

COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course unit title	Research field, branch, code	Faculty	Department, Institute
Critical Motherhood Theory	Philology, Linguistics, H004	Philology	Department of French

Study cycle	3 rd (doctoral)
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Mode of delivery	ECTS credits	Type of the course unit	Language of instruction
Contact (lectures, workshops, tutorials)	8	Optional	Lithuanian and/or English, French
Individual or in a group			

Annotation of the course content
<p>The Module aims to introduce students to the critical motherhood studies approach and its uses in a wide range of humanities and/or social sciences as well as interdisciplinary research. The Module is structured around the core notions and concepts of critical motherhood studies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. Adrienne Rich – the pioneer of contemporary motherhood studies. Motherhood under patriarchy, decolonising motherhood. Motherhood as institution and motherhood as experience. Distinction between motherhood and femininity. Empowered motherhood. 3. Mothering as culturally gendered practices: motherhood vs mothering; Sara Ruddick’s <i>maternal thinking</i>; and Lisa Baraitser’s <i>ethics of interruption</i>. 4. Rethinking motherhood beyond/outside of heterosexuality: motherhood and non-normative gender aspects; Judith Butler <i>sex vs gender</i>; applying <i>queer</i> theory in motherhood studies. Shelley M. Park and a response to the concept of <i>monomaternality</i>. 5. Maternal esthetics: Marianne Hirsh’s <i>mother/daughter plot</i>; Elizabeth Podnieks’ and Andrea O’Reilly’s <i>matrifocal narrative</i>, variations of the Virgin Mary, Frankenstein, Medea and other motherhood myths. 6. Theorising mothers and maternal body as political. The impact of state politics to mothers and their bodies: Michel Foucault’s biopolitics. Mothers with disabilities (Eglė Šumskienė, Violeta Gevorgianienė, Ciara Bradley). 7. Motherhood and economics. Motherhood and work (Catherine Bryan, Patrice M. Buzzanell). 8. Neoliberalisation and commercialisation of motherhood at the end of the 20th – beginning of the 21st century. Susan Hays’ <i>intensive mothering</i> and Susan Douglas and Meredith W. Michaels’ <i>the mommy myth</i>. 9. Intersection of motherhood, race, and class. The impact of race and class on motherhood narratives and practices, Patricia Hill Collins’ <i>motherwork</i>; transnational motherhood (Gabrielle Oliveira), indigenous mothering as resistance (Helena Ragone, France Winndance Twine). 10. The problem of maternal instinct and mother love. The dark side of motherhood. Maternal ambivalence. Élisabeth Badinter’s demythologization of motherhood ; Rozsika Parker <i>maternal ambivalence</i>, Orna Donath’s maternal regret (<i>#regrettingmotherhood</i>) and cultural implications of the <i>#regrettingmotherhood</i>

