

Journal of the Motherhood Initiative

# Motherhood to Motherhoods

## Ideologies of the “Feminine”

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**Nam Lee, Jan Osborn, Tina Powell, Katrina Millan, Ame Khin May-Kyawt,  
Amber Power, Manjima Tarafdar, Thea Jones, JWells, Bernadine Cortina,  
Anika Manuel, Sofia Ahmed, Leah Aldridge, Janice P. De-Whyte**

## Notes on Contributors

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**Sofia Ahmed** is a PhD student at York University in Toronto, Ontario. Her research on Muslim motherhood explores motherhood myths, challenges, and spiritual insights through the lens of Islam. She focuses on the difference between religious obligation and the social construction of motherhood. She is the recipient of the Mitacs Research Training Award, Master's Entrance Scholarship, Stewart Moore Scholarship, Mary Fuller Scholarship, Freed-Orman Scholarship, LEAD Medallion Scholar Recipient, Ethel Armstrong Doctorate Award, and the Karen Hadley Memorial Award.

**Leah Aldridge** received her PhD from the USC School of Cinema and Media Studies with interests in representation, race, gender, and genre; culture industry, distribution and circulation; diaspora, globalization, and cultural exchange; and documentary, independent, and experimental forms and circuits. Her main research is the relationship between international distribution and domestic production of black film and television. She has published on the brands of cinematic Blackness.

**Julye Bidmead** is an associate professor of religious studies at Chapman University. Her research areas include archaeology of the ancient Near East, religion, ritual studies, magic, and gender. She is currently finishing an interdisciplinary project that uncovers and examines women's religious and domestic rituals in antiquity.

**Bernadine Cortina** is a storyteller from Parañaque, Philippines. In her senior year at Chapman University, she pursues a BA in English literature with minors in Africana studies, Ethnic studies, and Women's studies. Claiming a transnational community, she is moved and profoundly sustained by love for the Philippines and the people beloved to her there. As a writer, she remains committed to nurturing ecosystems of Filipina/x/o dreaming and storytelling through the literary arts.

**Janice P. De-Whyte**, PhD, is an associate professor of biblical studies and theology at the School of Religion, Loma Linda University, California. She is the author of *Wom(b)an: A Cultural- Narrative Reading of the Hebrew Bible Barrenness Narratives*.

**Thea Jones** is a PhD student at York University in Toronto, Ontario. She holds an SSHRC Doctoral Scholarship for her research on the impact of systematic breastfeeding mandates generated by public health on non-conforming parenting bodies. Jones's research focuses on uncovering the dynamics, conflicts, and harm that the health and perinatal care systems create while also envisioning a framework that fits the embodied ambivalence many pregnant parents experience when faced with breast or chestfeeding.

**Nam Lee** is an associate professor of film and media studies at Chapman University. Before she received her Ph.D. in critical studies from USC School of Cinematic Arts, she worked as a film critic and journalist in South Korea. She is the author of *The Films of Bong Joon Ho* (Rutgers University Press, 2020). Her current research focuses on maternal narratives and aging femininity in Korean cinema.

**Ame Khin May-Kyawt** is a PhD candidate at York University in the Social and Political Thought Department. Her research focuses on the impact of internal wars on socially displaced refugee women/mothers within the context of forced migration from Southeast Asia to Canada via intersectionality as a critical framework.

**Anika Manuel** is a graduate student studying for her MA in sociology at University College Dublin in Ireland. She received her bachelor's degree from Chapman University in political science and peace studies with minors in ethnic studies and philosophy. She is interested in the sociology of race and the body, colonial/decolonial theory, and carceral studies.

**Katrina Millan** is a PhD student of gender, feminist and women's studies at York University. Her research involves the analysis of family and community structures and their relationship to human futurity in postapocalyptic narratives across multiple mediums. Her work aims to demonstrate the radical potential of a queer futurism that rejects familiar heteronormative mandates for survival and continuance and instead gives us alternative means for understanding human futurity in a time of collective trauma.

**Dr. Andrea O'Reilly** is internationally recognized as the founder of Motherhood Studies (2006) and its subfield Maternal Theory (2007), and creator of Matricentric Feminism, a feminism for and about mothers (2016) and Matricritics, a literary theory and practice for a reading of mother-focused texts (2024). She 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 on many motherhood topics including: *Feminist Mothering*, *Young Mothers*, *Monstrous Mothers*, *Maternal Regret*, *Normative Motherhood*, *Mothers and Sons*, *Mothers and Daughters*, *Maternal Texts*, *Academic Motherhood*, *Mothers on Finding and Realizing Feminism and Mothering and Covid-19*. Her collection *Maternal Theory: Essential Reading* (2021) has been used as a course text in university classes around the world and is regarded as the foundational text in Motherhood Studies. 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). She has received more than 1.5 million dollars in grant funding for her research projects including two current ones: "Millennial Moms" and "Mothers and Returning to 'Normal': The Impact of the Pandemic on Mothering and Families.

**Jan Osborn** is an associate professor in the Department of English at Chapman University in Orange, California, where she teaches rhetoric and composition studies. Her scholarship focuses on rhetorical and discourse analysis at the intersection of language, socioeconomics, gender, and race and ethnicity.

**Tina Powell** is a bestselling author and journalist. She is a PhD student in gender, feminist, and women's studies (GFWS) at York University where she earned an MA in GFWS. She also has a master of communication management from the University of Southern California, a BCom from York University, and a BA in English from McMaster University.

**Amber Power** completed her MA in film studies at Chapman University and her BA in liberal arts at The New School. She works as an educator, an arts writer, and a contributing editor for the contemporary arts publication, *BOMB*. Ms. Power's writing has also appeared in *Frieze* and *Film Matters*. Her research areas include feminist art, intermedial performance, and art activism. Ms. Power teaches courses in art and activism and film criticism at Chapman University.

**Stephanie Takaragawa** is a cultural anthropologist whose scholarship centres on visual culture. Her research areas include analyses of race and representation in cultural display through media including film, television, theme parks, performances, and exhibitions, with an emphasis on Japanese American WWII incarceration history. She is associate dean of the Wilkinson School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at Chapman University and associate professor of sociology.

**Manjima Tarafdar** is a final-year film and media studies graduate student at Chapman University, USA. Originally from India, she earned her MA in comparative literature from Jadavpur University and BA in German language and literature from Visva Bharati University. Being a polyglot, she loves reading novels in various languages and guessing the plot twists of murder mysteries and thrillers. In her free time, she translates texts, watches Korean dramas, and fights zombies on her console.

**JWells** is an assistant professor in the writing, rhetoric, and digital studies department and an affiliate faculty member in the African American and Africana Studies Program at the University of Kentucky. Her research uses ethnographic research methods, Black feminist theory, and digital archives to 1) investigate how discourses of motherhood, race, and gender enforce heteronormativity that harms vulnerable populations of women; and 2) trace how these women use literacy to manage, appropriate, and resist heteronormativity.

