

Motherhood to motherhoods: IDEOLOGIES OF 'THE FEMININE'

CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY APRIL 28–30, 2023

Motherhood is seen as one of the most 'natural' and universal experiences for women; however, "motherhood" is a social and cultural construct that can be contested and negotiated. The notion of "motherhood" has evolved beyond a women's biological function to a way of being in the world, one that all genders can experience. Not all mothering is done by women, nor are all women mothers.

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite submissions that explore how the concept of motherhood is constructed and shaped and how it can be contested and negotiated through art, discourse, and social institutions. We are particularly interested in how women's labor and health are dismissed and devalued. At the same time, we are interested in the ways in which the concept of motherhood is evolving beyond the biological to a way of being in the world, an attitude toward the existing order.

Abstract Deadline: Mar. 10, 2023

See full conference schedule & submit abstract



Taking a multidisciplinary and global perspective, the conference aims to deconstruct the patriarchal mother as a biological and essential category and understand how motherhood is constructed and shaped through media representations in art, literature, film, and social institutions.

Presentations might address, but are by no means limited to, the following themes:

Representation of mothers or motherhood in:

- Art
- Film/TV
- History
- Literature
- Popular Culture
- Religion

Politics of Motherhood

Motherhood and Gender

Motherhood and Race

Femininity and Motherhood

Intersectionality and Motherhood

Motherhood and Health

- Reproduction Rights
- Childbirth
- Midwifery

Motherhood as Labor in the Community, Academy,

Workplace, and World

Keynote Speaker:

Friday night: Dr. Janice DeWhyte, Associate Professor of Religion, Loma Linda University

Saturday morning: Dr. Andrea O'Reilly, Professor, School of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, York University, Toronto

Sunday afternoon: Coming to You (2021) Film Screening and Q & A with Byun Gyuri, Director, and featured mothers Nabi and Vivian