Mothers, Mothering and Motherhood in Literature  
(Fiction, Poetry, Drama, Life Writing,  
Creative Non-Fiction, Social Media)  
October 22-24, 2014  
Heaslip House, Ryerson University  
(297 Victoria Street, Toronto)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22 2014

8:30am-9:00am  REGISTRATION: CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00am-10:30am  SESSION A: MOTHERS/MOTHERING/MOTHERHOOD IN LITERATURE

CHAIR – Deborah Byrd, Lafayette College
  • Kate Williams, University of Tulsa, “Isolated Mothers in the Fiction and Memoirs of Joan Didion”
  • Rose A. Sackeyfio, Winston Salem State University, “Motherhood in African Women’s Literature”
  • Erin Bell, Wayne State University, “‘Co-workers in the mother trade:’ Grace Paley’s Short Fiction and the Single Mother”

10:45am-12:15pm  SESSION B: LIFE WRITING AND MATERNAL PRESENCE/ABSENCE

CHAIR – Andrea O’Reilly, York University
  • Freema Elbaz-Luwisch, University of Haifa, “Writing About Mother as Personal and Pedagogical Project”
  • Natalie Morning, Ryerson and York University, “Words of Consequence: Motherless Daughters, Feminism and the Cultural Texts of the ‘New Momism’”
  • Sarah Sahagian, York University, “No, I Don't Have a Baby: Being Child-free in the Motherhood Studies Community”
  • Karen Gold (*Presenter), Women’s College Hospital, and Christine Stewart-Nunez, South Dakota State University, “Disordered: Creating Nuanced Narratives of Mothering Children With Disabilities Through Creative Non-Fiction”

12:15pm-1:30pm  LUNCH: ON YOUR OWN

1:30pm-3:00pm  SESSION C: THE BODY/NATURE
CHAIR – Erin Bell, Wayne State University
- Anissa Wardi, Chatham University, “Mother Bodies, Marigolds and Dirt: Trans-corporeality in Toni Morrison’s The Bluest Eye”
- Barbara Mattar, Australian Catholic University, “Birth Under Duress: Representations of Childbirth in Late 20th Fiction”

3:15pm-4:45pm SESSION D: THE MOTHER FIGURE, ALISON BECHDEL AND GRAPHIC NARRATIVES

CHAIR – Mary Thompson, James Madison University
- Abigail Palko, University of Notre Dame, “Are You Speaking For Me? The Maternal Figure in Are You My Mother?”
- Judith Lakämper, Wayne State University, “Surviving Destruction: The Cathetic Mother-Daughter Relationship in Alison Bechdel’s Are You My Mother?”
- Natalja Chestopalova, York University and Ryerson University, “From Jane Austen to Alison Bechdel: Affective Economies and Representation of ‘Peripheral’ Voices and ‘Meddling’ Mothers”
- Lorinda Peterson, Queen’s University, “Rendering Visible: Lesbian Mothering, Trauma, and Sequential Art”
- Walter Lai, Ryerson University, “‘Nobody Heard Her Tears’: Graphic Memoir as Intersubjective Space between Mother & Child”

5:00pm-6:30pm SESSION E: CREATIVE VOICES/STORYTELLING

CHAIR – Maythee Rojas, California State University-Long Beach
- Melinda Vandenbeld Giles, University of Toronto, “The Perfect Mother”
- Tiffany Chenneville, University of South Florida, “The Humility of Motherhood”
- Linn Baran, Writer, Editor, Researcher and Community Educator, “His Hand in My Palm: A Feminist Mother's Experience of "Boyhood””
- Nargis Ara, Government Girls Post Graduate College, “Grand Motherhood to Feel the Deep Emotions of Daughter and Voice of Granddaughter (Come Father Come)!”
- Debbie Byrd, Lafayette College, “Scripting Stories of Resistance: Young Mothers and Theatre of the Oppressed Activism”

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2014

8:30am-9:00am REGISTRATION: CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00am-10:30am SESSION F: MOTHERS/MOTHERING/MOTHERHOOD IN LITERATURE

CHAIR – Bethany Jacobs, University of Oregon
- Maythee Rojas, California State University-Long Beach, “‘Only in Complete Solitude Did She Feel Like A Woman:’ Fractured Images of Domestic Life in Helena Maria Viramontes’s Short Fiction”
• Berit Åström, Umeå University, Sweden, “Unforgiven: The Representation of Motherhood in The Hunger Games”
• Ebony Olivia Lumumba, Tougaloo College, “Mothering Interrupted: Representations of Motherhood and South African Apartheid as Repressive Social Paradigms in Nadine Gordimer’s July’s People and The House Gun”
• Janel Atlas, University of Delaware, “Sui Sin Far’s Mothers: Infanticide and Loss in Chinatown”
• Robin Silbergleid, Michigan State University, “Queer Mothers, Heterosexual Narratives: Pregnancy and Plot in Contemporary Women’s Memoirs”

