



CONTEXTUALIZING CARE, OLD AGE, AND DISABILITY

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON
THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF "DEPENDENT" POPULATIONS AND
THE COSTS OF CAREGIVING

BY MAGGIE QUIRT,
PHD CANDIDATE, TRENT UNIVERSITY

Description:

This compilation of sources from film, literature, history, disability studies, philosophy, women's studies, and other fields of inquiry coheres around the notion of caregiving. An interdisciplinary resource tool, this bibliography captures both received and unconventional understandings of costs related to the care of older adults and people with disabilities and the contributions made by these supposedly "dependent" populations.

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Fiction

Choy, Wayson. *The Jade Peony*. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1995.

Keywords: aging, caregiving, Chinese Canadian, ethnicity, children, family, culture, intergenerational, grandparents

Set in Vancouver's Chinatown during World War II, this novel explores the interrelationships among various members of a Chinese immigrant family. Strong elderly characters predominate here, and they contribute to family and community life in diverse ways. Poh Poh, the septuagenarian matriarch of the family, cares for her grandchildren while her son and daughter-in-law are at work. She also shares her vast knowledge of Old China and herbal medicine with others in the community. Wong Suk, an elderly friend of the family, befriends 'only sister' Jook-Liang and takes her to the movies every weekend. While others ignore her because she is a girl, Wong Suk gives her the attention she desperately craves and contributes to her happiness and well-being. This work will be useful for people exploring non-Western understandings of old age and concomitant notions of respect, reverence, and duty. It will also be helpful to people looking at the ways in which seniors are often themselves caregivers to other family members.

Gilboord, Margaret Gibson. *The Butterfly Ward*. Canada: Oberon, 1976.

Keywords: abuse, family, mental disability, social costs, spouses, home, institution

This collection of short sketches provides insight into what life can be like for individuals living with a mental disability. Central here is the notion of abuse, not only within impersonal institutions but also as it plays out within familial relationships that define the home. From the oblivious mother in "Ada" who refuses to engage with her daughter as a mentally ill individual to the husband in "Considering Her Condition" who values his mentally ill spouse strictly on the basis of her good looks and ability to procreate, the notion of abuse as a fallout from the dynamic of care is palpable. This is true whether the setting is an institution or the home sphere. This collection will be useful for individuals interested in exploring the social costs associated with caregiving, particularly as it is practised by family members.

Haddon, Mark. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Canada: Doubleday, 2002.

Keywords: autism, mental disability, caregiving, marriage, parenting, family

This novel tells the story of Christopher Boone, a 15-year old boy with autism who sets out to solve a murder mystery in his neighbourhood. Along the way, the reader is given insight into what life is like for an individual who is mathematically brilliant but emotionally dysfunctional in a world that privileges a balance between these two forms of understanding. The costs associated with caregiving responsibilities are evident throughout the novel; the marriage between Christopher's mother and father dissolves in part as a result not only of the sheer weight of caregiving duties but also because of the different ways in which each individual approaches the task of caring for their son. At the same time, Christopher contributes, in his own way, to family life: he uses hand signals instead of hugs to indicate

affection and strives meticulously to live his life in as honest a way as possible. This novel will be extremely helpful to individuals exploring the strains of caregiving on familial relationships.

Ignatieff, Michael. *Scar Tissue*. Toronto: Viking, 1993.

Keywords: caregiving, mother, Alzheimer's disease, mental disability, memory loss, family, home care, institutionalization

Ignatieff's novel charts the course of a woman's experiences with memory loss and infirmity (suggestive of Alzheimer's disease, though the affliction is not named) and the concomitant response of various family members who grapple to meet her increasing care needs. Neglecting his own wife and children to the eventual ruin of his marriage, the narrator experiences tremendous demands on his time and energy as the result of his competing roles as father, husband, and caregiver-son — a situation that is only partially resolved by his difficult decision to move his mother from her home into an institution. The ways in which the mother gives back to society, despite her increasing infirmity, is a recurrent theme here. She provides insight into (if not full awareness of) what an alternative reality might be like. As well, her increasing state of dependence forces her previously demanding husband to act as a nurturer, producing a bond between the two that was not there prior to the illness. This novel touches on so many aspects of care (at home and in an institutional setting) and contributions that it will be extremely helpful to a wide array of researchers.

Itani, Frances. *Deafening*. Toronto: HarperCollins, 2003.

Keywords: deaf culture, disability, history, aging, contributions, caregiving, institutions, sacrifice, altruism

Itani's first novel follows the lives of Grania and Jim as they fall in love, marry, and become separated by World War I. The young couple first meet at the Belleville School for the Deaf, where Grania is sent as a child after an illness leaves her deaf, and where she is later employed. The notion of caregiving surfaces in at least two major ways in the novel. The institutional care that Grania receives at the Belleville school comes at a great emotional cost to the young girl; despite all she learns at school, Grania never gets over being sent away by her parents and separated from the rest of her family. This is juxtaposed with the care Grania receives at home from her grandmother, Mamo, when she falls ill again as a young woman. Here, Mamo's caregiving results in her own sickness and eventual death, a twist that frames the act of caregiving as the ultimate noble sacrifice. This book will be useful for researchers exploring interactions between deaf and hearing cultures; it will also interest investigators looking at the drawbacks of institutionalized care and, alternatively, the links between caregiving and altruism.

Jones, Lizard. *Two Ends of Sleep*. Vancouver: Press Gang, 1997.

Keywords: lesbian, sexuality, multiple sclerosis, caregiving

In this novel, Rusty is an out-of-work writer experiencing a period of boredom and transition in her relationship with Janet, her live-in girlfriend. Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, Rusty spends a large portion of each day in bed, utterly fatigued. Janet, on the other hand, works full-time and maintains the household — shopping, cooking, and doing the laundry for both women. The imbalance of labour periodically puts a strain on the women's relationship, as does Rusty's lack of sexual desire, borne in part of her perpetual fatigue. Affairs and imagined affairs threaten to break the couple apart; in the end, however, a spontaneous car-jacking by Rusty reminds Janet of the traits that attracted her to her partner in the first place. This novel will be useful for researchers exploring the intersection of sexuality and disability; its lesbian context provides a refreshing perspective on the strains and triumphs associated with caregiving between couples.

Kogawa, Joy. *Obasan*. Toronto: Penguin, 1981.

Keywords: Japanese Canadian, culture, aging, caregiving, children, family, intergenerational, ethnicity

This well-known Canadian text chronicles the impact of the World War II internment on Naomi Nakane's Japanese Canadian family. Separated from their parents by the events of the war, Naomi and Stephen are cared for by an older aunt and uncle. As *Obasan* and Uncle progress into deep old age, caregiving roles shift and Naomi takes care of her widowed aunt in much the same way that *Obasan* once took care of her. This novel will be useful for an examination of the importance of extended families; it will also aid in a discussion of the gendered and transient nature of caregiving roles.

Laurence, Margaret. *The Stone Angel*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1964.

Keywords: aging, family, parenting, home care, institutional care, nursing homes

The Stone Angel is told from the perspective of nonagenarian Hagar Shipley, a proud woman fighting to maintain her independence as she grows older and increasingly infirm. The act of caregiving is a central concern in the novel, as is the notion of home. After years of being a homemaker, wife, and mother to two boys, Hagar finds herself being cared for by her daughter-in-law, Doris. When Doris' own health fails, making it difficult for her to carry out the physical aspects of caring for Hagar, a nursing home is suggested. Hagar rails against the proposition, and the resulting tension places her son, Marvin, in the unenviable position of trying to balance his mother's needs and his wife's demands. First published in 1964, this novel will be of interest to researchers looking at early Canadian literary treatments of old age. Laurence's prescient observations about the demands of caregiving and the autonomy of elderly people also make this work applicable for investigators looking at the social costs of care.

Levine, Norman. *The Ability to Forget*. Toronto: L&OD, Key Porter Books, 2003.

Keywords: Parkinson's disease, disability, old age, contributions

This collection of short stories includes a range of peripheral characters working through challenges posed by disability and old age. In "By the Richelieu," Arther Dobel, a one-time rich playboy and object of the narrator's envy, develops Parkinson's disease. In the absence of any family caregivers, he is looked after by servants who mock him behind his back and take advantage of his generosity. In "Gifts," the narrator's mother resists a suggested move to a nursing home, observing wryly that her doctor made the proposition sound like a trip to Florida. "Feast Days and Others" includes an increasingly incontinent grandfather whose physical decline is juxtaposed with the ways in which he continues to help out his daughter by giving her money and fixing things around the house. Taken as a whole, Norman Levine's short stories are notable for their inclusion of people from different age groups and with varying degrees of able-bodiedness. They will be useful for researchers looking at representations of disability and old age in contemporary Canadian literature.

MacLeod, Alistair. *No Great Mischief*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1999.

Keywords: aging, caregiving, children, family, Gaelic culture, intergenerational, grandparents

This novel examines the multiple layers of caregiving within one Nova Scotian family. When the protagonist, Alexander MacDonald, and his twin sister are orphaned at an early age, they are immediately taken in and raised by their paternal grandparents. Through the example set by his Grandpa and Grandma, Alexander learns to value family above all else, and becomes a caregiver himself to his aging older brother, Callum. As well, Alexander learns about his Gaelic heritage from his grandparents. This novel would work well as part of a comparative study of intergenerational caregiving from different culturally specific perspectives.

Mistry, Rohinton. *Family Matters*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 2002.

