Journal of the Motherhood Initiative

25th Anniversary Issue on
Mothering and Motherhood

Oksana Moroz, Laura Bissell, Lauren E. Burrow, Tara Carpenter Estrada, Robin Silbergleid, Tammy Nyden, Ghada Alatrash, Ame Khin May-Kyawt, Zixuan Liao, Ariel Moy, Michela Rosa Di Candia, Sophie Brock and more

Notes on Contributors

Board Members

Emma Dalton is an adjunct research fellow in the Department of Languages and Cultures at La Trobe University, in Melbourne, Australia. Emma graduated with her PhD from the Theatre Program at La Trobe University in September of 2017. She also has a Bachelor of Performing Arts (Honours) from Monash University (2006) and an MA from La Trobe University (2008). Emma has publications under her maiden name, Hughes, and her married name, Dalton. Her publications largely engage with the representation of mothers in contemporary Australian female-authored play texts and live performances. Most recently, she contributed a book chapter to Professor Andrea O'Reilly and Dr Martina Mullaney's edited collection *The Missing Mother*, which was published by Demeter Press in 2024.

Alys Einion is a midwife, author, educator, novelist, and activist for women and childbearing people's rights in maternity care. As an academic, she champions students in midwifery, nursing, and healthcare and implements projects to improve inclusive education and student support, with a specialism in LGBT+ inclusion. As an inclusive feminist researcher, she researches the history, philosophy, and ethics of midwifery, supports PhD students studying midwifery and reproduction, and writes about spirituality, narratives, and diversity in childbearing and families. She is the editor-in-chief of the *Practising Midwife Journal* and a coeditor or author of several books. Her novels reflect her interests in lived experience, women's rights, and goddess-based spirituality. She is the creator of centred birth hypnobirthing and centred hypnofertility and advocates for the use of hypnosis in midwifery and nursing, particularly for women's health. She is also a pagan chaplain, and a vegan, and a Fellow of the Royal College of Midwives.

Veronica Frigeni received her PhD in Italian from the University of Kent (2018). She has held research positions at the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis and served as a visiting scholar at Central European University in Vienna and the University of Cambridge. Currently, she is a virtual visiting scholar at the Centre for Feminist Research at York University. Frigeni has authored a monograph on Antonio Tabucchi and has contributed chapters on transcultural feminist writers, Giorgio Agamben, postcolonial ecofeminism, matricentric feminism, queer parenting, reproductive justice, and trauma. She is a coeditor of the forthcoming volumes *Telling Lives: Mothers and Life Writing* (Demeter Press 2026) and *Womb Wor(l)ds: Transcultural Echoes on Reproductive Justice* (Demeter Press 2026). She is the Italian translator of *Maternità femministe* by Andrea O'Reilly (Prospero 2025) and the English translator of Orsola Severini's novel *Il consolo* (Demeter Press 2025). Veronica serves on the editorial board of the *Critical Gender Studies Journal*.

Marcella Gemelli is a teaching professor and director of the online masters program in Sociology in the T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics at Arizona State University. She taught courses in women and gender studies and currently teaches undergraduate and graduate Sociology courses. She takes a special interest in online course and program development, from establishing an introduction to women's studies course in a hybrid format to being an invited presenter at the American Sociological Association Director of Graduate Studies Preconference for directing the online MA in sociology. She has conducted research and written on motherhood published in *Gender Issues* and *New Maternalisms: Tales of Motherwork (Dislodging the Unthinkable)*, completed a book review published in *Gender & Society*, and is a regular reviewer for the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. She is a member of the American Sociological Association and Sociologists for Women in Society.

Michelle Hughes Miller is a feminist criminologist and professor in women's, Gender, and sexuality studies at the University of South Florida. She analyzes constructions of mothers and "bad mothers" in law, policy, and media and the experiences of mothers and mothering within academe. She recently published an edited book with Taylor & Francis (2024), *Criminalizing Motherhood and Reproduction*, and with Olga Marques, she is currently coediting the volume *Incarcerated (M)others* for Demeter Press (2025). She previously coedited *Bad Mothers: Regulations, Representations and Resistance* (Demeter, 2017). Her research has been published in edited volumes, including *The Routledge Companion to Motherhood* ("The Governance of Mothers") and *Writing Mothers* ("Grandmothering in Remission"), along with multiple journals, including *Industrial and Organizational Psychology* ("Gender Differences in Tenure-Track Faculty Time Spent on Childcare") and *Women & Criminal Justice*

("Decentering Motherhood"). Her career goal has been to integrate motherhood studies into feminist criminological research.

