

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910790265403321
Autore	Stephens Julie <1956->
Titolo	Confronting postmaternal thinking [[electronic resource] ] : feminism, memory, and care // Julie Stephens
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Columbia University Press, c2011
ISBN	1-280-59959-6 9786613629432 0-231-52056-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (209 p.)
Disciplina	306.874/301
Soggetti	Feminist theory Motherhood - Social aspects Motherhood - Political aspects Collective memory
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Unmothering -- Feminist reminiscence -- Memory and modernity -- Maternalism reconfigured? -- Conclusion: toward a new feminist maternalism.
Sommario/riassunto	There is a deep cultural anxiety around public expressions of maternalism and the application of maternal values to society as a whole. Julie Stephens examines why postmaternal thinking has become so influential in recent decades and why there has been a growing unease with maternal forms of subjectivity and maternalist perspectives. In moving beyond policy definitions, which emphasize the priority given to women's claims as employees over their political claims as mothers, Stephens details an elaborate process of cultural forgetting that has accompanied this repudiation of the maternal. Reclaiming an alternative feminist position through an investigation of oral history, life narratives, Web blogs, and other rich and varied sources, Stephens confronts the core claims of postmaternal thought and challenges dominant representations of feminism as having forgotten motherhood. Deploying the interpretive framework of memory studies, she examines the political structures of forgetting

surrounding the maternal and the weakening of nurture and care in the public domain. She views the promotion of an illusory, self-sufficient individualism as a form of social unmothering that is profoundly connected to this ethos. In rejecting both traditional maternalism and the new postmaternalism, Stephens challenges prevailing paradigms and makes way for an alternative feminist maternalism centering on a politics of care.

---