Keywords: family, caregiving, Parkinson's, aging, race, ethnicity, abuse

In Mistry's award-winning novel, Nariman Vakreel, an aging professor living in Bombay, becomes the object of both pity and derision by his family when he becomes bedridden following a fall. With his recovery time significantly prolonged as a result of Parkinson's and osteoporosis, Nariman becomes a source of contention to his children who argue intensely over who should assume caregiving responsibilities. He sympathizes with their reluctance to take on these duties, asking "can caring and concern be made compulsory?" At the same time, when Nariman temporarily moves in with his daughter and her family, he contributes to the well-being of his grandchildren by providing them with love and support when their parents quarrel, teaching them about their Parsi heritage, and encouraging family harmony in general. Researchers interested in situating a discussion of care within the home and the contributions of aging individuals within a multicultural context will find Mistry's work rewarding.

Moodie, Susanna. "Brian, the Still-Hunter." *Roughing It in the Bush*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1852.

Keywords: depression, mental illness, canonical texts, early Canadian literature

Susanna Moodie's well-known text contains a vignette about Brian B—, a neighbour of the Moodie family during their first years in the backwoods of Canada. Brian is known (and ridiculed) in the community for his episodes of profound depression and periodic suicidal impulses. During the period of his acquaintance with the author, however, Brian is a welcome sight at the Moodie homestead and contributes to the well-being of the family. He brings milk for Susanna's young baby and flowers for her to paint. He also acts as a lone search party early one morning when the author fears that her husband has been attacked by wolves while returning home from a neighbouring farm. While Brian eventually succumbs to his mental illness and takes his own life, he remains in Susanna's memory as a kind and helpful companion. This sketch will be useful for people looking at representations of disability in early Canadian literature.

Mootoo, Shani. *Cereus Blooms at Night*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1996.

Keywords: caregiver, care receiver, aging, mental disability, insanity, homosexuality, nursing home

In Mootoo's novel, the aging and eccentric Mala Ramchandin causes a small sensation when she takes up residence at the Paradise Alms nursing home. Treated with fear and disdain by local residents who believe that she is insane, Mala comes to be cared for exclusively by Tyler, a new nurse at Paradise Alms whose homosexuality assures his marginality among the workers at the home. As Tyler and Mala spend the bulk of each day together, a bond forms between caregiver and care receiver. Mala, who is nervous around other residents and workers at the home, relaxes in Tyler's company and begins to share with him details of a past marked by both abandonment and sexual abuse. Tyler, in return, sees Mala as a confidante who serves as a non-judgmental audience for his forays into cross-dressing. A complex and, at times, deeply disturbing novel, *Cereus Blooms at Night* will be of interest to researchers exploring the dynamism of caregiving relationships.

Ondaatje, Michael. *The English Patient*. Toronto: Vintage Books, 1992.

Keywords: disability, caregiving, nursing, knowledge

Set in Italy in the final days of World War II, Ondaatje's novel brings together four characters: a Canadian nurse, Hana, her patient, Count Ladislaus de Almásy (the eponymous 'English patient'), David Caravaggio, a wartime spy and long-time friend of Hana's father, and Kip, an Indian sapper. At one time a desert explorer, Almásy is now disabled; a plane crash has left him burned beyond recognition and unable to walk. As Hana cares for her patient, he, in turn, teaches her about local plants and gardening practices, literature, and the art of reading aloud. He shares his vast knowledge with Kip as well, explaining the intricacies of European weaponry to the young sapper — information that he also imparted to Bedouin tribesmen who

rescued him from the wreck of his plane. This source will be useful for individuals exploring professional caregiving roles and the notion of knowledge as a social contribution.

Quindlen, Anna. *One True Thing*. New York: Random House, 1994.

Keywords: cancer, home care, palliative care, death, dying, parenting, mothers, daughters

In this work of fiction, Ellen Gursten returns home to care for her mother, Katharine, who is dying of cancer. Costs accrue as a result of this move: Ellen gives up a coveted position at a New York magazine and puts her career ambitions on hold to be with her mother. As the months of caregiving wear on, Ellen also experiences a loss of innocence as she changes her mother's soiled bedsheets, towels off her ravaged body, and administers repeated doses of morphine. At the same time, Katharine's actions in the final months of her life contribute significantly to her daughter's well-being. Katharine teaches Ellen a great deal about love and priorities and, along the way, ensures that her daughter can turn out a decent pie crust and recognize perennials. This book will be of great use to investigators looking at the act of caregiving, both in times of illness and, in a more general sense, with respect to parenting and homemaking across the life course.

Richards, David Adams. *Blood Ties*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1976.

Keywords: caregiving, women, mothers, aging, home care

Set in the Miramichi Valley, Richards' novel provides a glimpse into the lives of various members of the MacDermott family. One of the first scenes in the novel shows Cathy and her mother, Irene, journeying to a neighbouring farm to care for Annie, Irene's infirm and elderly mother. The task of care falls to Irene on the grounds of gender alone; her brother Lorne looks after Annie's material possessions but is not involved in his mother's physical day-to-day care. While Annie is portrayed as completely dependent on her daughter in the course of the novel, there are reminders of a more productive time in her life. A quilt that she made years ago is used by both of Irene's children, and becomes something of a security blanket for Cathy. Though not a major theme in the novel, the relationship between Irene and Annie will interest individuals looking at the ways in which caregiving is an overwhelmingly gendered occupation.

Richler, Mordecai. *Barney's Version*. Toronto: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997.

Keywords: Alzheimer's disease, masculinity, representation, reality

Richler's novel chronicles the escapades of Barney Panofsky, an aging Montreal businessman who decides to write his autobiography upon learning that he has Alzheimer's disease. Barney has good days and bad as his condition deteriorates, variously remembering and forgetting the names of common household items, street names, and longtime acquaintances. A proud man, Barney consistently denies the significance of these lapses and dismisses well-meaning friends who intervene with offers of help. While the reader learns to be wary of Barney's version of

the events that he chronicles, the footnotes contributed by the text's "editor" (Barney's son) illustrate that all versions of 'the truth' — even the most seemingly factual ones — are representations that can be held up to critical examination. This work will be useful for individuals interested in deconstructing normative assumptions surrounding wellness and ableness; like Ignatieff's *Scar Tissue*, it prompts the reader to envision the different versions of 'reality' experienced by individuals with mental or cognitive impairments.

Sabatini, Sandra. *The One With the News*. Erin, ON: Porcupine's Quill, 2000.

Keywords: Alzheimer's disease, home care, spousal caregiving, father, mental disability, memory loss, family, institutionalization, abuse

This collection of interrelated short stories explores how Alzheimer's disease has affected Ambrose McLean, a retired jeweller, war veteran, loving husband and proud father. Different perspectives are adopted in each of the vignettes that comprise *The One With the News*; Ambrose's wife, Peggy, daughters Alice and Connie, son-in-law Larry, and nurse Gord all provide insight into how Alzheimer's has changed Ambrose. A common refrain across all of the chapters is the price that caregiving has exacted on Peggy, Ambrose's primary caregiver before his unpredictable and violent behaviour became severe enough to require institutional care. Juxtaposed with the abuse, both physical and emotional, that Peggy suffers at the hands of her husband is a sense of her profound love for the man that Ambrose once was. Indeed, his contributions of companionship, humour, and love remain with his family, just as the grace of those providing him with care endures. This collection will be of particular interest to researchers examining the strain of caregiving on marriages and the complex resistance and resilience of spousal caregivers.

Toews, Miriam. *Swing Low: A Life*. Toronto: Stoddart, 2000.

Keywords: mental disability, bipolar disorder, home care, hospitalization, spousal caregiving, quality of life

In this work of creative non-fiction, Toews imagines her father's struggle with bipolar disorder as he himself might have experienced it. The narrator's home, where he receives care and support from his family (particularly his wife, Elvira), is juxtaposed with both the school where the narrator teaches and the hospital where he lives out the final months of his life. The inter-personal relationships between the narrator, his family, and current and former students are given weight here; while the responsibility of caring for a sick husband eventually contributes to Elvira's fatigue and nervous exhaustion, the positive interactions between the narrator and his students underscore the fact that the narrator's mental illness does not prohibit him from making a contribution to the quality of life of those around him. Researchers exploring the portrayal of mental disabilities through literature will find Toews' book both complex and fascinating.

Wiseman, Adele. *Crackpot*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1974.

Keywords: disability, visual impairment, physical disability, parenting, immigrant culture, ethnicity

In this Canadian literary classic, Wiseman tells the story of Hoda, a young girl growing up in Winnipeg during the first half of the twentieth century. Hoda's immigrant parents each live with a disability: Danile, her father, has a visual impairment while her mother, Rahel, has a physical deformity that makes her appear slightly humpbacked. The contributions of these individuals to the socio-economic life of Canada through their position as labourers is in contrast to their earlier role as sacrificial newlyweds in their Russian hometown. This marked difference underscores the ways in which notions of disability always emerge within a cultural context. Wiseman's novel will be useful for a discussion of the ways in which disability has been represented in the nation's literary canon.

Non-fiction

Ahmad, Waqar I.U., ed. *Ethnicity, Disability and Chronic Illness*. Buckingham; Philadelphia: Open University Press, 2000.

Keywords: disability, race, ethnicity, caring, South Asian, marriage, family

This collection of essays explores the notion of disability within a cultural context, examining the experiences of racial and ethnic minorities in Britain that depart from mainstream understandings of ableism and difference. Notable contributions include the study by Katbamna, Bhakta, and Parker on perceptions of disability and care-giving relationships in South Asian communities; here, the authors observe that cultural beliefs and practices, such as the custom of arranged marriages, can be affected by — and contribute to — the stigma of disability within a family. The chapter on minority deaf people by Ahmad, Darr, and Jones similarly questions formulations of disability that do not adequately take into account ethnicity as a conceptual lens. This text will prove useful to researchers interested in interrogating the normative cultural assumptions implicit in mainstream notions of disability in Western societies.