Andrea O'Reilly is internationally recognized as the founder of motherhood studies (2006) and its subfield maternal theory (2007) and the creator of matricentric feminism, a feminism for and about mothers (2016) and matricritics, a literary theory and practice for reading mother-focussed texts (2021). She is a 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 the coeditor, editor, and author of thirty-five plus books on many motherhood topics. Her most recent titles include *Care(ful) Relationships between Mothers and the Caregivers They Hire, The Mother Wave: Theorizing, Enacting, and Representing Matricentric Feminism* and *The Missing Mother, In (M)otherwords; Writings on Mothering and Motherhood, 2009–2024* (all published in 2024) along with *Gone Feral: Unruly Women and the Undoing of Normative Femininity* (2025). She has published fifteen chapters with several more planned on mother-centred novels/memoirs that will be published in the monograph *Matricritics as Literary Theory and Criticism: Reading the Maternal in Post-2010 Women's Narratives.*

Rachel Williamson is an academic and educator based in Aotearoa New Zealand. She has worked in the education sector for nearly two years and currently teaches the English, cultural studies, and cinema studies programs at the University of Canterbury. Her work focusses on women's embodied experiences of motherhood and gender-based violence and considers how these are informed by and represented in popular culture, film, television, and literature. She is the author of *21st-Century Representations of Maternal Ambivalence* published in 2023 by Palgrave Macmillan as part of their (Re)Presenting Gender series, and has published academic articles on contemporary popular culture representations of mother-daughter relations, Indigenous motherhood, and maternal regret. She is a frequent commentator and reviewer for the popular press. In addition to her academic expertise, Williamson has experience working as a policy advisor and educator within the domestic/family violence sector.

Contributors

Ghada Alatrash is an assistant professor at the School of Critical and Creative Studies at Alberta University of the Arts, Calgary, Canada. Dr. Alatrash is a mother scholar, and her pedagogy and research are grounded in antiorientalist, anticolonial, antiracism, and feminist frameworks that interrogate and challenge Western hegemonic narratives through an intersectional, transnational, and postcolonial lens. Her latest translation of the Syrian novel *Huddud's House* was selected by *Kirkus Reviews* as Best Fiction in Translation of 2024.

Camila Infanger Almeida is a PhD candidate (3rd year DPhil) in political science at the University of São Paulo (USP) and a recognized student in the Latin American Centre at Oxford University. She is a member of the Parent in Science Movement and a mother of two. Her research involves the dynamics around inclusive policies within the scientific realm, with a special focus on motherhood-related ones. She is a member of the Public Policy Centre (NUPPs) and she is funded by the Brazilian government agency CAPES.

Catalina Alzate is a Colombian designer, educator, and writer who works on design, technology, and wellbeing, incorporating critical media theory and feminist theory into graphic design and service design interventions. Her work explores the interplay of the biological, social, political and spiritual body in the context of wellbeing and the role of emerging technologies in visualizing and disciplining bodies. Catalina is an assistant professor of graphic design at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.

Laura Bissell is an Athenaeum Research Fellow and lecturer in contemporary performance at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Laura is the editor of *Performance in a Pandemic, Making Routes* and *Bubbles: Reflections on Becoming a Mother* and the author of the poetry collection, *A–Z of Sites of Love and Loss.* Laura's research interests include technology, ecology, interdisciplinarity, matrescence, feminism, and performance and journeys. She is currently writing a monograph on matrescence and performance (Intellect, 2025) and coediting the *International Journal of Performance Art and Digital Media's* special edition on matrescence and media.

Sophie Brock is a sociologist and mother living in Sydney, Australia. Her work explores how broader social constructs shape individual mothers' experiences. Sophie works autonomously creating online education programs for mothers and practitioners, mentors professionals working with mothers, and hosts the podcast *The Good Enough Mother.*

Beverly Buchanan, a native of Nova Scotia, Canada, earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Gallaudet University before pursuing two master's

degrees: one in Deaf education from McDaniel College and another in sign language education from Gallaudet. She later completed doctoral studies at Lamar University, where her dissertation, *Preservation of Maritime Sign Language: An Endangered Language of Canada,* was published in 2021. With extensive global experience, Bev has delivered numerous presentations, published at least five peer-reviewed articles and two book chapters, and continued her research in sign language assessment. From 1995 to 1998, she volunteered as a teacher of the Deaf in Thailand. In 2002, she organized a cross-country cycling expedition with Deaf cyclists and founded the Deaf Way Student Scholarship Fund.

