

Wounded” by Kearney and Bailey, “I Should Have Married Another Man” by O’Reilly, “Being and Thinking Between Second and Third Wave Feminisms” by Hallstein, and “Liberalism’s Leaky Legacy” by Huff, Hampson, and Tagliarina. These essays critique academia’s reputation for being a flexible and accommodating work place for mothers and expose this perception as false. Often, the essays cite quantitative and qualitative data to show how the academy is highly oppressive to mothers. For example, discrepancies in hours of work, salary, tenure, discrimination, and publication record are evidence of disparities between women and men in the work place, but also between mothers and childless academics. In addition, the cultural understanding of good mothering or “new momism” actually serves to hinder mothers in the work place and function as a form of feminist backlash.

This book will interest scholars working on women’s employment issues, unpaid labour, and feminist parenting. More importantly, it models the scholarly application of feminist methodologies. Feminist research methods, such as semi-structured qualitative interviews and ethnography, are articulated and applied in each chapter. The volume is also feminist in its attempt to investigate problems of cultural status, identity, and oppression associated with academic motherhood.

Confronting Postmaternal Thinking: Feminism, Memory and Care

Julie Stephens.

New York: Columbia University Press, 2011.

Reviewed by Jessica Jennrich

In *Confronting Postmaternal Thinking*, author Julie Stephens deploys a feminism that relies upon the personal experiences of mothers and localizes care at the centre of mothering politics. Stephens carefully guides her readers through historical understandings of motherhood as linked to social and political communal identities dependent on national ideas of individualism. As Stephens uncovers, this maternal discourse has served to pit motherhood against professional success as uneasy foes within feminism.

Stephens advocates for memory studies as “an active practice of remembering the maternal (and maternalism) as a paradigm of nurture and care applicable to other social relations” (12). This revolutionary notion pays homage to “the personal is political” ideology at the heart of feminism, but also makes room for care and nurturing.

Stephens documents the devaluation of care work within capitalist markets and paints a compelling portrait of modern motherhood as fraught with any number of perceived failures. And yet, she neither chastises mothers who epitomize the neoliberal maternalism she is attempting to dismantle, nor does she praise mothers who reclaim domesticity as an extreme form of feminist agency. Moreover, Stephens does well addressing the limitations of essentializing motherhood.

Confronting Postmaternal Thinking offers a clear vision of how we can move forward in a feminist way that centralizes care as not only essential to mothering but beneficial to society as a whole.

Between Interruptions: 30 Women Tell the Truth about Motherhood

Cori Howard.
Toronto: Key Porter Books, 2007.

Reviewed by Elizabeth Howells

In the July-August 2012 issue of the *Atlantic*, Anne-Marie Slaughter's "Why Women Still Can't Have It All" resulted in what the *Huffington Post* described as a "typhoon of debate" for exposing the myth of the work-life balance for women. In describing how "the feminist beliefs on which [she] had built [her] entire career were shifting under [her] feet," Slaughter concludes that it is dishonest and irresponsible for high-powered women to espouse that professional success can be achieved without great compromise or grave consequences. Her discussion explores the "unresolvable tensions between family and career" for women today and also suggests a paradigm shift as a solution to this profound dilemma. Cori Howard's *Between Interruptions: 30 Women Tell the Truth about Motherhood* is part of this dialogue.

Organized in five parts, thirty women (many professional writers, editors, journalists, and media figures in Canada) describe their personal experiences with difficult realizations and tough choices as mothers, professionals, and women. Echoing Slaughter's concern, Howard questions in her introduction: "How can you put yourself and your kids first at the same time?... It's hard to be satisfied when you are brought to believe you will have a fabulous career, a fabulous family, a fabulous social life and a fabulous house, and when you suddenly find yourself with all those things, you realize it's not at all fabulous;