Arat-Koc, Sedef. "Gender and Race in 'Non-discriminatory' Immigration Policies in Canada: 1960s to the Present." Eds. Enakshi Dua and Angela Robertson. *Scratching the Surface: Canadian Anti-Racist Feminist Thought*. Toronto: Women's Press, 1999.

Keywords: elderly, caregiving, contributions, immigrants, Canadian state

This essay is significant for the way in which Arat-Koc discusses the social contributions of the elderly from a sociological perspective. Within a larger discussion of the situation of female immigrants in general and foreign domestic workers in particular, Arat-Koc notes that the Canadian state has no way of measuring — and therefore validating — the contributions of marginal people, such as elderly immigrants. She observes that aging parents typically help

their relatives adjust to life Canada, and often contribute as well through labouring as caregivers to children in the family or in family businesses. Arat-Koc closes her essay by arguing that the related notions of “contributions” and “dependency” need to be better examined and critiqued by scholars and the state. Individuals interested in theorizing contributions will find Arat-Koc’s essay helpful; people looking at the intersection between ethnicity and caregiving will also find Arat-Koc’s discussion of foreign domestic workers and Canada’s Live-In Caregiver program pertinent.

Beck, Martha. *Expecting Adam: A True Story of Birth, Rebirth, and Everyday Magic*. New York: Times Books, 1999.

Keywords: disability, Down syndrome, parenting, mothers, sons, mental retardation

Expecting Adam is Martha Beck’s true account of the (un)learning process that unfolded when prenatal testing revealed she was carrying a baby with Down syndrome. As a hardworking, overachieving Harvard graduate accustomed to demanding perfection in everything she undertook, Beck’s life was thrown into disarray by the diagnosis. Ultimately, however, Adam shows his parents how to celebrate difference and recognize magic in the universe. As Beck comes to appreciate her son’s teachings, she turns on its head the often-held assumption that Down syndrome is a tragic or unfortunate condition. While readers of a more pragmatic nature may find Beck’s encounters with inexplicable mystical phenomena off-putting, Adam’s contributions of love and learning are difficult to resist. This book will be helpful for researchers exploring parenting and caregiving for people with disabilities; it would also work well alongside Edelson’s *My Journey With Jake* in a discussion of the role of mothers in the lives of disabled children.

Bérubé, Michael and Janet Lyon. “Living on Disability: Language and Social Policy in the Wake of the ADA.” Eds. Paula A. Treichler, Lisa Cartwright, and Constance Penley. *The Visible Woman: Imaging Technologies, Gender, and Science*. New York; London: New York UP, 1998.

Keywords: disability, discourse, activism, agency, advocacy, parenting, American social policy

Writing in an American context, Bérubé and Lyon use the experience gleaned from their standpoint as parents of a disabled child to argue that the discursive formation of the concept of disability is still in its nascent stages. Consequently, it remains open to shaping and reconfiguring, particularly as it is employed within the field of education and in the formation of social policy. Bérubé and Lyon note the ways in which their son, Jamie, has contributed to the fullness of their lives by opening up a world of activism and agency that the authors were previously unaware of: in short, he has taught them how to be effective advocates. As well, they maintain that individuals with disabilities are helping both laypeople and scholars theorize anew the meaning of community and collectivity. This essay will be useful for researchers interested in a comparative discussion of disability policy specifically and attitudes towards disability generally in Canada and the United States.

Butler, Ruth and Hester Parr, eds. *Mind and Body Spaces: Geographies of Illness, Impairment and Disability*. London; New York; Routledge, 1999.

Keywords: geography, disability, illness, impairment, body, mind, space, place, social housing, rural communities, gay studies

This collection of writing, stemming out of the critical geography tradition, explores the places and spaces associated with disabilities. It includes articles that foreground the corporeal dimension of disability for individuals with chronic illnesses, as well as essays examining the structure of contemporary work spaces. Disabled bodies in the gay community are also studied here, as are questions of social housing and the experiences of people with disabilities in rural communities. Researchers theorizing the relationship between space and disability will find this collection extremely helpful.

Chivers, Sally. *From Old Woman to Older Women: Contemporary Culture and Women's Narratives*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2003.

Keywords: women, aging, fiction, Canadian literature, film

In this work, Chivers emphasizes the need to rethink the complexities of growing old and argues that Canadian narrative fiction (a term that includes literature and film) offers a fruitful site for exploring complex representations of aging women. Chivers' overarching project is to show that the notion of 'old' need not be equated with incapacity or dependency; rather, it can be used to connote excitement and potential. To this end, she looks at narrative representations of attitudes towards aging, the social role of grandmothering, the omnipresent threat of institutional care in the lives of old women, and the strength of female-female relationships in late life. This resource will be particularly useful to individuals interested in questioning normative framings of old age as a time of decline and dependency.

Christie, Nancy and Michael Gauvreau, eds. *Mapping the Margins: The Family and Social Discipline in Canada, 1700 – 1975*. Montreal; Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2004.

Keywords: family, widows, elderly, insane, institutionalization, madness, Canadian state, social discipline, history

This collection of historical essays explores the experiences of individuals, such as the elderly and the insane, who were considered to be at the margins of the conventional nuclear family. One of the goals of the work is to question just how normative the nuclear family was in Canadian society; in fact, one of the conclusions that can be drawn from this collection is that marginal figures played a key role in many, if not most, families. Researchers tracing the contributions of the elderly through history will find Nancy Christie's introductory overview helpful; essays by James Struthers on "grizzled old men and lonely widows" and by James Moran et al. on madness and institutionalization will also be of interest to individuals looking at the construction of "dependent" populations historically.

Dion, Joseph F. *My Tribe, the Crees*. Calgary: Glenbow Museum, 1979.

Keywords: old age, First Nations, elders, women

In this account of daily life among the Cree, Joseph Dion shows how Cree elders contributed to the well-being of the tribe. Both male and female elders acted as mentors to children and gave advice to the whole tribe on matters ranging from practical jokes to warfare. Old Cree women were also partially responsible for setting up camp and were integrally involved in procuring food for the tribe. During times of scarcity, the resourcefulness of elder Cree women contributed to the health of the tribe. Dion maintains that had it not been for the old Cree women collecting sap, catching fish, ducks, and rabbits, organizing excursions to gather berries and muskeg, and boosting morale in general, it is questionable whether the tribe would have made it through the lean winters of the late 1800s. This book will help investigators think about old age outside of a framework of dependency; it will be particularly useful to people exploring how old age is understood and valued across different cultures.

Driedger, Diane and Susan Gray. *Imprinting Our Image: An International Anthology by Women with Disabilities*. Charlottetown, P.E.I.: Gynergy, 1992.

Keywords: image, family, community, women, international, developing countries

This collection of writing includes contributions from women living in both Western and non-Western countries. The common thread unifying these essays is the notion of disability as it is uniquely experienced by women in a variety of socio-economic contexts. Diverse representations of disability are taken up here, including the notion of both visible and invisible forms of impairment. The question of disability as an image that is understood differently within both the family and the community is also explored. Individuals attempting to situate disability within both a gendered and a cultural context will find the essays here informative.

Edelson, Miriam. *My Journey with Jake: A Memoir of Parenting and Disability*. Toronto: Between the Lines, 2000.

Keywords: disability, parenting, depression, lissencephaly, social policy, home care, institutional care, Canadian health care

In this memoir, the author examines disability from the perspective of a parent caregiver. Edelson chronicles her experience trying to find top quality health care for her son, Jake, who has lissencephaly, a condition that severely limits his physical and mental growth. The difficulties she faces in this regard expose the range of opinions that exist on the appropriateness of home care versus institutional care, as well the inadequacies of Canada's health care system in general for people with severe disabilities. Challenges aside, the many ways in which Jake has contributed to the author's quality of life and that of her husband and daughter remain a focal point of this memoir. Individuals interested in caregiving dynamics will find this a rewarding read.

Ferguson, Gerry. "Control of the Insane in British Columbia, 1849 – 78: Care, Cure, or Confinement?" Eds. Dorothy Chunn, John McLaren, and Robert Menzies. *Regulating Lives: Historical Essays on the State, Society, the Individual, and the Law*. Vancouver; Toronto: UBC Press, 2002.

Keywords: home care, labour, institutionalization, asylum, mental disability, family, nineteenth-century British Columbia history

This essay chronicles the social forces that led to the development of British Columbia's first institution for the insane. Before 1872, the incidence of insanity in the fledgling colony was rare enough that home care was considered sufficient to provide for the needs of individuals with mental disabilities. With the increase in population came a move towards institutionalization and renewed ways of understanding individuals with mental illness (for instance, as "inmates" as opposed to family members). Individuals with mental disabilities contributed to the upkeep of the asylum; making hay and cutting firewood were two common forms of inmate labour. Ferguson's essay will be useful for researchers attempting to historicize the notion of care at home, the shift towards institutionalization, and the contributions made by residents.

Ford, Janet and Ruth Sinclair. *Sixty Years On: Women Talk About Old Age*. London: The Women's Press, 1987.