Lauren E. Burrow is a professor of education studies at Stephen F. Austin State University and a MotherScholar to three growing children. She is eternally grateful to the arts (and artists) that helped her find joy and creativity during the early years of the global COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to reembracing creative writing and other arts-based methodology to share her scholarship, she currently fills her heart by performing on stage at her local theatre.

Michela Rosa Di Candia is a professor of literature and a member of the Research Group on Sexualities, Gender, and Feminism at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. She coordinates the Extension Project of Revista Intransitiva, a magazine that publishes visual art and literary works by emerging Brazilian artists. She was a research associate at the Five College Women's Studies Research Center (FCWSRC) in Massachusetts for the 2023–2024 academic year. Her research focusses on how cultural and gendered patterns shape maternal identities in literature and influence mother-child relationships. She is the mother of eleven-year-old twins, Mariana and Lucas.

Tara Carpenter Estrada is an associate professor of art education at Brigham Young University. Her research focuses on how artists, teachers, and mothers navigate the intersections between overlapping but separate roles and responsibilities. Tara has coedited two books about art and motherhood: *An Artist and a Mother* and *Give and Take: Motherhood and Creative Practice.* Awards include "Excellence in Teaching" from her college and "Utah Art Educator of Year" from the Utah Art Education Association.

Carolina Dantas de Figueiredo is a professor in the Postgraduate Program in Social Communication at the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE). She has a PhD in communication (UFPE). She was a fellow at the Center for Advanced Internet Studies (CAIS) in Bochum, Germany (2017). She is a member of the Mothering, Media, and Childhood Extension Project at UFPE and a mother of two. Her research focusses on digital environments and artificial intelligence.

Kasturi Ghosh (she/her) is a PhD candidate in the Department of English Language and Literature at the University of Waterloo (UW), ON, Canada. Her research studies contemporary gothic fiction of the American South as the outcome of homogeneous identities and boundaries forced upon the region and the uncanny reemergence of its inherent plural characteristics, focussing on the portrayal of vampires and other monstrous entities created by Anne Rice, Poppy Z. Brite, and Charlaine Harris. Kasturi has received SSHRC and OGS awards and the UW President's Award for her research, as well as other institutional and departmental awards. Before joining UW for her PhD in 2020, Kasturi served as an assistant professor of English for eight years in her home country, India. She has published papers in peer-reviewed journals and presented at international and national seminars and conferences. Her interests are gothic studies, gender studies, popular literature and culture, and adaptation studies.

Ashley Greene earned her Doctor of Education (EdD) in Deaf studies and Deaf education from Lamar University in 2020. With fifteen years of experience teaching at all levels, from pre-K to PhD, she is dedicated to shaping the educational experiences of Deaf and hard-of-hearing students. As a first-generation college graduate and an assistant professor, Dr. Greene has overcome significant challenges as the only Deaf member of her family. Additionally, as a divorced mother of two children of Deaf adults (CODAs), she pursued all three of her degrees while balancing the demands of parenting. Her personal and professional experiences provide her with unique insights into the struggles that students may face, particularly those who juggle education, family responsibilities, and financial pressures. Dr. Greene is passionate about mentorship and advocacy, ensuring that students—especially those from underrepresented backgrounds—receive the support they need to succeed.

Anna M. Hennessey, PhD, is a San Francisco-based scholar, writer, artist, and mother with an interdisciplinary background in religious studies, art history, and philosophy. She has written widely for academic and broader audiences on pregnancy, birth, rebirth, and mothering. In addition to her academic publications, which include a book, her work has been published in magazines, newspapers, and blogs, and she has given podcast and radio interviews. Hennessey's *Rebirth Tunnel Immersive Art Installation,* for which she received a 2024 grant from the American Academy of Religion, has been exhibited in Las Vegas and San Francisco.

Audrey Hilligoss is an assistant professor of art education at Bowling Green State University, working with undergraduate preservice and graduate in-service art teachers. She received a BS in art education from Miami University, an MA in art education from Arizona State University, and a PhD in arts administration, education, and policy from Ohio State University. Hilligoss's

research focuses on art teacher self-care, trauma-informed pedagogies, and arts-based research.

Sandra Houghton is a graduate student completing her MA in Art Education at Brigham Young University, where she integrates her experience as an art teacher and mother of six children into her research. Sandra's work in curriculum development emphasizes the connection between craft and artistic expression, aiming to inspire students to explore and appreciate this relationship in their creative practices.

