

Maternal geographies: Mothering in and out of place

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While mothers aim to provide the best upbringing for their children, they often face a constant cacophony of judgement from the outside world. These judgements are typically made without considering geographic constraint, the mother's positionality, and other contexts relevant to the mother's and others' decision making.

This edited collection interrogates diverse aspects and experiences associated with motherhood. Each chapter examines a specific challenge mothers face and each applies a geographic lens, meaning special focus is given to how place influences experiences and decision making. The title confused me a bit at first because a mother is a mother despite the place she is situated in, and it might be argued that this role does not change on the basis of location. Yet, rightly, this book homes in on how place *does* shift how mothers are seen, or not seen, how their visibility or invisibility affects their behaviours as a result, and why these considerations are important in geographical terms.

This book takes the reader on an expedition, revealing a diverse set of trials mothers face in relation to providing children with healthy, safe, stimulating, and caring environments. The chapters explore expressions of motherhood using rigorous qualitative research methods to document how mothers navigate complex relationships with employers, their communities, policymakers, research subjects, and the world while pregnant. The viewpoints shared by members of under-researched populations are illuminated. The result is truly an exemplary work of intersectional feminist scholarship that does not claim to speak for all mothers, all women, but that does bring valuable attention to the experiences, challenges, and the successes of dissimilar mothers, using a geographic lens.

The themes in this book vary widely, yet common among them are the spatial aspects of mothering and consideration of how different spaces and places necessitate different behaviours, negations, interventions, and considerations of how, despite their differences and

contexts, mothers recognise these shifts and accommodate accordingly. Mothers find solutions, even as they face challenges not always known or revealed to others, and the chapters show how mothers make the best choices they can with the information and resources available to them.

The collection is organised in three sections and 16 chapters that range in subjects, methods, and geographies. Each chapter tackles a distinctive issue relating to maternity and employs a different methodology to consider each. The three overarching sections are entitled as follows: Part 1, A Woman's Place: Making Maternal Spaces; Part 2, In and Out of Place: Pregnancy, Mothering, Research, and the Workplace; and Part 3, Spatial Practices and the Regulation of Motherhood.

Part 1 consists of five chapters that range from interpretations of art and technology, parenting in intercultural relationships far from home, finding a home with access to safe places to play for children, health recommendations for children with autism, and using a GPS to map a pilgrimage from and to a mother's home. Each chapter focuses on a mother's experience in her home.

In Part 2, authors consider the merits of keeping the workplace separate from the places where mothering takes place; focus on mothers who are strippers and on their success in financially supporting their children; investigate deeply moving Indigenous practices to honour maternal heritages and mothers who come before you; and explore what it means to be pregnant in the workplace with special attention to the researcher in the field. These chapters will be especially useful for graduate research methods courses and discussions about researchers' positions and how positionality influences research in general and data collection in particular.

In Part 3, authors explore governmental ideals for mothers and consider the influence of ideas about the normative home and the relationship between mothers and the modern nation state. Chapters include work on governmental initiatives in the United States providing incentives to "bad moms" on low incomes to attend

health practices; on mother–daughter relationships and how they are influenced by cultural norms and laws in Latin America; and on Francophone mothers migrating to an English community in Canada to support their husbands' careers. The final chapter reviews anti-homosexual discourses related to “mothering” and heteronormative resistance in Canada, Australia, and Ireland.

While stirring, well written, and relevant, the book's widely divergent topics and geographical reach can be a bit jarring. It is difficult for the reader to decipher how certain chapters fit together within each section and what topics the next chapter will bring. The common thread seems to be the acknowledgement that each mother is faced with an exceptional set of challenges largely based on their geography and positionality. Thus, diversity in methodology, topics, and perspectives is both a strength and weakness. Chapters might have been better organised by methodology or another alternative, or not organised in sections at all. Despite this apparent drawback, the strong intersectional feminist and geographical approach to investigating motherhood makes this book valuable.

The collection will be enjoyed by a broad readership, including students in graduate programmes and early

career researchers focusing on human geography. While I am a mother myself, the chapters presented here offered exclusive views and interrogated ideas and circumstances that were previously unknown to me and will likely be new to others. For such reasons, the work will also be relevant for academic administrators, policymakers, partners, fathers, employers, and those interacting with mothers and should unsettle the reified experiences mothers must endure.

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