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**The Trouble of Mediated White Motherhood After Second Wave Feminism**

White mothers in our popular imaginary are vexed with anxieties despite their relative privilege and hyper-visibility. For example, the juggling mother (Watson, 2020) in the CBC show *Workin' Moms* tenuously bends to the unreasonable demands of professional and family life and pushes back against patriarchy at work. As this paper explores, such discourses of white maternal angst in popular culture reflect the omissions and hopes of second wave feminism, which follow us in the third wave. It demonstrates how depictions of white maternal angst from *Rosemary's Baby* (1968) to contemporary HGTV moms reflect the shortcoming of second wave strategies which sidelined reproductive labour and ignored interlocking systems of oppression that disadvantaged people of colour. While popular culture primarily centers white feminism's critique of patriarchy, which is also a central concern of white mothers onscreen, little space is afforded mothering by women of colour and the intersectional and systemic failures they face. In order to think about alternative strategies offered in the second wave that more adequately addressed overarching inequities, this paper discusses the oft forgotten second wave movements *Wages for Housework* and the *Combahee River Collective* (Taylor, 2017). It also asks us to read popular depictions of white motherhood against the grain to imagine new possibilities for a matricentric feminism (O'Reilly, 2021).

Works Cited

Watson, Amanda. (2020). *The Juggling Mother: Coming Undone in the Age of Anxiety*. Vancouver: UBC Press.

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Miranda J. Brady (she/her) is an Associate Professor in the School of Journalism and Communication at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. She is the mother of two children including one with a high degree of support needs. Her current work explores the areas of motherhood studies and critical autism studies. Miranda's book manuscript on white maternal angst after second wave feminism is currently under peer review with a university press. She has authored or co-authored three articles over the last two years related to motherhood studies: (with Erika Christiansen and Emily Hiltz) *Good Karen, Bad Karen: Visual Culture and the Anti-Vaxx Mom on Reddit* (2022)

in the Journal of Gender Studies; 'I think the Men are Behind it': Reproductive Labour and the Horror of Second Wave Feminism (2021) in Feminist Media Studies; and (with Melodie Cardin) Your Typical Atypical Family: Streaming apolitical autism on Netflix (2021) in Topia: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies. She co-authored with John M.H. Kelly the 2017 UBC Press Book: We Interrupt this Program: Indigenous Media Tactics in Canadian Culture.