Jenny Jones is a mother, grandmother, wife, and retired clinical ethicist. Her PhD *Composing Maternal Identities: The Living Realities of Mothers with Young Adult-Children in 21st Century*, was written within matricentric feminist and applied ethics frameworks. Marie was her very close friend and mentor.

Ame Khin May-Kyawt is a doctoral candidate in the Social and Political Thought Department at York University Toronto, and a UBC Myanmar Initiative Fellow. Her dissertation project examines the process of dislocation/relocation, its challenges, and resilience in Karen refugee women's resettlement in Canada, using intersectionality as a critical framework.

Zixuan Liao (she/her) is a PhD student in interdisciplinary humanities at Brock University in Ontario. Zixuan's research interests span a range of interdisciplinary fields, including motherhood studies, feminist theory, image studies, psychoanalysis, phenomenology, and semiotics. Her doctoral project explores the contemporary representations of the mother-daughter relationship in images created by daughter artists. This research also seeks to influence societal perceptions of motherhood, family dynamics, and gender roles beyond academia.

Heidi MacGlaughlin has been an educator in Deaf education for over twenty years, specializing in early language acquisition, ASL/English bilingual education, family literacy, and fingerspelling. She holds multiple certifications, including E-12 Deaf and Hard of Hearing, E-12 ASL, Principal, ASL/English Bilingual Early Childhood Education, and ACUE Effective Teaching Practices. She earned her doctorate from Lamar University in 2018 and currently serves as the program coordinator for the Deaf Education Program at McDaniel College. Dr. MacGlaughlin has presented at national and international conferences on Deaf identity, literacy, and language acquisition. She has served on the Associate of College Educators-Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ACE-DHH) Board and consults with Language First. Passionate about advancing bilingual education and supporting families of Deaf children, she continues to advocate for best practices in early language development. Beyond her professional work, she is a dedicated supporter of her teenage son's swimming career and enjoys travelling.

Angelica Martinez is a Mexican scholar with a PhD in arts, technology, and emerging communication from the University of Texas at Dallas. Her research investigates the impact of emerging technologies on workers' identities. Her dissertation, *The New Work of Motherhood: Technocapitalism and Postpartum Labor,* examines the discourses surrounding new technologies aimed at postpartum mothers and their evolving notions of motherhood and labour. She currently serves as the speaker series coordinator at the LaborTech Network.

Maria Collier de Mendonça is a professor in the Postgraduate Program in Social Communication at the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE). She has a PhD in Communication and Semiotics (PUC-SP) and was a visiting researcher at York University (2013). Her dissertation explored motherhood in advertising. She coordinates the Mothering, Media, and Childhood Extension Project at UFPE and is a mother of one. Her research focusses on motherhood, advertising, consumer culture, social media, qualitative research, and semiotics.

Oksana Moroz, PhD, is an assistant professor of English and director of writing at Messiah University. Her research interests revolve around gender and digital identities of English language teachers and multilingual students, motherhood and academia, writing assessment, language ideologies, and accents. Oksana's essay "A Poetic Narrative Autoethnography on Transnational Identity: Tumbleweed" appeared in the edited collection of *Doctoral Students' Identities and Emotional Wellbeing in Applied Linguistics* (Yazan, Trinh, & Pentón Herrera, 2023). She has also published in *Composition Forum, Rhetoric Review, Explorations in English Language and Linguistics, Praxis, TESOL Journal,* and *Internationalisation of Higher Education.*

Ariel Moy is an academic teacher, doctoral supervisor, and arts-based researcher at the MIECAT Institute in Naarm (Melbourne), Australia. She also has a private arts therapeutic practice specializing in mother-child relationships and has published, presented, and facilitated workshops nationally and internationally on arts-based research and the mother-child "us." Emerging from her doctoral research, the "us" is a term that speaks to experiencing as relationship, becoming more than mother and child in a generative yet accessible way.

Tammy Nyden, PhD, is an associate professor of philosophy at Grinnell College. She is the author of *Spinoza's Radical Cartesian Mind* (Continuum, 2007); the coeditor of *Cartesian Empiricisms* (Springer 2013); and the author of several articles on Spinoza, Dutch Cartesianism, and the history and philosophy of early modern science. She has been awarded fellowships from the Fulbright Program, The American Council of Learned Societies, the

Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, and the Scaliger Institute. She is also a cofounder and codirector of Mothers on the Frontline. This non-profit organization uses feminist-informed methods and storytelling to promote children's mental health justice, caregiver justice, and caregiver healing. She has worked on children's mental health policy issues on boards and committees at the city, county, and state levels and won several awards including the Isabel Turner Award from the Iowa City Human Rights Commission and Iowans with Disabilities in Action Advocate of the Year.

