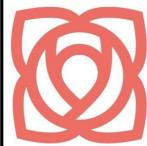


Mothering the Crises: An exploration of the experiences of mothers working from home in the first national U.K. 'lockdown' during the Covid-19 pandemic

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Trigger Warning

There will be brief discussion **death, bereavement, and grief** due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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The warning symbol will appear on this particular slide.

Please feel free to leave at anytime.

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Overview

1. Introduction to MA Dissertation

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2. Conceptual Debates

‘Reproductive Labour’ vs/or ‘Care’

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3. Analysis of Qualitative Data

Three forms of lockdown specific reproductive labour and responsibilities



‘Reproductive Labour’ vs/or ‘Care’

- Social Reproduction Theory Framework

Labour Lens

Crisis Focused

Covid-19 pandemic
= the **collapse of**
the political
economy of social
reproduction

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- ‘Reproductive Labour’ – Laslett and Brenner (1989)

“the **activities** and attitudes, behaviours and emotions, **responsibilities** and **relationships** directly involved in the **maintenance of life** on a **daily basis**,...include(s) various kinds of **work-mental, manual, and emotional**...to **reproduce the next generation.**” (382-383)



Reproductive Labour: Home-schooling

“Each week her school sent an **intense** home-schooling timetable, but I probably manage to do an hour each day, I know it’s **not good enough**, it should take **priority**...it all depends on my work load. I worry that I am making **her fall behind**.” – Sunita.

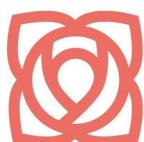
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“There are a lot of families who seem to be **productively** using lockdown as the time to learn new skills like languages and instruments, **I didn’t want the pressure of this.**” – Gemma.



Reproductive Labour: Emotional Labour

“I think as mums, it’s our job to keep things together and everything going in the home. But I just absolutely fell apart, after the **death** of my nephew to COVID-19 in the first week of lockdown... I was so worried about my mum grieving for her grandson on her own too; I usually **support her emotionally as her carer**. My husband had to take over with our daughters and do a different side of my job as a mum he has never noticed before... **absorbing their worries**. He has a new appreciation for some of the stuff us **mums do behind the scenes**.” – Joyce.



Reproductive Labour: Lockdown Management

"I used to make my husband take all his clothes off at the door when he returned from work to minimise the risk. **I was like the household supervisor** *laughs*. I also found and bought all the medication we would need if any of us got the virus, because I knew that we couldn't go into hospital, unless it was serious... **I would have to manage it**, and treat it at home. – Gemma

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"I feel like the government are expecting mums to make a lot of the **hard decisions** in this crisis... we get **blamed** for stuff a lot more. If anyone got ill...I would feel as if that was **my fault**, and other people would think that too" – Emily

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Key Points

1. The **collapse of the political economy of social reproduction** due to the Covid-19 pandemic impacted mothers' reproductive labour and responsibilities whilst WFH during lockdown

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2. Particularly, increasing the **volume, variety, and responsibility** to complete reproductive labour for mothers

3. My PhD project shall build on this research, currently entitled:

'The Covid-19 Pandemic, Gendered Labour, and Crisis: Lived Experiences of the Collapse of the Political Economy of Social Reproduction'

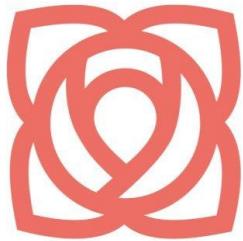


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Feel free to contact
me if you have any
further comments
or questions about
my research etc.



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- Laslett, B. and Brenner, J., (1989). Gender and social reproduction: Historical perspectives. *Annual review of sociology*, 15(1), pp. 381-404.
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