



Journal of the Motherhood Initiative

Learning from the Pandemic

Possibilities and Challenges for Mothers and Families

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Laura Limonic, Abigail Connolly, Gretchen A. Good, Genevieve Currie,
Nicole Dillard, Lisa H. Rosen, Laura Lazzari, Jillayna Adamson, Penny Davis,
Carolina Toscano and more

Notes on the Contributors

Jillayna Adamson, MA, LPC, LMHC (said Jill-anna), is a mother, practising psychotherapist, and writer. She loves all things people, connection, and culture and is particularly interested in identity development and mental wellness within the psychosocial implications of the modern western world. Jillayna's writing often explores the motherhood role, otherhood, and identity. She is a Canadian transplant currently in the US with her partner and kids and is a firm believer in letting your freak flag fly.

Lauren E. Brewer, associate professor of psychology and MotherScholar at Stephen F. Austin State University, earned her PhD in social psychology. Her broad research interests include self-regulation, behavioural consequences of philosophical beliefs, judgment and decision making, issues of parenthood, and the scholarship of teaching and learning.

Rebecca Jaremko Bromwich, PhD, MBA, LLM, LLB, is a lawyer and law teacher. She has edited and coedited several Demeter Press collections as well as many textbooks and two novels. Her favourite role is as mother to her four children.

Lauren E. Burrow, associate professor of education studies at Stephen F. Austin State University, is a MotherScholar to three young children who often inspire and sometimes collaborate with her on her research agenda which focuses on best practices in teacher education to increase awareness about and actions for addressing social injustices.

Taylor Cavallo (she/her/hers) is a PhD student at the University of Minnesota. Her research interests are focused on the intersection of labour and gender with a particular emphasis on the experiences of motherhood for millennial women.

Abigail Connolly is a Rotary Peace Fellow with a master's degree in peace studies from International Christian University, Tokyo. Her own experience as a mother in the pandemic compelled her to change her research focus to document the lived experiences of mothers during lockdown. She has fifteen years' experience working with international organisations on issues of social justice and is now based in London, UK.

Chrissy J. Cross, associate professor of education studies at Stephen F. Austin State University, teaches graduate and undergraduate education courses and serves as a Co-PI on two NSF Noyce Scholarship Grants. Her research interests include STEM teacher preparation and induction, STEM curriculum and instruction, qualitative research methods, and MotherScholarhood.

Genevieve Currie is a nurse researcher and family partner. Her research focusses on the experiences of families caring for children with medical complexity and neurodevelopmental disabilities, rare diseases, care coordination, and family engagement in healthcare and research.

Penny Davis is an artist, a solo mother of three children, and a PhD candidate currently working in drawing and autoethnography to explore maternal embodiment. Davis is a member of IAMAS, and as a political maternal activist, her arts practice works to highlight inequities for single mothers alongside working with organisations to support Single Parents Rights. Graduating from Chelsea College of Art (UAL) in 1999, and the Slade School of Art (UCL) in 2001, Davis was also a resident at Skowhegan (USA) in 2004 and The Edward Albee Foundation (USA) in 2005. She has exhibited both nationally and internationally and her work is held in public and private collections. She has presented at the "Let's Get Dirty" symposium at Loughborough University (2020) and "The Missing Mother Conference" at Bolton University (2021). She has also presented and exhibited under a pseudonym at the "Learning from the Pandemic: Possibilities for Mothers and Families" (2022) and in the Domestic Academics project with Vanessa Marr (2021). Davis is an active member of the Drawing Research Network, presenting and chairing the annual conference of drawing events and was awarded the John Phillips and Dennis Holt Travel Prizes (2021)

Nicole Dillard (she/her/hers) is an assistant professor in the Organizational Leadership, Policy and Development (OLPD) department at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Dillard's primary research explores issues relating to the experiences of individuals with marginalized social identities within organizations with a focus on mothering and work, women and leadership, and the work-life dynamics of women of colour.

Gretchen A. Good, PhD, lectures in disability and rehabilitation studies, Massey University, Aotearoa/New Zealand. She is mother to two children

with complex impairments and learning needs. Gretchen identifies as a disabled academic, advocate, and activist. Her research focusses on disability advocacy, mothering disabled children, and disability and disaster.