Keywords: women, home, aging, family

This collection of interviews explores similarities and differences in women's experiences of aging. Based on a series of interviews with women ranging from those recently retired to individuals in deep old age, *Sixty Years On* presents a wide range of issues that impact on the aging process. The importance of home is a common refrain here; many women voice their desire to stay in their own home for as long as possible, and equate this with the notion of 'living well'. Also evident is the way in which elderly women continue to contribute to family life, often as periodic babysitters for sons and daughters who have their own children. This collection will be useful for researchers seeking to uncover firsthand accounts of what it means to be elderly and female in contemporary Western society.

Fries, Kenny. *Staring Back: The Disability Experience from the Inside Out*. New York: Plume, 1997.

Keywords: disability, literature, fiction, poetry, writers, theatre, non-fiction, plays, stereotypes

This anthology contains fiction and non-fiction writing by people with different types of disabilities. Including work by Stanley Elkin, Ved Mehta, and Adrienne Rich, the collection covers the notion of disability from a variety of different gendered, racialized, and cultural perspectives. The introduction by Kenny Fries provides an overview of historic and contemporary images of disability in literature and the arts, ranging from the "demonic cripple of Shakespeare's Richard III to present-day villains in James Bond films." Numerous genres

are represented here, including short stories, poetry, and plays. This collection will be helpful for those studying the ways in which disability can be addressed through cultural and artistic forms.

Hepworth, Mike. *Stories of Ageing*. Buckingham; Philadelphia: Open University Press, 2000.

Keywords: aging, fiction, literature, home

Using a symbolic interactionist framework that sees individuals as constituted in and through their relationships with others, sociologist Mike Hepworth makes the case for using literature to broaden our understanding of the aging process. Noting that gerontologists have increasingly looked to the arts to explore the subjective dimension of aging, Hepworth emphasizes the social and cultural context in which constructions of 'old age' emerge. He then embarks on his own examination of works of popular fiction to explore such themes as the relationship between the body, self, and other people; objects, places, and spaces (including, most significantly, 'the home'); vulnerability and risk; and the future. This study will be particularly useful for individuals interested in theorizing the subjective dimension of the aging experience; as well, it will be helpful for people looking at the importance of home to aging individuals.

Hillyer, Barbara. *Feminism and Disability*. Norman, Oklahoma: U of Oklahoma P, 1993.

Keywords: feminism, disability, critical theory, empowerment, parenting

Drawing on her experience as the mother of a severely disabled daughter, Barbara Hillyer explores points of divergence between feminist theory and disability studies and the tensions that may result for people with disabilities. Of particular note is Hillyer's critique of the caregiver/care receiver binary. The author maintains that this formulation doesn't hold for many families of people with severe disabilities. Instead, networks of care comprising multiple caregivers prevail in such instances; moreover, these networks are ordered hierarchically on the basis of race, class, and gender. Hillyer also turns her critical eye to the women's movement's claims to empowerment; when situated within a disability context, the notion that women can be anything they choose is, the author maintains, dangerously misleading. This book will be of interest to people looking at personal narratives of parenting and disability and to those exploring the ways in which the main tenets of feminist theory might be rethought using the lens of disability studies.

Holmes, Martha Stoddard. *Fictions of Affliction: Physical Disability in Victorian Culture*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2004.

Keywords: disability, Victorian literature, representation, Britain, narrative, fiction

Like David Mitchell and Sharon Snyder, Martha Stoddard Holmes is concerned with the sheer volume of images of disabled people in narrative works; however, whereas Mitchell and Snyder examine the trope of disability in American literature, Holmes focuses on Victorian

literature. She explores the recurrence of stereotypical figures, such as the disabled beggar and the “unmarriageable” disabled woman, in key literary works. As well, she includes a chapter on autobiographical texts written by disabled people in this era. These works of life writing reveal that individuals with disabilities in the Victorian era were by no means necessarily a drain on society; on the contrary, they were often shrewd entrepreneurs who used their business skills to get by in the world. Holmes’ work will be of interest to individuals looking at the representation of disability in literature and the way in which such images have shaped contemporary understandings of disability.

Ingstad, Benedicte and Susan Reynolds White. *Disability and Culture*. Berkeley; Los Angeles; London: U of California P, 1995.

Keywords: culture, disability, ethnicity, race, social context, cosmology, personhood, international, developing countries

In this collection of essays, the notion of disability is examined within a comparative perspective. The introduction by Ingstad and White contextualizes issues of corporeality, personhood, and equality as these have developed in a Western conceptualization of disability. The essays themselves, by juxtaposing the way disability is conceived in Western culture with views on ableness in non-Western (particularly African) nations, underscore the notion of disability as a social construct. This anthology will be of use to those interested in deconstructing cultural assumptions surrounding the question of disability.

Marshall, Doris. *Silver Threads: Critical Reflections on Growing Old*. Toronto: Between the Lines, 1987.

Keywords: aging, community, labor force, work, industrialization, advocacy

In this work, Doris Marshall uses the insight she has gleaned from her position as an “elderly person” in society to comment on the assumptions surrounding youth, old age, and productivity in contemporary Canadian society. Marshall levels much of her critique at the culture of work, noting that the historical shift from agrarian lifestyles to industrialization and public wage work had serious repercussions for the self-identity of elderly people. As respect and social status came to be associated with labour force participation, old people who had retired or who were never in the labour force were accorded a diminished amount of respect in Western societies. Marshall concludes that part of the solution to the putative “problem” of aging is to recognize relationships of reciprocity within our communities so that contributions to society are not measured only in terms of labour force participation. This text will be helpful to researchers interested in the myriad ways in which old people contribute to society; it will also be valuable to those interested in working with the unmediated views and voices of old people themselves.

Mays, John Bentley. *In the Jaws of the Black Dogs: A memoir of depression*. Toronto: Viking, 1995.

Keywords: mental disability, depression

In this first-hand account of life with chronic depression, John Bentley Mays, visual arts critic for *The Globe and Mail*, recounts his ongoing struggles with the apathy, loneliness, and despair that characterize his condition. The costs associated with depression are, for Mays, numerous: fractured relationships with former friends, days lost to bouts of weeping and self-condemnation, and leaves of absence from work when the “black dogs” come with full force to vanquish any instance of happiness or satisfaction. Locating the source of his malady in both the physiological and neurological factors of his own genetic makeup and in the tendency of mass culture to promote empty consumerism and an overall loss of values, Mays interrogates the many possible causes of mental disorders. Quoting theorists such as Julia Kristeva, Michel Foucault, and Martin Heidegger on their views of depression, Mays suggests a link between some forms of mental illness and creative or intellectual potential; in doing so, he illustrates how some individuals with a mental illness contribute to contemporary debates and dialogues about power in contemporary societies. This book will be useful to researchers attempting to understand how individuals with mental disabilities function in a society that presumes a certain standard of mental acuity.

Menzies, Robert. “Race, Reason, and Regulation: British Columbia’s Mass Exile of Chinese ‘Lunatics’ Aboard the *Empress of Russia*, 9 February 1935.” Eds. Dorothy Chunn, John McLaren, and Robert Menzies. *Regulating Lives: Historical Essays on the State, Society, the Individual, and the Law*. Vancouver; Toronto: UBC Press, 2002.

Keywords: labour, mental disability, asylum, Asian, deportation, institutionalization, early twentieth-century British Columbia history, race, ethnicity

This essay explores the ways in which Asians with mental disabilities experienced multiple forms of prejudice in early twentieth-century British Columbia. While Menzies tends to sensationalize the aberrant actions of these “lunatics” and frames individuals with mental illness in a reductive manner (for instance, as the sad victims of a “life gone wrong”), he provides valuable information regarding the labour contributions of Asian inmates. These contributions are not seen in isolation but are rather placed within a context of reciprocal exchange: Asians whose contributions were considered exemplary could expect to receive certain privileges (such as day passes) in return for their work. Such contributions were considered so valuable that BC bureaucrats used the labour potential of the inmates as a bargaining chip in deportation negotiations with the Chinese government. This work would be useful for individuals looking at ethnic and racialized dimensions of contributions.

Michalko, Rod. *The Difference That Disability Makes*. Philadelphia: Temple UP, 2002.

Keywords: disability, blindness, academic work, sociology

Michalko is a sociology professor who has been gradually losing his sight since adolescence. In *The Difference that Disability Makes*, he draws on this experience to explore the social construction of blindness specifically and disability in general in North American society. Using the work of scholars from Hannah Arendt to Michel Foucault, Michalko deconstructs a number of fundamental assumptions about disability. For instance, in a philosophical reflection on the loosely formed “clouds” that he sees in place of telephone poles and mailboxes, Michalko asks whether his perceptions are any less valuable or accurate as depictions of reality than those of people who are fully sighted. Researchers interested in exploring the social construction of disability will find a number of useful areas of analysis in this text. Michalko’s work will also be useful for individuals looking at contributions made by disabled people to academic life and scholarly writing.

Mitchell, David T. and Sharon L. Snyder. *Narrative Prosthesis: Disability and the Dependencies of Discourse*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan Press, 2000.

Keywords: narrative, fiction, film, disability, image, discourse

In this work, Mitchell and Snyder focus on the sheer volume and range of images of disability in literature and film. They employ the term “narrative prosthesis” to suggest the way in which narrative both relies on disability for its development and uses the act of narration as an opportunity to fix (literally or metaphorically) the disability in question. Looking at classics by Shakespeare, Melville, Montaigne, and Nietzsche, as well as more contemporary works by Sherwood Anderson and Katherine Dunn, Mitchell and Snyder discuss disability as representation, and link this to a broader interrogation about the marginalization of disability as a form of identity. Researchers examining the role of literature in the production and circulation of images of disability will find this text useful.

