

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910821308503321
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Titolo	Shadow Mothers : Nannies, Au Pairs, and the Micropolitics of Mothering // Cameron Lynne Macdonald
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, CA : , : University of California Press, , [2011] ©2011
ISBN	1-283-27737-9 9786613277374 0-520-94781-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (288 p.)
Disciplina	306.874/3
Soggetti	Au pairs Child care Child care services Motherhood Nannies
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	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- 1. Introduction: Childcare on Trial -- 2. Mother-Employers: Blanket Accountability at Home and at Work -- 3. Nannies on the Market -- 4. "They're Too Poor and They All Smoke": Ethnic Logics and Childcare Hiring Decisions -- 5. Managing a Home-Centered Childhood: Intensive Mothering by Proxy -- 6. Creating Shadow Mothers -- 7. The "Third-Parent" Ideal -- 8. Nanny Resistance Strategies -- 9. Partnerships: Seeking a New Model -- 10. Untangling the Mother-Nanny Knot -- Appendix: Research Methods -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Shadow Mothers shines new light on an aspect of contemporary motherhood often hidden from view: the need for paid childcare by women returning to the workforce, and the complex bonds mothers forge with the "shadow mothers" they hire. Cameron Lynne Macdonald illuminates both sides of an unequal and complicated relationship. Based on in-depth interviews with professional women and childcare

providers- immigrant and American-born nannies as well as European au pairs-Shadow Mothers locates the roots of individual skirmishes between mothers and their childcare providers in broader cultural and social tensions. Macdonald argues that these conflicts arise from unrealistic ideals about mothering and inflexible career paths and work schedules, as well as from the devaluation of paid care work.

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