Danijela Grahovac is a parent, family partner, advocate in childhood disability research as well as an engineer and IT professional at CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research.

Shelby J. Gull is the Director of Evaluation and Project Management at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. She focuses on interdisciplinary research that explores natural resources management, nature connection, children, and motherhood.

Lynn O'Brien Hallstein (PhD Ohio State University) is the associate dean for faculty research and development, director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning, and a professor of rhetoric at the College of General Studies, Boston University. As a motherhood scholar who employs a communication lens, her research explores the various ways that contemporary motherhood is constructed rhetorically. She has published several books and various peer-reviewed journal articles and/or book chapters.

Amanda Doherty Kirby is a biochemist and a family partner and advocate in children's health research. Her interests include neurodevelopmental disabilities, monogenic diabetes, paediatric pain, science and health literacy, health data, and family engagement in research.

Laura Lazzari holds a PhD from the University of Lausanne (Switzerland). A scholar in motherhood studies, she is scientific collaborator at the Sasso Corbaro Foundation for the Medical Humanities in Switzerland and professorial lecturer at the George Washington University in the USA. She was the recipient of a 2015-2016 AAUW International Postdoctoral Fellowship at Georgetown University, USA, and has lectured for several universities in Switzerland and the United States.

Jeanine Lebsack is a freelance writer, podcaster, reiki healer, and family partner and advocate in children's health research.

Jane Lee, MSW, tutors in the Schools of Health Sciences and Social Work, Massey University, Aotearoa/New Zealand. She is a mother to seven children, one of whom is on the autism spectrum. She is a PhD candidate, researching social support and social integration among one-parent families with disabled children.

Laura Limonic is an associate professor of sociology at the College of Old Westbury of the State University of New York. Her current research is on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on motherhood and household division of

labour in the United States. This study includes qualitative and quantitative analysis to understand the lived of experiences of mothers across various social and political domains.

Karen McBride-Henry, RN, PhD, is a professor of nursing at Victoria University of Wellington. She has four children, two of whom have complex impairments. Her research focusses on peoples' experiences accessing health-care; current projects focus on disabled peoples' experiences of accessing healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Heather K. Olson Beal, professor of education studies at Stephen F. Austin State University, earned her PhD in curriculum and instruction. Her scholarship examines the issues of school choice and the experiences of women and mothers in academia. She has three feisty, bighearted children who guide and shape her scholarship and teaching.

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 thirty plus books including most recently *Coming into Being: Mothers on Finding and Realizing Feminism* (2023). She is author of three monographs including *Matricentric Feminism: Theory, Activism, and Practice*, 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).

Kinga Pozniak is an anthropologist and postdoctoral researcher at CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research, whose work focusses on the experiences of disabled children and their families with the healthcare system.

Carolina Toscano has a PhD in comparative literature from the University of Washington. She is currently teaching writing instruction at Saint Louis University Madrid and English for Education at La Universidad Pontificia Comillas. She studies feminist maternal theory and immigration in contemporary literature and film in Spain and the US.

Lisa H. Rosen is an associate professor and director of the undergraduate psychology program at Texas Woman's University. Her research focusses on parent-child communication and exploring ways that parents can best support victimized youth.

Linda J. Rubin is a professor of psychology and licensed psychologist at Texas Woman's University. Her research, clinical, and teaching interests target traumatic stress and violence against women. She has offered empirically based intervention to college students who experience domestic/dating

violence, sexual assault/rape, and stalking.

Mackenzie Beckmon Sharbine is a school psychology graduate student at Texas Woman's University. She received her bachelors in psychology from Harding University in 2019. Previous work includes participating in an NSF grant studying the lived experience of shame in engineering students. Current research interests are neurodiversity and disability advocacy.

Michelle ("Elle") Walks is a precariously employed instructor living and teaching on the traditional lands of the Coast Salish peoples, including the Kwantlen, Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, Kwikwetlem, and Semiahmoo First Nations. Their research focuses on queer and trans reproduction. They currently teach anthropology and sociology at Simon Fraser University and gender, race, and social justice and critical sexuality studies at the University of British Columbia.

