



From the Personal
to the Political

Toward a New Theory
of Maternal Narrative

Edited by
Andrea O'Reilly
and
Silvia Caporale Bizzini

FROM THE PERSONAL TO
THE POLITICAL:
TOWARD A NEW THEORY OF
MATERNAL NARRATIVE
Andrea O'Reilly (Editor),
Silvia Caporale Bizzini (Editor)

From the Personal to the Political seeks to analyze the autobiographical perspective of mothering and motherhood not solely in terms of inner, emotional and private narratives, but also showing how autobiographical writing gives voice to the historically determined experience of mothering and makes visible the importance of mothers as resilient, political agents. The volume is divided into two sections.

The first focuses on what may be termed 'autobiographical theory'. The contributors in this section use their life stories to theorize upon a social maternal perspective such as that as single mothers, mothers of children with disabilities, mothers of older children, and mothers of bi-racial children. The focus of the second section is on autobiographical narratives and includes readings of memoirs, slave narratives, poetry, and fiction. The essays in this volume position autobiography, in both theory and fiction, as a profoundly cultural and political text that makes social change possible. Andrea O'Reilly is Associate Professor in the School of Women's Studies at York University.

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ISBN: 9781575911298, CLOTH, \$85.00/ \$59.50 special price
SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY PRESS, DEC. 31, 2009

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