Kimberly Pudans-Smith earned her doctorate in Deaf studies and Deaf education from Lamar University in 2019. With over thirty years of experience teaching ASL, Deaf studies, and linguistics at various universities, she has been passionate about language acquisition and empowering students to reach their full potential. As a first-generation college graduate from a third-generation Deaf family, Kim has navigated and overcome numerous challenges, shaping her dedication to education and advocacy. She was a pioneer in developing the first-ever online sign language courses and created a platform for learners to discover new signs weekly. Beyond her academic contributions, she has traveled internationally to develop curricula and pedagogical strategies for Deaf individuals in third-world countries, ensuring communication access and vocational training opportunities. Now enjoying a new chapter, Kim spends her time at home with her husband and teenage son, embracing family life and future possibilities.

Lisa Raith has a PhD investigating first-time mothers' experiences. She is a practising psychologist based on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia, and works with clients of all ages, addressing mental health concerns, such as depression, anxiety, autism spectrum disorder, and ADHD. Lisa is dedicated to combining research and practice to support individuals in becoming their best selves.

Lea Schupak is a licensed psychotherapist and writer based in New York City. She obtained a dual master's degree in counselling psychology and mental health counselling at Teachers College, Columbia University. She holds an advanced graduate certificate in sexuality, women, and gender, with a focus on reproductive and maternal wellbeing (more specifically studying cross-cultural experiences of women who had experienced pregnancy and infant loss). Her clinical practice is currently focussed on perinatal and women's mental health, reproductive identity, and relationships. She is currently deepening her knowledge of contemporary child and adolescent psychoanalytic psychotherapy at the Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research in New York.

Yoonha Shin's life was changed by preterm premature rupture of the membranes (PPROM). After losing her baby Huckleberry to PPROM, she

resigned from her college faculty position and sought to process her loss by reading and writing. She now works as a graduate student career specialist at Princeton University and continues to write about her research interests, which include reproductive justice, feminist politics and activism, academic quit lit, and postdoctoral career transition. She received her PhD in English from the University at Buffalo (SUNY), and her essays have appeared in *Representing Abortion,* an anthology from Routledge, and *Inside Higher Ed.*

Robin Silbergleid is the author of several books on single motherhood and infertility, including the memoir *Texas Girl (Demeter Press, 2014)* and *The Baby Book: Poems (CavanKerry).* With collaborators on the international art, oral history, and portraiture project The ART of Infertility, she is coeditor of *Infertilities, A Curation* (Wayne State), which won the Midwest Book Award for Health. She lives with her children in East Lansing, Michigan, where she is a professor of English and associate chair for undergraduate studies at Michigan State University.

Lucy Tyler is an associate professor of performance practices at the University of Reading. She is a somatic movement facilitator, performance maker, dramaturg, and scholar. As a performance maker, Lucy currently makes screendances exploring m/othering, ecosomatics, and remains. Lucy's scholarly work analyses embodied and creative artistic processes, focussing on how artists and writers develop themselves and their work. She is the author of numerous articles and chapters on performance development and the forthcoming *English Play Development under Neoliberalism (*CUP, 2024). She is the principal investigator on the Arts Council-Funder Work in Progress (UoR/South Street), which seed funds and facilitates new performance-making. Lucy is the founding codirector of Elements Eco Soma Lab, an intermedial movement research project.

Jennifer Weaver earned her PhD in developmental psychology at the University of California, Irvine, in 2009. Following a postdoctoral position at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, she joined the Department of Psychological Science at Boise State University in Idaho in 2012. Now an associate professor working remotely, she teaches courses on child development and conducts research and writing on maternal psychology.

Marya Zarif is a Syrian Canadian multidisciplinary creator. She is an author, illustrator, designer, screenwriter, and filmmaker specializing in cinema and multiplatform content, with over fifteen years of experience in youth media. In 2020, she created, wrote, and co-directed her first youth animated web series, *Dounia*, broadcast on *Le SQUAT* (Télé-Québec) and numerous channels and platforms worldwide. The series received multiple awards in Quebec and internationally. From this series, *Dounia and the Princess of Aleppo* became her

first feature film. Created and written by Marya, and co-directed with André Kadi, the film is the first animated feature intended for children and general audiences to address the global issue of migration. The film was released in theaters in France on February 1, 2023, and in Quebec in April 2023. Its sequel, *Dounia and the Great White North*, which tells the story of Dounia's encounter with her new homeland, has been touring festivals since 2024 and is set for theatrical release in France in March 2025.

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