities. Ksenija was born in Croatia. She moved to Aotearoa New Zealand in 1995 and calls Aotearoa New Zealand home. Ksenija is the proud mother of two fine sons, Tibor and Teo.

**Joanna Moore** is an Ojibwe woman from Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation. She is a mother of seven beautiful children—from a three-years-old to a twenty-three-year-old. She is a second-generation residential school survivor and has fought her whole life to reclaim her culture, her traditions, and her family. She shares her story to help others understand what she went through. Her hope is that it will help bring families together and keep families together.

Andrea O'Reilly, PhD, is full professor in the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies at York University, founder/editor-in-chief of the Journal of the Motherhood Initiative and publisher of Demeter Press. She is coeditor/editor of twenty plus books including Feminist Parenting: Perspectives from Africa and Beyond (2020), Mothers, Mothering, and COVID-19: Dispatches from a Pandemic (2021), Maternal Theory, The 2nd Edition (2021), and Monstrous Mothers; Troubling Tropes (2021). She is editor of the Encyclopedia on Motherhood (2010) and coeditor of the Routledge Companion to Motherhood (2019). She is author of Toni Morrison and Motherhood: A Politics of the Heart (2004); Rocking the Cradle: Thoughts on Motherhood, Feminism, and the Possibility of Empowered Mothering (2006); and Matricentric Feminism: Theory, Activism, and Practice, The 2nd Edition (2021). She is twice the recipient of York University's "Professor of the Year Award" for teaching excellence and is the 2019 recipient of the Status of Women and Equity Award of Distinction from OCUFA (Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations).

**Brenda Polar** is Chola with Quechua and European roots. She is a queer student and mother of two children, completing her doctoral degree in the social work program at York University. Her academic interests involve how Quechua immigrants maintain their Indigenous identity after immigration and how to develop collaborative relationships between First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people and settlers.

**Deirdre Querney**, MSW, RSW, CCAC, CPGC, has held a clinical role with the City of Hamilton's Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services (ADGS) for over twenty years. She is an instructor in McMaster University's Professional Addiction Studies Program. Deirdre's current addiction-related research interests include neurobiology, spirituality, and motherhood.

Kesslyn Brade Stennis, PhD, MSW, MDiv, is a full professor in the Department of Social Work at Coppin State University. She is also director of the Minority Fellowship Program at the Council on Social Work Education. Her research considers the intersections of intimate partner violence, women, Black faith communities, leadership, and social justice. She is also a business owner, doctoral consultant/coach, and is a mother of four children.

Deepy Sur, MSW, PhD, RSW, is the chief executive officer of the Ontario Association of Social Workers (OASW). She is an innovative and transformative leader with diverse social work expertise, including clinical work in hospitals and community settings. Her knowledge includes health promotion, public health, and strategic development at various government levels. Deepy holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Ryerson University, a master's degree in social work from York University, and PhD in social work administration from Walden University. Her research interests include interprofessional teamwork and empathy and the development of the interprofessional intentional empathy centered care (IP-IECC) theory. She has also been an assistant and adjunct clinical professor at McMaster University. In addition, Deepy is a faculty instructor and curriculum designer for the Medical Psychiatry Alliance—Collaborative Care Certificate Program. Most importantly, she places incredible value on her lived experiences as a racialized woman and resilience. She is a mother to two children.

Natalie St-Denis is an Indigenous social worker with Acadian and Mi'kmaw heritage as well as Quebecois and Algonquin lineage. She is a mother, a sister, a partner, an auntie, as well as an assistant professor and director of the Indigenous Social Work Circle at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. Her work is centred around wellness as a counternarrative to gendered colonial violence, and is also exploring land-based teachings and ceremonies that support relational wellbeing.

**Dawn Thurman**, PhD, MSW, LCSW-C, LICSW, is an associate professor at Morgan State University School of Social Work. Her areas of research are clinical social work, maternal mental health, and Black families. She is a licensed independent clinical social worker with more than twenty years of direct practice experience. Dr. Thurman is an entrepreneur, doula, wife, and a mother of two children.

Christine Walsh is a white, feminist, settler who conducts community-based, action-oriented, and arts-informed research with marginalized peoples and communities as a professor in the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. She is a mother to Erinn and Shaun and learning to be a grand-mother to Ellie. She honours the many ways of good mothering that women aspire to and achieve, and through her advocacy work and research, she supports their journey.

**Hee-Jeong Yoo**, MSW, RSW, is a mental health therapist and clinical team lead with a public health agency. She received her MSW from the University of Calgary, where she also worked as a research associate. Topics of interests include motherhood, mothering identity, child welfare practice models, and casework decision-making models. She is a first-generation immigrant from South Korea and currently resides in Calgary, Alberta, with her husband and two daughters.