<p>narrative (Valerie Heffernan, Katherine Stone). Jack Halberstam <i>queer art of failure</i> as authentic existential experience: Jenny Björklund and narratives of failed mothers.</p> <p>11. Motherhood and violence. Obstetric violence, intimate violence and violent motherhood: the concept of <i>monstrous mothers</i>.</p> <p>12. Non-motherhood. Non-/motherhood by choice vs involuntary non-motherhood (due to personal, biological and economic factors). Diana Tietjen Meyers and the <i>narratives of choice</i>, Lauren Jaden Martin and <i>social and biological fertility</i>.</p>
Reading
Bandinter, Elizabeth. 2011. <i>The Conflict: How Modern Motherhood Undermines the Status of Women</i> . New York: Metropolitan Books.
Baraitser, Lisa. 2009. <i>The Ethics of Interruption</i> . London: Routledge.
Björklund, Jenny. 2021. <i>Maternal Abandonment and Queer Resistance in Twenty-First-Century Swedish Literature</i> . Cham Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan; 2021. doi:10.1007/978-3-030-72892-2
Bryan, C. 2019. Mothers and Work: Social Reproduction and the Labours of Motherhood, in L. O’ Brien Hallstein, A. O’Reilly & M. Vandenbeld Giles (Ed.) (pp. 331-342). <i>The Routledge Companion to Motherhood</i> . New York: Routledge.
Butler, Judith. 2015. <i>Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity</i> . New York: Routledge.
Buzzanell, Patrice M. 2019. Poor and Working Class Mothers. in L. O’ Brien Hallstein, A. O’Reilly & M. Vandenbeld Giles (Ed.) (pp. 331-342). <i>The Routledge Companion to Motherhood</i> . New York: Routledge.
Collins, Patricia Hill. 2021. Shifting the Center: Race, Class, and Feminist Theorizing About Motherhood in O’Reilly, Andrea (ed.) <i>Maternal Theory. Essential Readings, Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment</i> . New York: Routledge.
Douglas, Susan J., Meredith W. Michaels. 2004. <i>Mommy Myth: The Idealization of Motherhood and How it Has Undermined All Women</i> . New York: Free Press.
Yuval-Davis, Nira. 1997. <i>Gender and Nation</i> . SAGE Publications.
Foucault, Michel. 2003. <i>Society Must Be Defended</i> . New York: Picador.
Gevorgianienė, V., Šumskienė, E., & Bradley, C. (2022). Still waters run deep: The invisible life of working mothers with disabilities in Lithuania. <i>Qualitative Social Work</i> , 0(0). https://doi.org/10.1177/14733250221091995
Hays, Susan. 1996. <i>The cultural contradictions of motherhood</i> . New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
Halberstam, Jack. 2011. <i>The Queer Art of Failure</i> . Durham: Duke University Press.
Heffernan, Valerie, Stone, Katherine. “International Responses to Regretting Motherhood”. In <i>Women’s Lived Experiences of the Gender Gap</i> , edited by Angela Fitzgerald, 121 – 133. Singapore: Springer, 2021.
Hewett, Heather. 2020. <i>Motherhood Memoirs</i> . In O’Brien, Hallstein, O’Reilly, A., Vandenbeld Giles, M. (eds.) <i>The Routledge Companion to Motherhood</i> . London: Routledge.
Hirsch, Marianne. <i>The Mother Daughter Plot. Narrative, Psychoanalysis, Feminism</i> . Indiana UP, 1989.
Hooks, Bell. 1984. “Revolutionary Parenting”, in <i>Feminist theory: from margin to center</i> . Boston: South End Press.
Juozeliūnienė, Irena and Irma Budginaitė. 2018. “How Transnational Mothering is Seen to be ‘Troubling’: Contesting and Reframing Mothering.” <i>Sociological Research Online</i> , 23(1),

262–281. https://doi.org/10.1177/1360780417749464
Martin, Lauren Jade. “Pushing for the perfect time: Social and biological fertility”. <i>Women's Studies International Forum</i> 62 (2017): 91 – 98.
Tietjens Meyers, Diana. “The Rush to Motherhood: Pronatalist Discourse and Women's Autonomy”. <i>Signs</i> 26, no. 3 (2001): 735 – 773.
Park, Shelley M. 2013. <i>Mothering Queerly, Queering Motherhood</i> . New York: State University of New York Press.
Parker, Rozsika. 1995. <i>Torn in Two: Maternal Ambivalence</i> . London: Virago.
Ragone, Helena, Winddance Twine, France. 2012. <i>Ideologies and Technologies of Motherhood: Race Class Sexuality and Gender</i> . London: Taylor and Francis.
Oliveira, Gabrielle. 2019. Transnational Motherhood: Conceptualizing Ideas of Care Here and There. in L. O’ Brien Hallstein, A. O’Reilly & M. Vandenbeld Giles (Ed.) (pp. 331-342). <i>The Routledge Companion to Motherhood</i> . New York: Routledge.
O’Reilly A. 2010. <i>Twenty-First-Century Motherhood: Experience Identity Policy Agency</i> . New York: Columbia University Press.
Palko, Abigail L., O’Reilly Andrea. 2021. <i>Monstrous Mothers: Troubling Tropes</i> . Bradford Ontario: Demeter Press.
Podnieks, Elizabeth. 2020. <i>Matrifocal Voices in Literature</i> . In O’Brien, Hallstein, O’Reilly, A., Vandenbeld Giles, M. (eds.) <i>The Routledge Companion to Motherhood</i> . London: Routledge.
Rich, Adrienne. 1986 [1976]. <i>Of Woman Born</i> , New York-London: W.W. Norton&Company.
Ruddick, Sara. 1995 [1989]. <i>Maternal Thinking: Toward a Politics of Peace</i> , Boston: Beakon Press.
Shabot, S., & Korem, K. 2018. Domesticating Bodies: The Role of Shame in Obstetric Violence. <i>Hypatia</i> , 33(3), 384-401. doi:10.1111/hypa.12428
Shabot, Sara Cohen. 2021. Why ‘normal’ feels so bad: violence and vaginal examinations during labour – a (feminist) phenomenology. <i>Feminist Theory</i> , 22(3), 443–463. https://doi.org/10.1177/1464700120920764
Wahlström Henriksson Helena, Williams Anna, Fahlgren Margaretha. 2023. <i>Narratives of Motherhood and Mothering in Fiction and Life Writing</i> . Cham Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan; doi:10.1007/978-3-031-17211-3