10:45am-12:15pm SESSION G: MOTHERS/MOTHERING/MOTHERHOOD IN RELIGIOUS & SPIRITUAL LITERATURE

CHAIR – Diana Gustafson, Memorial University
• Brooke Nelson, Claremont Graduate University, “Breastfeeding Virgins and Other Maternal Ironies in the Martyrdom of St. Agatha”
• Mandi Veenstra, Queen’s University, “The “Good” Christian Mother: Manufacturing an Unattainable Ideal”
• Florence Pasche Guignard, University of Toronto, “Helplessness as Victory. Maternal Dharma in Representations of Mothers, Motherhood and Mothering in Modern Hindi Literature”
• Roxana Cazan, St. Francis University, “Exclusionary Citizenship, Epistemic Violence, and Reproductive Constraints: Being Roma in the Contemporary Czech Republic”

12:15pm-1:30pm LUNCH: ON YOUR OWN

1:30pm-3:00pm SESSION H: LOVE, LABOUR & LOSS: MATERNAL DESIRE & REPRODUCTION

CHAIR – Betty Baba, University of Ottawa
• Modhumita Roy, Tufts University, "A Womb of Their Own: Popular Culture and the Normalising of Commercial Surrogacy”
• Mary Thompson, James Madison University, “Thinking Back Through Our Mothers: Contemporary Memoir and Abortion”
• Kate Greenway, York University, “The Absent Mother: Alternative Visions of the Adoption Story”
• Kathy Mantas, Nipissing University, “ART-i-facts (Phase V): An Artful Inquiry On/Into/Through the Experience of Becoming a Mother by Way of ART (Assisted Reproductive Technologies)”
• Zarena Aslami, Michigan State University, “Motherhood as “Exit Strategy”: Professional Working Mothers in the Media and the Problem of Choice”

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3:15pm-5:15pm  WRITING MOTHERHOOD DEMETER KEYNOTE PANEL

CHAIR – Andrea O’Reilly, York University
• Laurie Kruk, Author of My Mother Did Not Tell Stories (2012)
• Rachel Epp Buller, Author of Have Milk, Will Travel: Adventures in Breastfeeding (2013)
• Robin Silbergleid, Author of Texas Girl (2014)
• Lissa Cowan, Author of Milk Fever (2013)
• Linda Rosenbaum, Author of Not Exactly As Planned: A Memoir of Adoption, Secrets and Abiding Love (2014)
• Tricia McCallum, Author of The Music of Leaving

5:30pm-6:00pm  KEYNOTE ADDRESS

CHAIR – Elizabeth Podnieks, Ryerson University
• Jowita Bydlowska, author of the bestselling memoir Drunk Mom (Doubleday 2013)

6:00pm-8:00pm  RECEPTION & BOOK LAUNCH

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2014

8:30am-9:00am  REGISTRATION: CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00am-10:30am  SESSION I: DIS/ABILITY

CHAIR – Zarena Aslami, Michigan State University
• Betty Baba, University of Ottawa, “Disability: Measuring the identity and social challenge of a mother”
• Kathleen Venema, University of Winnipeg, “Mothering as Containment Strategy in Lori Lansens' The Girls”
• Melanie Stone, Western University, “‘Where did she get that baby?’ The Erasure of Dis/abled Mothers in Social Media and Mommy Blogs”
• Jane Tolmie, Queen’s University, “Emily Rapp’s Little Seal: Regarding the Pain of Others”

10:45am-12:15pm  SESSION J: MOTHERS/MOTHERING/MOTHERHOOD IN LITERATURE

CHAIR – Betty Baba, University of Ottawa
• Bethany Jacobs, University of Oregon, “Ride me to the Crossroads: Becoming the Erotic Mother in Audre Lorde’s Zami: A New Spelling of My Name”
• Rita Bode, Trent University, “Complicating Motherhood in Edith Wharton’s Fiction”
• Katie Piper Greulich, Michigan State University, “An Ambient—and Ambivalent—Poetics: The Ecomimesis of Writing Motherhood”
• Betty Baba, University of Ottawa, “Motherhood: The Black Mother in American Mother–Daughter in Toni Morrison’s Literal Work”
12:15pm-1:30pm  LUNCH: ON YOUR OWN

1:30pm-3:00pm  SESSION K: THE BODY, MEDIA, & POLITICS/SOCIETY

CHAIR – Linn Baran, Writer, Editor, Researcher and Community Educator
* Diana Gustafson, Memorial University, “Maternal Bodies in Medical Textbooks and Classrooms”
* Davod Ahmadi Gheidari, “Mothers’ Food choices: An analysis of differences between Francophones and Anglophones in Canada”
* Penelope Morris, “Problems and Prescriptions: Ideas of Motherhood in 1950s and 1960s Italian Print Media”
* Mariam Irene Tazi-Preve, University of Vienna, “Motherhood in Patriarchy. Abolishing the Matrilineal Order”

3:15pm-4:45pm  SESSION L: SOCIETY/POLITICS/COMMUNITIES

CHAIR – Diana Gustafson, Memorial University
* Linda Hunter, University of Guelph, “Maternal Politics and Representations of Motherhood During the French Enlightenment: Relevance to Theoretical Developments”
* Laura Saldanha, Concordia University, “Mothering as an Embodied Practice: Contemporary Notions of the "Good" Mother Within a Neoliberal Framework”
* Valerie Heffernan, National University of Ireland Maynooth, “Contemporary Women’s Writing in German: The Feminist Family Romance”
* May Friedman, Ryerson University, “Trans/parent: The Politics of Transition”