

# Mothers and the Economy: The Economics of Mothering



Spring/Summer 2012  
Volume 3, Number 1

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The Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement (MIRCI) is the first feminist organization devoted specifically to the topics of mothering and motherhood. MIRCI is an association of scholars, writers, activists, policy makers, educators, parents, and artists. Our mandate is to provide a forum for the discussion and dissemination of feminist, academic, and community grassroots research, theory, and praxis on mothering and motherhood. We are committed in both membership and research to the inclusion of all mothers: First Nations, immigrant and refugee mothers, working-class mothers, lesbian mothers, mothers with disabilities, mothers of colour, and mothers of other marginalized communities. We welcome memberships to MIRCI and submissions to the *Journal of the Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement* (JMI), our biannual publication, from all individuals.

### **Membership and Subscription Information**

For full information on regular and student memberships to MIRCI and student and regular subscriptions to JMI please visit our website <[www.motherhoodinitiative.org](http://www.motherhoodinitiative.org)>. Please see the last page of this journal for more detailed information.

### **Submission Guidelines**

In order to submit articles, book reviews, or poetry to the *Journal of the Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement* (JMI), contributors must be a member of MIRCI. The journal will only consider material which is not under consideration at any other journal or publication. Please contact us for a list of upcoming themes as well as a copy of our style sheet. Articles should be typed, double-spaced, and no longer than 3750 words (or 15 pages). Art or photographs may accompany your work. MIRCI reserves the right to edit manuscripts for length and conformity to our editorial guidelines and house style. We will not publish writing that is sexist, homophobic, racist, or in any way discriminatory. Submissions will be blind-reviewed by a guest editorial board. Articles printed in the journal do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, the staff of the journal, or of our funders. Contributors retain copyright. No reproduction of any part of this journal is permitted without prior written permission from MIRCI.



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### Front Cover Artwork

Rachel Epp Buller, "Milchkaffee," 2011.

#### Artist Statement:

*During my graduate studies and before we had children, my partner and I fully anticipated that I would be the one to work fulltime while he would stay home to care for babies and toddlers. Life has a way of getting in the way, though, and our eventual parenting situation initially looked much more like a gendered division of labor than I would have anticipated. In the intervening years, we have sought out opportunities that allow us to alternate roles of breadwinner and caregiver. For six months of this year, we lived in Berlin, Germany, where I was paid to conduct research. I can state without question that it was easily the best job I've ever had: exciting work, a chance to focus fully on a single project with little outside distraction, and great colleagues in a fabulous city. And, I relished the opportunity to modify our family roles, to be the income earner in a foreign economy. While the foreign language and culture, the move from a small town to a metropolis, and the adapted parental roles all required adjustment for our family, I found that food both symbolically reflected and helped to ease the difficulty of those transitions. The photographs from this series address the purchase and preparation of food in a foreign culture, an integral part of our family's gendered, economic, and cultural transformations.*