

At the Heart of it All  
**Concepts of Motherhood in the 20th Century United States**

Research Workshop, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, July 15-17, 2010  
Emmy Noether Junior Research Group on American Family Values and Social Change  
(Conveners: Prof. Dr. Isabel Heinemann / Anne Overbeck M.A.)

Motherhood has been a strongly contested concept and cause for heated debates in the US throughout the 20th century. Starting with the concept of Republican motherhood in the decades after the War of Independence, mothers have always been considered of great importance to the well-being of the nation. This notion has served as a vital argument to strengthen women's rights, but has also proven to be a heavy burden. Blaming American mothers of different class and racial background for the country's ills, starting from poverty, to violence and immorality, has been a reoccurring theme in the discourse on the fate of the nation.

The workshop aims to refocus the changing concepts of motherhood in the course of the 20th century in the light of recent research. Special emphasize will be put on the long-term mental and social changes in American society that were motivated or exemplified by the diverging concepts of motherhood, especially regarding minority women. Of equal importance are the implications of the race and class divide as well as the transformations of gender roles and family values in a broader sense. The research workshop will bring together young German and international scholars with accomplished specialists in the field and thereby serve as a starting point for future academic exchange in this field.

Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>

<b>Public Opening Lecture, Fürstenberghaus, Domplatz 20-22, F 8</b>	
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Rickie Solinger  Qualifying for Motherhood in the United States: How the Rules Have Changed over Time

Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup>

9:00 – 9:30 am	Location: Johannisstraße 1-4, J116  Isabel Heinemann  Welcome, Opening Remarks: Concepts of Motherhood in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century United States
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<b>Panel I: Concepts of Motherhood during the Progressive Era and the New Deal</b>	
9:30 – 10:30am	Barbara Antoniazzi  Mothering the Nation, Unmothering the Self New Women and Maternal Narratives in the Progressive Era
	Ruth Feldstein  Citizenship, Motherhood, and Race in New Deal Liberalism (to be confirmed)  <p style="text-align: right;">Comment: Rebecca Jo Plant</p>
10:30 – 11:00 am	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:00 am	Discussion
12:00 – 1:30 pm	Lunch

<b>Panel II: Mothers, Working Women, and the Expert, 1940-1960</b>	
1:30 – 3:30 pm	Rebecca Jo Plant  Mom: The Transformation of Motherhood in Modern America
	Elizabeth More  Women, Social Science, and the Reinvention of the Working Mother, 1945-1965.  <p style="text-align: right;">Comment: Isabel Heinemann</p>
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Coffee Break
<b>Panel III: Family Values and Reproduction: Mexican American Women in the Focus of Social Politics</b>	

4:00 – 6:00 pm	Elena Gutierrez  Mapping the Politics of Mexican-origin Women's Reproduction in the 20th Century U.S.
	Claudia Roesch  "Americanization through Homemaking": Mexican American Mothers as a Major Factor in Americanization Programs  Comment: Ruth Feldstein
6:00 – 6:30 pm	Concluding Remarks to Panels I and II, Discussion
7pm	Dinner

Saturday, July 17th

<b>Panel IV: Religion, Reproduction and Welfare Policies</b>	
9:00 – 11:00 am	Stefanie Coché  Victorian Secrets: Promodern Patterns in Religious Concepts of Motherhood in the 1980s
	Anne Overbeck  Mothering the Race: The Discourse on Welfare and Reproductive Rights of African-American Women in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century  Comment: Rickie Solinger
11:00 – 11:30 pm	Coffee Break
11:30 – 1:00 pm	Concluding Remarks and Final Discussion
1 pm	Lunch