Montigny, Edgar-André. *Foisted Upon the Government? State Responsibilities, Family Obligations, and the Care of the Dependent Aged in Late Nineteenth-Century Ontario*. Montreal; Kingston; London; Buffalo: McGill-Queen’s UP, 1997.

Keywords: family, aging, state, nineteenth-century Ontario history, government policy

This work explores the ways in which policy formulation in late nineteenth-century Ontario both reflected and contributed to societal constructions and assumptions about the “dependent aged” and the obligations of families caring for these individuals. Montigny makes many significant links here, showing how policy directed at aging individuals actually impacted on virtually all members of society. Most importantly, he connects late nineteenth-century debates about the state’s responsibility towards its aging citizens with contemporary discussions about the role government should play in responding to the needs of its aging population. This work will be of interest to individuals exploring the connection between historical and present-day debates over public and private responsibilities in the area of caregiving.

Moran, James E. *Committed to the State Asylum: Insanity and Society in Nineteenth-Century Quebec and Ontario*. Montreal; Kingston; London; Ithaca: McGill-Queen's UP, 2000.

Keywords: insane, asylum, nineteenth-century Ontario and Quebec history, mental disability, institutional care, family

This work explores the social forces that contributed to the advent of the asylum in nineteenth-century Canadian society. Of particular interest here is the way in which mental illness was relatively undifferentiated historically; numerous mental disabilities, ranging from Down syndrome to schizophrenia, were conflated under the blanket term of 'insane' when it came to asylum management. Moran's contextualization of family involvement is also instructive; here, he shows how familial resources were used not only as a prelude to institutional care, but also in conjunction with the work carried out by asylums. Researchers looking at care arrangements for people with disabilities from a historical perspective will find this work valuable.

Morris, Jenny. *Able Lives: Women's Experience of Paralysis*. London: The Women's Press, 1989.

Keywords: feminist, caregiving, care receiving, women, family

Based on input from over 200 individuals, *Able Lives* offers first-hand insight into how paralysis is experienced and negotiated by women in a society that equates the female body with care and nurturing. Focusing on women who acquired their impairment in late adolescence or adulthood, this work challenges the binary of care giver/care receiver by illustrating the ways in which many mothers with disabilities retain the role of primary caregiver to their children despite their impairment. The work also highlights the importance of home spaces in constructing disability; houses that are built with able-bodied individuals in mind render people with impairments as 'disabled' through their physical structure. Class emerges as another important point here; modifications to homes that would make them workable for people with disabilities require money that many families simply don't have. *Able Lives* will be useful for researchers exploring the care giver/care receiver dynamic, home as the site of care, and the importance of class in the social construction of disability.

Morton, Suzanne. "Elderly Men and Women." *Ideal Surroundings: Domestic Life in a Working-Class Suburb in the 1920s*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1995. 51 – 66.

Keywords: regionalism, child care, cooking, cleaning, gender, elderly, family, domesticity, home

In this chapter, Morton examines what life was like for elderly people living in Richmond Heights, a working-class suburb of Halifax, in the 1920s. Maintaining one's own home was key for a large number of elderly individuals; many accepted stigmatizing forms of direct charity rather than move to an institution when age-related infirmities set in. Living with grown children provided another housing option for some elderly individuals; the particular

configuration of such arrangements was often determined by both gender and financial resources. Elderly women were seen as more likely than their aged male counterparts to be able to contribute to the family economy through cooking, cleaning, and minding children; thus, the relationship they experienced upon moving in with their families was often one of reciprocity rather than dependence. Elderly homeowners who were in a position to offer shelter to grown children in return for rent money also experienced mutual benefits from cohabitation arrangements. Morton suggests that such reciprocity is particularly apparent in Maritime culture, thereby introducing the notion of regionalism into her discussion of the elderly. This chapter will be helpful for researchers examining the contributions of the elderly in a historical context.

Noël, Françoise. *Family Life and Sociability in Upper and Lower Canada, 1780 – 1870: A View from Diaries and Family Correspondence*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's UP, 2003.

Keywords: home care, family, care arrangements, eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Canadian history, life writing

In this study, Noël mines the field of life writing to provide a social history of the journey from birth to old age and the intrafamilial relationships that occur along the way. While brief, the section on “Children and Elderly Parents” illuminates the various care arrangements that were effected by aging individuals in an era before institutions. Farmers, for instance, often left their land to an adult son in return for room and board for the remainder of their days. These grown children typically joined with other siblings and grandchildren to provide a network of care; daughters-in-law, Noël contends, did not necessarily bear the brunt of caregiving work in such situations. Because the section on aging here is relatively short, researchers may find it most useful to consult Noël's extensive archival sources for further study.

Parker, Gillian. *With this Body: Caring and Disability in Marriage*. Buckingham; Philadelphia: Open University Press, 1993.

Keywords: caregiving, spouses, marriage, sexuality, masculinity, power

This work explores the dynamics of caregiving between spouses, paying particular attention to the experience of women who acquire disabilities after marriage and their husbands who subsequently provide care. Questioning the normative assumption that spouses are necessarily the most effective or appropriate caregivers, Parker explores the costs that accrue when care remains confined within marital relationships. Loss of income from reduced participation in the work force, abuses of power along gender lines (for instance, when the husband-turned-caregiver uses his newfound position to control his wife), and the potential for a reduced level of sexual intimacy between the caregiver-spouse and the spouse with a disability are just some of the costs associated with caregiving relationships between married individuals. This book will be of interest to researchers interested in how care is negotiated on an informal basis between individuals who know each other intimately. It will also appeal to those studying the gendered dimension of caregiving.

Reaume, Geoffrey. *Remembrance of Patients Past: Patient Life at the Toronto Hospital for the Insane, 1870 – 1940*. Don Mills, ON: Oxford UP, 2000.

Keywords: insane, mental disability, nineteenth- and twentieth-century Ontario history, patients, agency, urban communities, Toronto

This historical work examines what life was like for patients at the Toronto Hospital for the Insane (currently the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Queen Street Division) in the later part of the nineteenth century and first half of the twentieth century. A patient-centred analysis, Reaume's work raises the question of agency for people who were diagnosed with mental disabilities ranging from schizophrenia to depression to epilepsy. A key component of this work is the inclusion of actual writing and artwork by patients, including poems, letters, and drawings, that speak to the experience of living with a mental disability. As well, the author uses extensive archival material to show that patients contributed to the daily upkeep and ongoing renovations of the hospital. Researchers trying to uncover the voices of people with disabilities in early Ontario society will find Reaume's study extremely helpful.

Roy, Carole. *The Raging Grannies: Wild Hats, Cheeky Songs and Witty Actions for a Better World*. Montreal: Black Rose Books, 2004.

Keywords: old women, political activism, humour

Carole Roy's book tells the story of The Raging Grannies, a group of older women whose contributions in the realm of political activism have made them household names in Canada. Using outlandish costumes and irreverent songs, the Grannies raise public awareness about issues ranging from nuclear warheads on visiting navy ships to ecological degradation. Along the way, they also play up and expose stereotypes about old age in general and old women in particular. Roy's book will interest researchers seeking concrete examples of social contributions by seniors. Its rich store of information gleaned from personal interviews will also appeal to investigators looking to incorporate the voices of seniors in their own work.

Snell, James. *The Citizens Wage: The State and the Elderly in Canada, 1900 – 1951*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 1996.

Keywords: old age, elderly, family, reciprocity, twentieth-century Canadian history, political activism, grey lobby

Using archival records of correspondence between seniors and administrators of government programs, historian James Snell reconstructs a picture of what life was like for the elderly in Canada in the first half of the twentieth century. The contributions of seniors in this time period were substantial and varied: child care, gardening, housekeeping, and casual labour were just some of the ways that seniors living with adult children contributed to the family economy. Often such assistance was in return for care and/or lodging. Many elderly people also contributed to their family's financial well-being by sharing assets such as a family home, farm, or business with adult children, either as a gift or in return for care. Yet another type of contribution in this time period occurred in the form of political activism; Snell charts the rise

of the grey lobby in the 1930s and 1940s, a movement that was influential in changing public perceptions about old age. Rich in details about daily family life, this study will be helpful for researchers interested in situating the notion of contributions within a larger framework of reciprocity.

Sobchack, Vivian. "Beating the Meat/Surviving the Text, or How to Get Out of This Century Alive." Eds. Paula A. Treichler, Lisa Cartwright, and Constance Penley. *The Visible Woman: Imaging Technologies, Gender, and Science*. New York; London: New York UP, 1998.

Keywords: disability, technology, science fiction, amputee, health, corporeality

In this essay, Sobchack discusses the perceptual shift, popularized by theorist Jean Baudrillard, towards revisioning disabled bodies (previously understood as inferior or incomplete) as the new and dynamic techno-bodies of the future. Sobchack embraces her own prosthetic limb because its durability has forced her to keep the rest of her natural body (the "meat") extraordinarily fit, resulting in her newfound status as an inordinately healthy member of society. At the same time, however, the author is quick to caution against the tendency to uncritically embrace technology as a means to the radical and wholesale transformation of disabled and scarred bodies, arguing instead that the lived experience of disability cannot be idealized away. This essay will be useful to individuals exploring the corporeal dimensions of disability, particularly within a discussion of technology and the limitations thereof.

Titchkosky, Tanya. *Disability, Self and Society*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2003.