Lecturer	Degree	Main works in the research field published during the last five years
Eglè Kačkutė-Hagan	Doctor of the Humanities	Kačkutė, Eglė. “Orality/Aurality and Voice of the Voiceless Mother in Abba Fahroud’s Happiness Has a Slippery Tail”, in Wahlström Henriksson, H., Williams, A., Fahlgren, M. (eds.) <i>Narratives of Motherhood and Mothering in Fiction and Life Writing</i> Palgrave Macmillan, Palgrave Macmillan Studies in Family and Intimate Life Series, 2023. doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-17211-3_5
		Kačkutė, Eglė. “Mothering Across Languages and Cultures in Chen’s Letters to her Children”, in Valerie Heffernan and Gay Wilgus (eds.) <i>Imagining Motherhood in the Twenty-First-</i>

Dovilė Kuzminskaitė

Doctor of the
Humanities

Century Women's Writing, London: Routledge, 2021.

Kačkutė, Eglė. 'Migrant Maternal Subjectivities in Catherine Cusset's *Un brilliant avenir*'. In Geneviève Guetemme (ed.) *Écrire la mobilité. Représentations littéraires et artistiques*, Editions Paradigmes, 2020, pp.231-248.

Kačkutė, Eglė. "Relational Aspects of Migrant Mothering in Nathacha Appanah's *La Noce d'Anna* and Ying Chen's *La Lenteur des montagnes*", *Crossways Journal*, 3/1, 2019. <https://crossways.lib.uoguelph.ca/index.php/crossways/article/view/5195>

Cavazza Marina, Kačkutė, Eglė. *Portrait of a (Working) Mother*, Geneva: Georg, 2019, p. 147.

Kuzminskaitė, Dovilė. „Reception of César Vallejo's Poetics in the Literary Works of Sigita Parulskis and Vytautas Stankus“. Give My Regards to Those You Connect! Cultural Interactions Between South America and Eastern Europe. Vol 105 (2022), p. 214-230

Gabija Leonavičiūtė, Dovilė Kuzminskaitė. „Kultūros realijų vertimas į lietuvių kalbą: Gabrielio Garcí'a'os Márquezo romanas „Šimtas metų vienatvės“. Sustainable Multilingualism. Nr. 18,2021, p. 185-209, <https://doi.org/10.2478/sm-2021-0009>

Sebastià Sáez, M. & Kuzminskaitė D. 2021. „Carmina selecta de Pedro Ruiz de Moros y el panorama polaco-lituano del s. XVI.“ La recepció grecolatina en les literatures bàltiques i eslaves (Greco-Latin reception in Baltic and Slavic literatures), Nizhelovska Pereginets, T. & Sebastià Sáez, M. (Eds.), Lleida, p. 174–196.

Kuzminskaitė, Dovilė. „El perpetuum mobile poético en la obra de Clemente Padín“. Perífrasis. rev.lit.teor.crit. Vol. 12, nr. 23. Bogota, ISSN 2145-8987, Sausis-birželis, 2021, p. 142-15

<http://dx.doi.org/10.25025/perifrasis202112.23.08>

Kuzminskaitė, Dovilė. „Semánticas de la vanguardia en la poesía de Amanda Berenguer“. Guaraguao. Barcelona: CECAL. ISSN: 1137-2354. 2020, t. 24, nr. 63, p. 35 – 53.

Approved by decision of Doctoral Committee (date, record No) June 30, 2023. Protocol No. (7.17 E) 15600-KT-330.

Chair of Committee Assoc. Prof. Dr Mintautas Čiurinkas