

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



Institute for Culture
and Society

Motherhood, Labour and Care in Contemporary Australia: 2021 Research Symposium

Call For Papers

Western Sydney University, with the support of the Urban Futures Program within the Institute for Culture and Society, the Sociology Discipline, and the Human Resources and Management Program within the School of Business, will host a virtual research symposium on the topic of 'Motherhood, Labour and Care in Contemporary Australia', on the 22nd of November 2021.

Keynote Speakers

- Dr Carla Pascoe Leahy (Australian Research Council DECRA Fellow – the University of Melbourne, Honorary Associate at Museums Victoria)
- Dr Briony Lipton (Postdoctoral Research Associate – the University of Sydney Business School, Visiting Research Fellow ANZSOG and the Australian National University Crawford School)

The intersections of gender, work and families have become more complex, contested, and less certain. While in some contexts, more egalitarian practices have emerged, in others inequities have been exacerbated. As we begin to emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, which in many ways has disrupted our work and care regimes, it seems timely to reconsider some of the tensions between paid labour and care in everyday life. This one-day research symposium will bring together cross-disciplinary scholars and postgraduate students who research the maternal. The research symposium will consider motherhood, labour and care from multiple perspectives and dimensions: parent/carers and/or students, professionals, industry practitioners and government, employees and/or leaders, among others.

We are interested in interrogating a variety of motherhood, labour, and care issues within the Australian context. We hope to find shared areas of interest across disciplines and contribute to policy debates. Papers may consider, but are not limited to, the following:

- Study and care
- Paid employment and care
- Universal childcare
- Workplace flexibility
- Government investments in women's paid employment and care responsibilities
- Intersectional approaches to gender, work and family
- Parental leave policy and practices during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Theoretical challenges and successes in studying the maternal – particularly for intersectional, feminist and queer theory
- Women's work and caring lives during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Women and the future of work and care beyond the Covid-19 pandemic
- Gender relations, motherhood, and the workplace-household nexus

We welcome contributions from any disciplinary area, including, but not limited to: Sociology, Cultural studies, Media, History, Politics, Gender studies, Science and Medicine, Public Health, Law, Business and Management, Economics, Social Work, Anthropology, Creative Practice, Literature, Indigenous studies, Disability, and Policy.

We invite you to submit an abstract of 350 words along with the paper's title and a 50-word biography. Papers will be delivered via zoom, and each will be 15 minutes in length. Please submit proposals in one Pdf document to motherlabourcare@gmail.com with the heading 'Motherhood, Labour and Care in Contemporary Australia research symposium' by the 1st of September 2021.

Convenors:

Dr Sheree Gregory, Lecturer: HRM, Business, and Research Affiliate at ICS, Western Sydney University.

Associate Dean – Research & Associate Professor Kate Huppatz, Sociology, Social Science and Psychology, and Research Affiliate at ICS, Western Sydney University.