Keywords: disability, sociology, dyslexia, passing

In this work, Titchkosky examines the social construction of disability in contemporary Western society; she is particularly interested in "staying with" disability and reclaiming it as a positive form of identification in the face of assumptions of disability as deficiency or deviance. A sociologist, Titchkosky explores conversations, gestures, and other interactions to unpack how disability is framed by both disabled and non-disabled people. In the process, she examines what passes for "common sense" in society and questions the day-to-day treatment of disabled individuals by temporarily able-bodied people. Drawing on her own experiences with dyslexia, as well as research she has conducted while 'passing' as blind, Titchkosky is interested in exploring what happens when disability itself is allowed to be seen as the teacher in social interactions. This resource will be helpful for individuals interested in deconstructing the notion of disability; it will also prove useful to people interested in recasting disability as positive form of social and personal identity.

Wendell, Susan. *The Rejected Body: Feminist Philosophical Reflections on Disability*. New York; London; Routledge, 1996.

Keywords: disability, gender, feminist theory, ethics, corporeality, bodies, rejection, philosophy, embodiment, chronic fatigue syndrome, *myalgic encephalomyelitis*

In this work, Wendell explores the way disabled bodies accrue negative meaning through discourses that privilege ableness and wellness. Seeing disability as a social construct, Wendell critiques mainstream feminist theory for, on the one hand, positing ableness as a normative category of being and, on the other, for seeing disability as something deviant. Working out of her own experience with *myalgic encephalomyelitis* (more commonly known as chronic fatigue syndrome), Wendell uses her situated knowledge to provide a philosophical inquiry into the way disability is framed in contemporary society. This work will be particularly helpful to individuals interested in theorizing the bodily and discursive dimensions of disability as a social construct.

Films

The Ballad of Narayama. Dir. Shohei Imamura. Prod. Tohei Co. Ltd. Home Vision Cinema.
Time: 129 minutes, 1983.

Keywords: aging, Japan, ethnicity, childcare, legend, rural communities

Winner of the Grand Prix at the 1983 Cannes Film Festival, *The Ballad of Narayama* retells the legend of Orin, an elder in a desperately poor northern Japanese town, as she prepares for her banishment from the community and subsequent death. Village law dictates that all individuals over the age of 70 be taken to the summit of Narayama to die, and Orin looks forward to this journey — in part so that her family might have more food to split among fewer people. Juxtaposed with this self-sacrifice, however, are the many ways in which Orin contributes to family and community life. She looks after one grandchild whose mother has died, cooks for the entire family, manages the household, colludes with the other villagers to punish local thieves, catches more fish than anyone else in the village, and — perhaps most importantly — passes her vast knowledge on to her new daughter-in-law. This movie will be an excellent resource for individuals looking at the treatment of elderly individuals in non-Western societies.

Caregivers. Dir. Dan Curtis. Prod. Adam Symansky, National Film Board of Canada.
Toronto: National Film Board of Canada, 1997.

Keywords: caregiving, old age, Alzheimer's, dementia, stroke, paralysis, family

The five instalments in this National Film Board of Canada series depict caregiving in a number of different scenarios. Episode One tells the story of Madeleine, a middle-aged woman who took early retirement to look after her mother, Rose, who is partially paralyzed. Limited mobility is also one of the challenges experienced by Tom, a senior who is cared for by his 78-year old wife, Doris, in Episode Two. In Episode Three we learn about Kurt, who is the primary caregiver for his mother, Elizabeth, an 88-year old woman with Alzheimer's who requires constant supervision. Episode Four features Pat who, together with her husband,

Lloyd, cares for her bedridden 95-year old mother, Molly. The fifth and final episode of the series shows Paul with his mother, Jean, whose Alzheimer's has progressed to the point that she now requires institutional care. Each story offers a unique window into the world of caregiving and the drawbacks and benefits associated with such work. While the families portrayed don't adequately reflect the sexual or racial plurality of the Canadian population (there are, for instance, no gay or non-white families featured here) the series will nevertheless be helpful to researchers examining the costs and contributions associated with caregiving.

The Company of Strangers. Dir. Cynthia Scott. Prod. Colin Neale et al. National Film Board of Canada. Time: 100 minutes, 1990.

Keywords: aging, women, friendship, death, dying, support, agency

This movie explores the relationships that develop among a group of older women when their bus breaks down in the countryside. Ranging in age from 67 to 88 years old, these seven women provide support for each other during their unexpected stopover. Such support is both practical, as in the case of Catherine Roche, who embarks on a day-long walk to get help, and nurturing, as evidenced by Alice Diabo and Cissy Meddings who share tears and comfort each other over the more bittersweet aspects of growing old. Structured as it is around real-life autobiographical narratives and spontaneous dialogue, this movie will be useful for researchers attempting to locate the diverse voices of aging individuals.

I Never Sang for My Father. Dir. Gilbert Cates. Prod. Gilbert Cates. Columbia/Tristar Studios. Time: 92 minutes, 1970.

Keywords: aging, caregiving, families, responsibilities, gender

Starring Gene Hackman as Gene Garrison, the widowed son of ailing parents, *I Never Sang For My Father* explores the tension between filial responsibility and personal freedom in the face of impending caregiving duties. After the death of his mother, Gene feels a personal obligation to look after his increasingly absent-minded father. He ascribes this sense of duty — at least in part — to his gender, remarking to his sister that, as a man, he cannot stand to see his once proud father reduced by age and infirmity. But his willingness to become his father's primary caregiver is hampered by his parallel desire to remarry and move across the country; in the end, he must choose between the needs of his new family and those of his father. This film will be of interest to individuals looking at the issues inherent in the 'decision' to become a caregiver (particularly as this is differently experienced by men and women), and the costs associated with assuming such a role. Together with *Marvin's Room*, it would provide excellent material for a discussion about the choices and options available to potential caregivers and how these are inherently gendered in Western society.

Iris. Dir. Richard Eyre. Prod. Robert Fox and Scott Rudin. Miramax International. Time: 91 minutes, 2001.

Keywords: Alzheimer's disease, home care, spousal caregiving

This movie depicts the relationship between novelist Iris Murdoch and her husband, John Bayley, in youth and in later years as Murdoch experiences the onset of Alzheimer's disease. The juxtaposition of past and present scenes underscores the duration of the relationship between Murdoch and her husband, highlighting the ways in which past contributions (of love, time, and attention) remain relevant to the present and inform the commitment and perseverance of the spouse-turned-caregiver. With this movement, the question of the temporality of contributions is raised. A discussion of this movie would work well in conjunction with an exploration of Ignatieff's *Scar Tissue*; overall, the film will be helpful to individuals examining the mutual benefits of caregiving relationships.

Labour of Love. Dir. Dan Curtis. Prod. Adam Symansky, Hilary Armstrong, National Film Board of Canada. Time: 45 minutes, 1998.

Keywords: caregiving, old age, Alzheimer's, dementia, stroke, paralysis, family

This documentary is an abridged version of the five-part National Film Board of Canada series on caregiving. The highlights included here reveal the diversity of caregivers: sons, daughters, in-law's, and spouses all look after relatives, at home and in institutional settings. Such work can be physically and emotionally draining; frustration and isolation are mentioned as common costs associated with providing care. Individuals being cared for, however, also make their mark. One daughter notes that her mother's companionship and laughter more than made up for the work required in taking care of her, while another daughter-turned-caregiver is buoyed by memories of her mother's past contributions of guidance and support. This video would work well as an introduction to the topic of caregiving; viewers looking for information on particular scenarios (such as daughters looking after mothers or children considering institutional placements for parents) should consult the original NFB series.

Little Mountain. National Aboriginal Network on Disability: Time: 27 minutes, 1994.

Keywords: disability, First Nations, reserves, government, British Columbia, services

In this documentary, a First Nations woman, Donna Good Water, chronicles the difficulties she has faced in trying to obtain care for her disabled daughter, Little Mountain. Living on-reserve in the BC interior, Good Water finds that conflicting levels of government with overlapping jurisdictions leave Aboriginal people with disabilities in a policy vacuum. At the same time, many individuals in the Aboriginal community, including chiefs, do not acknowledge the widespread incidence of disability in their midst, creating a situation of denial among status Indians that compounds the problem of bureaucratic apathy and neglect off-reserve. Good Water contrasts this with attitudes in pre-Contact native society, observing that people with disabilities and elders were once at the top of the social hierarchy in Aboriginal communities. This video will be useful for individuals exploring attitudes towards people with disabilities across cultures.

Marvin's Room. Dir. Jerry Zaks. Prod. Robert de Niro, Jane Rosenthal, Scott Rudin. Buena Vista Home Video. Time: 98 minutes, 1996.

Keywords: caregiving, contributions, gender, family, sisters, costs

Marvin's Room tells the story of Bessie and Lee, estranged sisters who reconnect when Bessie's advancing leukemia requires her to seek a bone marrow donor. When Lee arrives from out-of-town to be tested as a possible match, the two sisters argue over issues of familial responsibility and personal priorities. As full-time caregiver to her eponymous father and eccentric aunt, Bessie worries about what will happen to her family as her illness progresses, and suggests that Lee might assume some caregiving duties. Lee resists this proposal, seeing caregiving as a sacrificial act that has cost her sister the opportunity to have a family of her own. From Bessie's perspective, however, the unstinting love and companionship of her father and aunt has been the irreplaceable reward for her caregiving work; thus, she sees herself as lucky for having had the opportunity to care for them. This film will be extremely relevant to a wide array of researchers examining the costs and contributions of care. It would also work well contrasted with the film *I Never Sang For My Father* in a discussion about how gender affects caregiving choices.

Moving the Mountain. Dir. Malcolm Guy and William Ging Wee Dere. Prod. Malcolm Guy and William Ging Wee Dere. Productions Multi-Monde. Time: 85 minutes, 1993.

