

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A prominent theme that runs throughout *Mothering through Precarity* is the vital significance of the infrastructures we inhabit. Infrastructures are our conditions of possibility. They allow us to travel, connect, and get things done. Or not. This book would not have happened without many infrastructures.

First, our intellectual infrastructure: We are lucky to have a brilliant group of feminist media scholars who inspire, mentor, and support us, including Sarah Banet-Weiser, Elana Levine, Allison McCracken, Sujata Moorti, Carol Stabile, and Brenda Weber. Diane Negra championed this project in its infancy, and her unyielding faith that we were on to something important made all the difference. Much is owed too to Laurie Ouellette, who taught Julie to dwell in the pressure points of social life and whose own work and mentorship have played a huge role in the development of our thinking; to Bambi Haggins, who showed Emily that compassion and criticism can commingle; and to Susan Douglas, who guided Emily to appreciate popular culture's everyday pleasures while honing in on mundane gender wounds. This book has been immensely energized by Greg Seigworth, the Affect Theory Conference: Worldlings, Tensions, Futures (wTF), and everyone in Stream 11 ("Ordinary Affect and Everyday Life"): you provided so much inspiration in the very end when we needed it most. The final articulation is all you. Avi Santo, Jamie Henthorn, and Laura Portwood-Stacer, thank you for allowing us to share our work with your own students and peers. Sarah Crymble, Kamille Gentles-Peart, Hannah Hamad, and Alice Leppert, you are our buoys in this profession. Thank you for being there to listen, read, conspire, commiserate, and laugh.

Duke University Press has been a wonderful publishing infrastructure. So much is owed to Courtney Berger especially, who recognized early on

the tensions and potentialities embedded in our project. Thank you for asking the tough questions, providing thoughtful guidance, and finding the right reviewers to take our ideas to the next level. Sandra Korn was instrumental in pulling things together and willingly answered many questions about the nitty-gritty of putting the book in its final form. Thanks to our project editor, Lisa Bintrim, and our copyeditor for their sharp eyes and savvy advice. We also want to acknowledge here Joe Deville and Greg Seigworth (an early version of chapter 2 entitled “Mothering through Precarity: Becoming Mamapreneurial” appeared in their coedited special edition of *Cultural Studies*, “Everyday Debt and Credit”), as well as Elana Levine (some of our arguments were initially developed in our essay “Pinning Happiness: Affect, Social Media, and the Work of Mothering,” which was published in Elana’s *Cupcakes, Pinterest, and Ladyporn: Feminized Popular Culture in the Early Twenty-First Century*). Their editorial insights and guidance along the way were formative.

Allegheny College provides a supportive and nurturing institutional infrastructure. To our colleagues and students in the Department of Communication Arts and Theatre, we love you and thank you for being so supportive of our partnership, research, and the directions these take our teaching. Many students have contributed to this project over the years through participating in our classes, reading groups, and independent studies. A special thanks to our research assistants and thinking partners over the years: Megan Bart, Daniel Bauer, Erin Brockett, Larissa Card, Rachel DuChateau, Allison Nettin, Rochelle Rogalski, and Brigit Stack. Funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Collaborative Undergraduate Research in the Humanities grant and the Allegheny College Dean’s Fund for Student/Faculty Collaborative Research was instrumental in supporting these partnerships with students. Big thanks to Jan Mailliard for assiduous administrative support. We also are grateful to the Allegheny College Academic Support Committee for providing funds for our research and a space to share our early thinking, and to Linda Bills for inviting us to give the 20th Annual Pelletier Faculty Lecture. And, of course, we are forever indebted to our friends across campus who have supported us unconditionally throughout this grueling process: you know who you are.

And then there are our families, nuclear and extended, chosen and kin. The late John Wilson and Bud Tompkins would have been proud to see this book in print, and we wish they were still here. BeJay Gronauer, Patricia Langreck, Eleanor McGough, Kathie Smith, Deborah Tompkins, and Cathy

Wilson, you have been loud cheerleaders in Julie's life, providing much needed fuel and support, especially in hard times. Julie's sisters, Dana and Katie Wilson, are forces of nature in their own special ways; their energy and brilliance animate Julie's life—so much of this is for them.

Jennie Lindenberger, Amber Hotchkiss, Kelly Burke, and Asha Graeb have offered gentle and steady care to the Yochim boys. Nancy Kohler has been a lifelong inspiration, and Nicole Krystoff and Bethany Lewis are Emily's abiding allies, wise and funny chosen sisters. Emily's brothers, John and Tim Chivers, are steadfast in their love and wit, and her late brother Colin Chivers still galvanizes her. Emily's smart and tenacious dad, David Chivers, inspires with his enthusiasm. Finally, Nancy and John Yochim and the entire Yochim crew: your easy love is a soft landing.

To our moms, Ann Wilson and Mary Chivers, our bedrocks, our backbones. Ann, you are always there, watching from a distance or showing up to support us. You will never know just how much your unyielding pride and belief in Julie undergirds our work. Mary, we are ever grateful for your kindness and grace. You generously stepped in when we needed to retreat into our writing, and your abundant help with childcare—on regular Tuesdays, during conference travel with the babies, and all the times in between—has been instrumental to this book's completion. Thank you both for listening to us and caring for us as only mamas can.

To Elliot Yochim, Oliver Yochim, and Isaac Yochim, you have filled your mama up with joy and wonder, and your spirits anchor this book. Your gentle hearts and romping energies provided a constant reminder of what is at stake and why we write.

Our husbands have weathered this book right along with us. Joe Tompkins, thank you for, with “perverse pleasure,” editing every single word, and for stepping in and caring for Julie when she couldn't care for herself. We are grateful (most of the time) for your loving cynicism. Chris Yochim, thank you for infusing our lives with humor and loyalty, and for so attentively nurturing Emily's domestic scene. You give the little Yochims a secure footing and a sure sense of belonging. To both of you: your love for each of us, and your unyielding support of our own partnership, is the greatest infrastructure of all.

Finally, this book would not be possible if it weren't for the mothers who shared their lives with us. Thank you for opening up and being vulnerable, so we could clearly see your own infrastructures. We have really tried to do them justice.