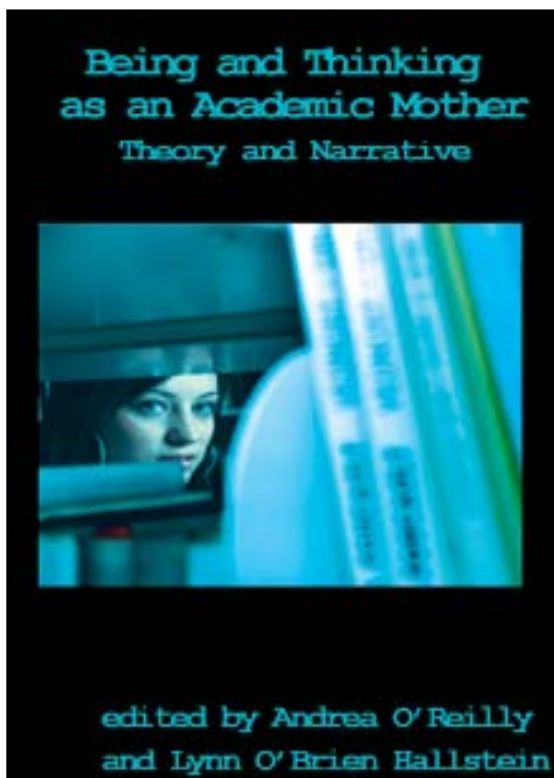


Being and Thinking as an Academic Mother: Theory and Narrative

edited by Andrea O'Reilly and Lynn O'Brien Hallstein



Contemporary academic women, whether any individual woman identifies as a feminist or not, are second wave beneficiaries: they have benefited from and taken advantage of second wave feminism's successes in terms of opening up access for girls and women in both educational and professional institutions. And, as such, many contemporary academic women, at least privileged women, have to figure out how to take advantage of the access they have gained in academia, while also managing the intensive and unbounded demands of academia, children, and family-life management and the tensions that arise as a result of trying to manage it all. This post-second-wave context requires a new framework to understand more fully the complexities academic mothers face in having and managing "it all." *Being and Thinking as an Academic Mother* offers this new framework and contextualizes academic motherhood within a specifically post-second-wave context and the structures and career-path norms of academia today. In short, the collection of essays here, written by academic women from various different disciplines, at different stages of their academic careers, and from diverse locations from within academia, is devoted to this exploration of challenges, strategies, and theoretical possibilities. Thus, this book explores how both research and narrative can inform contemporary understandings of academic motherhood within our post-second wave context.

Andrea O'Reilly, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Women's Studies at York University and is founder and director of the Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement and Demeter Press. She is author/editor of 16 books on motherhood, and is editor of the first encyclopedia on motherhood. In 2010 she was the recipient of the CAUT Sarah Shorten Award for outstanding achievements in the promotion of the advancement of women in Canadian universities and colleges.

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