Keywords: aging, government, Chinese Canadian, ethnicity, cultural memory, family, history

Moving the Mountain follows William Ging Wee Dere as he seeks to learn more about his late father and the Chinese Canadian community of the early 1900s. In the course of his search, Dere speaks with a number of elderly Chinese Canadians, some of whom paid head taxes in the first part of the 20th century in order to be able to immigrate to Canada, and others of whom were kept apart from their families for years because of Canada's notorious Chinese Exclusion Act. As the film unfolds and Dere realizes the full extent of the damage that Canadian government policies inflicted on Chinese men and women, it also becomes abundantly clear that older adults can make a valuable contribution to the collective memory of any cultural group. This has particular relevance for communities, such as Chinese Canadians, who are seeking redress for past injustices. This film will be useful for researchers attempting to see the contributions of seniors in an explicitly politicized and public context.

My Left Foot. Dir. Jim Sheridan. Prod. Paul Heller et al. Cineplex Odeon Home Video; Alliance Atlantis. Time: 103 minutes, 1990.

Keywords: disability, poverty, ethnicity, Irish, family, parenting, cerebral palsy

In *My Left Foot*, Daniel Day-Lewis plays the role of Christy Brown, a man with cerebral palsy who gained fame as a writer and artist in 1930s Ireland. Christy's mother is his primary caregiver as he grows up; she carries him up and down flights of stairs and risks her husband's wrath by saving a portion of the household expenses for a wheelchair for her son. Christy, for

his part, gives back to his mother: he is her confidante and sounding board and his physical strength becomes useful around the house on numerous occasions. His mental acuity also comes in handy when he engineers a theft of coal for his poverty-stricken family, an act that receives a sharp rebuke from his honest mother. This movie will be useful for researchers looking at the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities. It will also be of interest to those exploring intersections of disability, poverty, and ethnicity.

The Sweet Hereafter. Dir. Atom Egoyan. Prod. Atom Egoyan and Camelia Frieberg. Alliance Communications; First Line Features. Time: 110 minutes, 1997.

Keywords: disability, gender, feminism, accident, agency, incest

Based on the novel by Russell Banks, Atom Egoyan's *The Sweet Hereafter* tells the story of the aftermath of a bus accident in which Nichole, a young teenager, is paralysed. An incest survivor, Nichole must learn to negotiate a new life as an individual with a disability while at the same time reconfiguring her relationship with her father, the perpetrator of the abuse. This movie will be helpful for individuals looking at the ways in which agency on the part of people with disabilities can be alternatively contested, negotiated, and asserted.

Toward Intimacy: Self-esteem, Sexuality, and Love in the Lives of Women With Disabilities. Dir. Debbie McGee. Prod. Nicole Hubert. National Film Board of Canada. Time: 62 minutes, 1992.

Keywords: disability, caregiving, education, advocacy, peer support, sexuality

This documentary explores the private lives of women with disabilities, paying particular attention to how such individuals interact on an intimate level with the people they care for and about — including partners and children. Intent on debunking the myth that individuals with disabilities are necessarily asexual beings, *Toward Intimacy* looks at the relationships experienced by four women — one with cerebral palsy, one in a wheelchair as the result of a rare bone disease, one with a severe hearing impairment, and one who is legally blind. The contributions made by these women are numerous; they are dedicated mothers and loving partners, they provide peer support to other women with disabilities, and they are educators committed to sensitizing the non-disabled community to the capabilities of diverse individuals. This film will be helpful for individuals looking at the contributions of people with disabilities, particularly as these are understood in terms of advocacy and family life.

You Won't Need Running Shoes, Darling. Dir. Dorothy Todd Hénaut. Prod. Sally Bochner, Don Haig, and Dorothy Todd Hénaut. Montreal: National Film Board of Canada, 1996.

Keywords: aging, home care, family

In *You Won't Need Running Shoes, Darling*, filmmaker Dorothy Todd Hénaut provides viewers with a window into the world of her parents, Bob and Mildred Todd, as they live out their

later years at their home in Prince Edward County, Ontario. While Bob experiences heart problems and Mildred is fighting cancer, both individuals detail their appreciation for life and the time they have together. At the same time, acquaintances and members of the Todd family speak to the ways they have benefitted from knowing the couple; Mildred in particular is depicted as a loving mother and a helpful friend who gives valuable advice to a young female neighbour going through a difficult time. Key to the Todds' story is the importance of their lakeside retreat; when Mildred's cancer spreads, she returns home to spend her last days among friends and family, and Bob notes that their surroundings buoy them up when their spirits are flagging. At the same time, this oasis becomes increasingly inaccessible as Mildred grows weaker; a set of stairs without a banister is only surmounted with great difficulty and the use of two canes. Individuals interested in perceptions of aging and the importance of home as a site of caregiving will find this film valuable.

Journal Articles

Canadian Woman Studies: Women & Disability 13.4 (Summer 1993).

Keywords: women, motherhood, disability, ethnicity, class, multiculturalism, discourse, language, race, family

This issue of *Canadian Woman Studies* includes a number of important essays structured around the experiences of women living with disabilities. Highlights include the introduction, which explores the importance of language in determining the agency of individuals with disabilities, and several articles on mothering and disability, which challenge the traditional caregiver/care receiver binary. Other articles explore the notion of disability as it is understood in certain non-Western societies (for instance, in South Asian society as punishment for past sins). The relationship between class and disability comes through in these multicultural writings. In Bangladesh society, for instance, middle-class individuals with disabilities are the most disadvantaged because they lack both the financial resources to garner services that characterize the upper-class and the opportunity to use the disability as a ploy for sympathy while begging, a practice that provides an income for many lower-class individuals. In its sheer breadth, this volume is essential for individuals looking to familiarize themselves with a range of issues affecting women with disabilities.

Demas, Doreen. "Triple Jeopardy: Native Women With Disabilities." *Canadian Woman Studies* 13.4 (Summer 1993): 53 – 55.

Keywords: First Nations, disability, regionalism, women, government, services, bureaucracy, reserves

This article situates a discussion of disability among women within a First Nations context. Demas argues that Native women with disabilities are disadvantaged on several fronts: like women generally, they are not typically well-served by the male-dominated self-government process. As well, native communities tend to be built with able-bodied individuals in mind: reserves often possess gravel roads and buildings without ramps, while the fly-in status of

many northern communities can severely restrict the mobility of individuals with physical disabilities. At the same time, Native women with disabilities are also marginalized within the mainstream women's movement that has historically paid little attention to the concerns of both Aboriginal and disabled people. As well, native women with disabilities face a bureaucratic nightmare when they attempt to secure government services. Many resources for individuals with disabilities are sponsored by provincial governments; however, status Indians are under federal jurisdiction and thus exempt from such services. Demas' discussion of the 'triple jeopardy' experienced by native women with disabilities will be useful for researchers interested in examining different cultural responses to the notion of disability, as well as the Canadian state's involvement in the provision of services for disabled individuals.

Doe, Tanis and Barbara Ladouceur. "To Be or Not to Be: Whose Question Is it Anyway? Two Women with Disabilities Discuss the Right to Assisted Suicide." *Canadian Woman Studies* 13.4 (Summer 1993): 88 – 92.

Keywords: care, assisted suicide, choice, agency, disability, rights, abuse

This article destabilizes conventional articulations of caregiving and care receiving by looking at the right of individuals with disabilities to refuse care altogether. Framed as a dialogue between two women, each of whom has a disability, "To Be or Not to Be" deals mainly with the question of assisted suicide, a topic that is pertinent for many individuals with disabilities who may not possess the physical faculties required to take their own lives. Along the way, some important issues are brought to light, such as the link between care and abuse, the rights of people with disabilities, and the question of the viability of the notion of real agency for people with limited physical mobility or mental aptitude. This article will be useful for researchers interested in expanding the notion of 'care' beyond its traditional formulation within the caregiving/care receiving binary. It will also be helpful for individuals interrogating the notion of 'agency' for people with disabilities.

Fraser, Nancy and Linda Gordon. "A Genealogy of Dependency: Tracing a Keyword of the U.S. Welfare State." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 19.2 (1994): 309 – 336.

Keywords: discourse, terminology, philosophy, dependency, U.S. social policy

Philosopher Nancy Fraser and historian Linda Gordon collaborate here to trace the shifting connotations of the term 'dependency' from the 1500s through to the present day. They note that in preindustrial times the condition of being dependent was the norm since most people in society worked for someone else. As industrial capitalism took hold, the appeal of independence grew and dependency came to be seen as an inferior, even aberrant condition. Fraser and Gordon maintain that in the U.S. today, the stigma attached to 'dependency' remains; moreover, the term now carries sexist and racist overtones, with women and blacks in particular being seen as excessively dependent on the welfare system. While this article does not interrogate the notion of dependency with respect to the disability community and only discusses seniors in passing, it will be valuable for any researcher embarking on an analysis of the terms used to discuss 'dependent' populations.

Gombay, Brydon. "Mutual Empowerment: The Mother of a Daughter With Disabilities." *Canadian Woman Studies* 18.2 & 3 (Summer 1998): 35 – 40.

Keywords: motherhood, parenting, advocacy, caregiving, family, disability

In this article, Gombay examines the benefits that can accrue from parenting a child with a disability. She presents the case of Kate, a mother who maintains that having a disabled daughter has contributed to her own development in ways that would not have emerged had her child been born without a disability. Kate notes that her daily struggle to secure medical services and educational resources for her daughter, Jennifer, who has physical and cognitive developmental disabilities, has forced her to become a more assertive individual; this, in turn has increased her own sense of self-esteem. As well, through her advocacy work for Jennifer, Kate has met diverse people who have enriched her life. This article would work well alongside Edelson's memoir and the essay by Bérubé and Lyons as part of a larger discussion about the contributions that disabled children can make to their parents' own development as advocates and compassionate caregivers.

