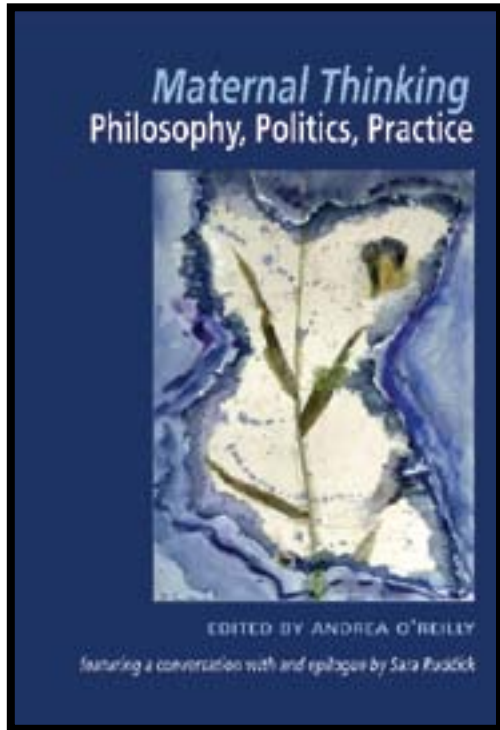


# Maternal Thinking: Philosophy, Politics, Practice

edited by Andrea O'Reilly



The year 2009 marks twenty years since the publication of Sara Ruddick's monumental text *Maternal Thinking: Toward a Politics of Peace*, a book that is regarded, along with Adrienne Rich's *Of Woman Born*, as the most significant work in maternal scholarship and the new field of Motherhood Studies. What made *Maternal Thinking* so life-changing and ground-breaking was that it foregrounded what all mothers know: motherwork is inherently and profoundly an intellectual activity and theorized the obvious: Mothers think. This volume, published to commemorate and celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the publication of *Maternal Thinking*, explores the impact and influence this book has had on maternal scholarship and revisits what motherhood scholars regard as the pivotal insights of Ruddick's text: motherwork is a practice that gives rise to and is informed by "maternal thinking"; mothering, as a practice, is composed of and characterized by particular characteristics; this work is not defined by or reducible to gender; and maternal thinking makes possible a politics a peace. The volume includes 17 contributors from disciplines as diverse as anthropology, sociology, literature, philosophy, education, women's studies and psychology and features a conversation with and an epilogue by Sara Ruddick.

"I was transformed by Sara Ruddick's *Maternal Thinking* when it was first published. Now we have a stunning collection of essays by writers, social scientists, philosophers and activists illustrating how profound an effect the very idea of 'maternal thinking,' in all its implications, has had on them. I was educated and moved, reminded and expanded, by the writers whose work fills this crucial collection.

—jane lazarre, author of *The Mother Knot* and *Beyond The Whiteness of Whiteness*

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**Andrea O'Reilly** is an Associate Professor in the School of Women's Studies at York University. She is author/editor of twelve books on Mothering/ Motherhood including *Mother Outlaws: Theories and Practices of Empowered Mothering*. O'Reilly is the founder, director of the Association for Research on Mothering (ARM).

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