

DISSECTING MAINSTREAM MOTHERING STANDARDS

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“Motherhood Studies” is a field Andrea O'Reilly established in 2006, and today, it is a globally recognized academic discipline focused on motherhood and how it intersects with feminism. In O'Reilly's newest scholarly work, she has edited a collection of reflections titled *Normative Motherhood: Regulations, Representations, and Reclamation*, an intersectional analysis of mainstream standards for mothering.

The publication (Demeter Press, May 2023) is a collaboration with 15 other scholars on how public policy, workplace practices, family arrangements and modern culture shape motherhood. The contributors look at factors such as representations of motherhood on social media, misogynistic breastfeeding activism—or “lactivism,” the historical evolution of motherhood manuals and intergenerational trauma. O'Reilly's examination shows how normative motherhood adversely impacts women's lives and how they can resist its imperatives.