Holloway, Josephine. "Three Yukon First Nations Elders Share Their Knowledge." *Canadian Woman Studies* 14.4 (Fall 1994): 62 – 69.

Keywords: First Nations, elders, cultural knowledge, grandmothers, family

In this article, Holloway presents the results of conversations with three women elders. A clear sense of the importance of elders to First Nations communities emerges; the grandmothers of the women interviewed contributed both to the survival of their First Nations way-of-life through the transmission of cultural knowledge and to the sense of self-worth of their granddaughters, who were the recipients of this information. As well, Yukon elders — including women — contributed to the governance of their society by offering advice on the selection of new leaders. Holloway's work, along with Anne-Marie Miller's similar piece ("Conversations With Our Elders") in this same issue, will be of interest to researchers attempting to think through the contributions of elderly individuals within a culturally diverse framework.

Johnson, Harriet McBryde. "The Disability Gulag." *New York Times Magazine*. November 23, 2003.

Keywords: disability, institutions, U.S. social policy, U.S. government

American writer and activist Harriet McBryde Johnson takes aim here at the inadequacies of state-run institutions for "dependent" individuals, such as people with disabilities and the elderly. Naming the zone of institutional living the "disability gulag", Johnson maintains that people who enter institutions to receive care end up experiencing profound isolation and a loss of control over decision-making in their lives. In short, liberty is the cost of care. In arguing for government funding for personal assistance over institutionalization, Johnson makes the critical point that she and other people with disabilities are not a drain on society. They work, take public transportation, make and keep friends, shop, and contribute to society in a host of

ways similar to their able-bodied peers. Although brief, this article contains a great deal of information about how “dependent” people are perceived in Western society. It will be of interest to any investigator looking at how the costs of care and the contributions of care receivers are tallied.

Kendall, Kathleen. “Beyond Grace: Criminal Lunatic Women in Victorian Canada.” *Canadian Woman Studies* 19.1 & 2 (Spring/Summer 1999):110 – 115.

Keywords: women, mental disability, labour, prison, work, criminal, history

In this article, Kendall explores the damage inflicted by the historical conflation of groups that we now distinguish as “criminal”, “poor”, and “mentally ill”. She argues that in Victorian Canada, “lunatic” women who were incarcerated were further marginalized within a penitentiary system that demanded both silence and a willingness to work of its inmates — two attributes that mentally ill women were not seen as capable of exhibiting or possessing. Because they remained outside the sphere of “regular” inmates, mentally ill women were often written off as incapable of contributing to prison life and, by extension, of rehabilitation in general. At the same time, because these individuals were considered unable to contribute their labour to the upkeep of the prison, their status was seen as desirable by fellow inmates, some of whom attempted to appropriate the ‘lunatic’ label to get out of work assignments. This article will be useful for people exploring perceptions and treatment of mentally ill women historically.

May, Vivian M. and Beth A. Ferri. “ ‘I’m a Wheelchair Girl Now’: Abjection, Intersectionality, and Subjectivity in Atom Egoyan’s *The Sweet Hereafter*.” *Women’s Studies Quarterly* 30.1 & 2 (2002): 131 – 150.

Keywords: disability, gender, accident, family, community, agency

This article examines the depiction of disability and gender in Atom Egoyan’s *The Sweet Hereafter*. Outlining classical tropes that have been used to fix images of disability in film and literature into reductive categories, May and Ferri explore the ways in which Egoyan moves beyond stereotypical portrayals towards a more complex representation of disability. They maintain that Egoyan emphasizes agency and intent, building his story around the capabilities — and not the ostensible deficiencies — of a young girl with a physical disability. This article will provide a helpful framework for individuals seeking to explore the ways in which disability has traditionally been framed in artistic works.

McDaniel, Susan. “Untangling Love and Domination: Challenges of Home Care for the Elderly in a Reconstructing Canada.” *Journal of Canadian Studies* 34.2 (1999): 191 – 213.

Keywords: caregiving, discourse, neoliberalism, covenant theory, welfare state, rights, women, youth, political theory

In this essay, McDaniel deconstructs the notion of caring as it is understood within neoliberal discourse. Arguing that the basic tenets of neoliberalism (such as individualism and a rights-oriented approach to social policy) are antithetical to a progressive and viable notion of caring, McDaniel explores instead a civic covenant model of care. In the process, she provides an overview of who is currently providing care within Canadian society and discusses what the effects of caring on caregivers can be. McDaniel observes that, in addition to women, youth provide a substantial amount of unpaid work when it comes to care for the elderly in Canada. Individuals interested in looking at the concept of care within a political theory framework will find McDaniel's essay noteworthy.

Minor, Kathleen Mary. "Elizabeth: An Elder Inuk Remembers her Life." *Canadian Woman Studies* 14.4 (Fall 1994): 55 – 57.

Keywords: family, gender, Inuit, First Nations, Arctic, caregiving, elderly

In this article, Minor presents the results of an interview that she conducted with "Elizabeth", one of the oldest known Inuk women in the Arctic at the time of the discussion. The passages about parenting, while brief, provide insight into the ways in which the care of elderly people was handled in traditional Inuit society. As Elizabeth notes, the first-born son bore the responsibility of caring for his aging parents because men in this society were responsible for the hunt. So entrenched was this practice of male caregiving that first-born girls were considered of little use to aging parents and, consequently, set adrift on ice floes to starve to death. Elizabeth herself lost several daughters this way before she finally bore a son. This article will be a valuable first step for individuals interested in exploring how traditional First Nations concepts of care and familial responsibilities compare to mainstream notions of caregiving. It will also be useful for researchers examining social costs related to care across diverse societies.

Moran, James F. "Keepers of the Insane: The Role of Attendants at the Toronto Provincial Asylum, 1875 – 1905." *Histoire Sociale* 28.55 (May 1995): 51 – 75.

Keywords: disability, First Nations, reserves, government, British Columbia, services

In this article, Moran looks at the caregiving responsibilities of attendants at one of Canada's foremost institutions for the insane at the close of the 18th century. During this period, attendants had no formal medical training and were poorly remunerated for their caregiving work; most made the same wages as day labourers or domestic servants. The low esteem in which caregiving work was held had certain social costs; some attendants took advantage of their position of relative power to physically intimidate their charges, while asylum records show that a handful of inmates in turn assaulted their caregivers. More common to all attendants was the experience of supervision generally; overseeing work therapy was one task of most caregivers. In this form of 'treatment', inmates from the lower classes of society were put to work sewing, farming, baking, or doing laundry, thereby contributing to the daily upkeep of the asylum. As a detailed look at the daily routine of asylum attendants and challenges they faced, this article will be useful for people examining at the treatment of

caregivers historically. It will also be of interest to individuals exploring the labour potential of people with disabilities.

Newbold, K. Bruce. "Disability and use of support services within the Canadian aboriginal population." *Health and Social Care in the Community* 7.4 (1999): 291 – 296.

Keywords: disability, First Nations, support services, urban communities, rural communities

This article uses data from the Aboriginal Peoples Survey to chart the incidence of disability among Aboriginal peoples and the type of support available to these individuals. The author finds minimal differences between the degree of support received by urban and rural Aboriginals with disabilities; however, care providers may well differ between these two groups, with family and friends providing support for rural residents and external service providers addressing the care needs of urban Aboriginals with disabilities. This paper will be useful to researchers interested in the cultural context of disability and/or the differential impact of geography on the type of care received by individuals with disabilities.

Saidullah, Jawahara K. "Shakti – The Power of the Mother: The Violent Nurturer in Indian Mythology and Commercial Cinema." *Canadian Woman Studies* 13.1 (Fall 1993): 37 – 41.

Keywords: South Asian, ethnicity, race, nurturing, femininity, care

This essay explores contemporary Indian films in which the notion of the female caregiver as gentle and nurturing is rejected in favour of a newly emerging link between violence and nurturing. Typically involving a plot in which a woman and her family are abused by a gang of men, these films reinvent the female nurturer as a figure willing to go to extremely violent ends either to protect her loved ones or exact revenge for their suffering. This essay will be useful for researchers interested in deconstructing latent assumptions underlying Western notions of femininity, caring, and nurturing.

Miscellaneous

Driedger, Diane. "it runs in the family." *Canadian Woman Studies* 13.4 (Summer 1993): 52.

Keywords: poetry, spouses, power, abuse, disability, women, exploitation, family

This short poem speaks to the power imbalances that can result between spouses when one individual has a disability. This poem would be useful as an epigraph to a larger work examining power over and exploitation of individuals with disabilities.

Grunsky, Jack. "My Grandma and Me." *Sing & Dance*. Toronto: Wood Rooster Music, 2000.

Keywords: music, grandmother, contributions, child care

In this song, children's performer Jack Grunsky regales the listener with a summary of all the things his grandmother does that enrich his life: she plays piano for her grandson, lets him jump on her bed, keeps him company, cheers him up when he's feeling blue, bakes him apple pies, and writes him letters. While this is, at times, a stereotyped grandmother (who is known, for instance, to fall asleep in her rocking chair) she is nevertheless a loving and loved figure who contributes immensely to her grandson's well-being. This song may appeal to individuals looking for a fun way to introduce a presentation or stimulate a discussion on the social contributions of seniors.