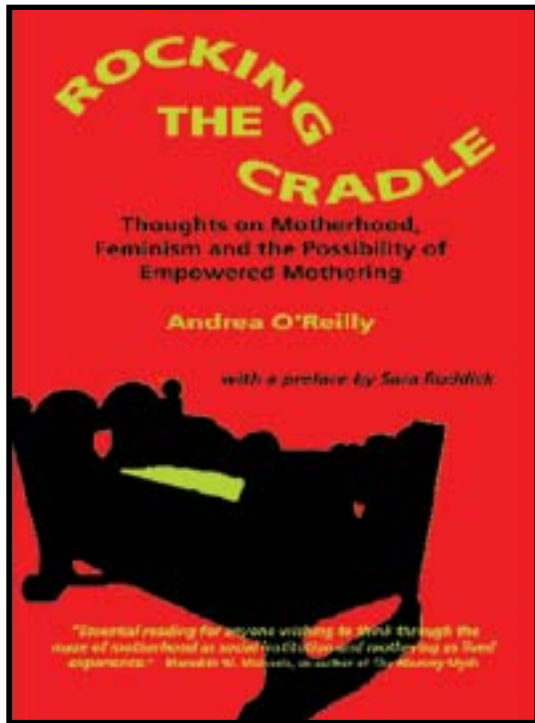


# Rocking the Cradle:

May 2006

Thoughts on Motherhood, Feminism and the Possibility of Empowered Mothering  
Andrea O'Reilly



The oppressive and the empowering dimensions of maternity, as well as the complex relationship between the two, first identified by Adrienne Rich in *Of Woman Born*, has been the focus of feminist scholarship on motherhood over the last three decades. While feminist research on motherhood has focused on many topics, these studies have been informed and shaped by larger inquiries: namely, how do we challenge patriarchal motherhood? How do we create feminist mothering? And finally, how are the two aims interconnected? *Rocking the Cradle*, composed of twelve essays, will explore these questions.

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**Andrea O'Reilly** is an Associate Professor of Women's Studies, York University, Toronto and Director of the Association for Research on Mothering. She is the author of *Toni Morrison and Motherhood: A Politics of the Heart*, and editor of eight books on mothering including *Mother Outlaws: Theories and Practices of Empowered Mothering*.

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