



# Exploring the Occupations of Mothering from Diverse Angles

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# Definitions and Descriptions of Mothering

“...socially constructed set of activities and relationships involved in the nurturing and caring of people.” Glenn (1994)

Ruddick

Chodorow

Patricia Hill Collins

Occupational Therapy

Francis-Connolly

Esdaile & Olson

Wegner et al



# Purpose

Explore mothers' experiences (with and without children with developmental differences), with a particular interest in perceptions related to mothering and how these perceptions impact participation in mothering occupations and co-occupations.



<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Background</b>
Lisa	40	6 & 10 y	Germ/Ita/Ir
Paula	42	7	Jewish/W.
Val	38	18 & 10	Jewish/His
Cathy	32	6,4 & 3	W. Amer.
Nichole	28	4 & 3 yr	African A.
Natalie	24	18 mo	P.R./Jam
Natalia	27	13 mo	Hispanic
Rae	32	12 & 3yr	African A.
Sherrol	37	23m 4yr	Jamaican
Nikiesha	27	4 & 2 yr	Black
Brittney	17	1 yr	African A.
Alexandra	18	5 months	African A.
Tonesha	20	3 yrs	African A.
Sonica	35	29 mo & 2 yrs	Haitian
Dionne	36	6 mo Adj Age	African A.



## Themes - Boyatzis '98 data reduction methods

- **Occupations and Activities**

- Occupational Consumption
- (Multiple Role Hardship)
- Emotional Engagement
- (Emotional Hardship)

- **Socio-cultural Influence**

- Familial Expectations
- Country of Origin
- (Shifting Support)
- *Information overload*

- **Duality of Feeling**

- **Signs of Success**

- **(Self-determination)**



## Sub-theme – Occupational Consumption

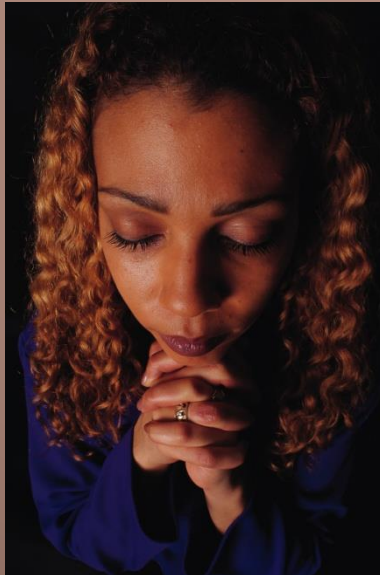
Nichole –

“So immediately I come in, I have to give the kids a bath, get them ready for bed, he has nothing prepared for me to eat so I just jumped in to giving them a bath, getting them ready for bed, bedtime stories, tuck you in, then finally 8:00...Well, I’m tired.”

# Duality of Feeling

Sherrol

“..it’s a challenging experience but yet a rewarding one. There are definitely the highs and the lows to mothering. It’s a blessing to be a mother. However, there (are) times that you wish you weren’t a mother. So I think my best description for mothering is that it’s a gift from God, that it does come with some rewards and it does come with some challenges.”



# Emotional Hardship

Brittney

“When I first got pregnant, I was mad. I cried and cried and cried some more, but what hurt me (was) my father. He told me you gotta give the baby up for adoption.”





# Excessive Emotional Hardship

## Sonica and Dionne – Mothers of Premature Infants

Mothering in the NICU perspectives– April, 2018 interview

“It’s terrifying”

“So afraid”

“Petrified...I cried a lot”



Yolanda and Roberto

## Near Drowning Accident



“Narratives... are the window to viewing the internal meaning systems individuals use to construct their identity and sense of their experience.”

Swanson & Johnston



## From simple interview to narrative excavation

### Elements leading to change in methods

- Interaction with Yolanda
- Second generation of qualitative researchers article—Frank and Polkinghorne (2010)
- Reflexivity literature and processing
- Critical Antenarratology – Boje (2007)

# Patricia Hill Collins

Power of reflexivity -

Women of Color have unique mothering experiences, due to unique history of inequities, and a drive to protect and nurture within the context of these inequitable opportunities.



# Content Analysis of Narrative

Boje (2007)

## Critical Antenarratology Method

Methodological approach that suspends the notion of the beginning , middle and end of a narrative and seeks to understand the multiple angles of a person's experience over time.

- Simultaneity, Fragmentation, Trajectory, Morphing
- Reflexivity
- Contextual analysis – historical literature, socio-cultural influences etc.



Yolanda's Story:  
An antenarratological approach to understanding mothering work  
(Dunbar, 2015)

Second generation of qualitative research



Context of family culture, literature aspects of mothering,  
content analysis of a year long blog with  
antenarratological approach

# Summary

- Narrative expression outlets provide a way for mothers to cope in challenging and everyday situations
- Narrative is better understood when not reduced to linear analysis
- Critical antenarratology presents an alternative for exploring mothering occupations
- Family centered and occupation-centered care require new ways of perceiving and providing intervention, benefitting the whole family



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