

# DEMETER PRESS

author interview with  
KAILA ADIA STORY

Patricia Hill Collins:  
Reconceiving Motherhood



WE SPOKE WITH DEMETER EDITOR KAILA ADIA STORY ABOUT HER NEW BOOK, *PATRICIA HILL COLLINS: RECONCEIVING MOTHERHOOD*, AND HILL COLLINS' IMPACT ON MOTHERHOOD STUDIES.

*To order Patricia Hill Collins: Reconceiving Motherhood visit [www.demeterpress.org](http://www.demeterpress.org) where all books are available for a limited time at 50% off and with free mailing for orders over \$60. #motherhoodisNOTaliability*

**DEMETER PRESS: WHY WAS IT IMPORTANT TO PRODUCE A BOOK ON PATRICIA HILL COLLINS? WHY NOW?**

**KAILA ADIA STORY:** Patricia Hill Collins isn't just a brilliant scholar, public intellectual and organic activist, she has been, and remains, one of the foremost Black Feminist writers of our time. From the beginning of her writing and academic career, Hill Collins' perspective and approach to her work has made meaning of the experiences of women and men of African descent. Continuously emphasizing the bearings that race, class, gender and sexuality have on Black American culture. As a Feminist writer who has always gone beyond just focusing on a generalized category known as "women," her research agenda and approach to her published work has always explored the many ways that relations of gender, intersecting with race, class, ethnicity, sexuality and spirituality, and other "differences" affect every aspect of identity; every aspect of society. In line with her Pan-African perspective, as a feminist, Hill Collins has always argued that analyses of gender must be historically contextualized and challenge us as citizens to re-examine and further question the a priori "fact" of the subordination of women. There is no time like the present to honor Hill Collins work by highlighting it in this volume.

[...Also], Hill Collins' interdisciplinary and intersectional work encourages other academics and public intellectuals to be more innovative, creative and flexible when approaching their own work. By engaging different lines of questioning simultaneously, students develop the skills to be focused, while thinking 'outside of box' through interdisciplinary thinking.

**DP: WHY HAS HILL COLLINS' WORK BEEN SO INSTRUMENTAL TO MOTHERING SCHOLARSHIP?**

**KAS:** Patricia Hill Collins has given new meaning to the institution of motherhood throughout her publishing career. Introducing scholars to new concepts, such as, "other mothering" and "mothering of the mind", Hill Collins' creative and multifaceted analysis of the institution of motherhood has, in a large sense, reconceived of what it means to be a mother in a national and transnational context. By connecting motherhood as an institution to manifestations of empire, racism, classism and heteronormativity, Hill Collins has informed and invented new understandings of the institution as a whole.

**DP: WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT HILL COLLINS THAT SURPRISED YOU OR YOU DIDN'T KNOW?**

**KAS:** In November 2013, I got a chance to sit down with Dr. Patricia Hill Collins, Distinguished University Professor of Sociology at the University of Maryland, College Park, about her research and publications on Motherhood as praxis, an institution and a lived experience. I was surprised and overjoyed to learn that Hill Collins' own personal life has been deeply rooted in her ideas, introduction of new paradigms and books. Hill Collins not only wanted to empower other women about the institution of motherhood but also wanted to teach herself to think differently about it, and empower herself. I think she has, too. She has done this for all of us who are intimately familiar with her work.

**DP: WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FEMINIST MOTHERHOOD BOOK, OR BOOK THAT YOU RECOMMEND?**

**KAS:** One of my favorite feminist books on motherhood is *Invisible Families: Gay Identities, Relationships, and Motherhood among Black Women* by Mignon Moore. In the book, Moore challenges our own socialized ideas about family, identity, motherhood and racial formation in the United States. Drawing from interviews and surveys of 100 black gay women in New York City, Moore explores the ways that race and class have influenced how these women understand their sexual orientation, find partners and form families. It's not only interesting but a necessary contribution to a very important conversation.