

Making Sense of Parenthood

Caring, Gender and Family Lives

Following on from *Making Sense of Motherhood* (2005) and *Making Sense of Fatherhood* (2010), Tina Miller's book focuses on parenthood and mothers' and fathers' unfolding experiences as they manage caring and paid work in modern family lives. Returning to her original participants, it collects later episodes of their experience of 'doing' family life and meticulously examines mothers' and fathers' accounts of negotiating intensified parenting responsibilities and workplace demands. It explores questions of why gender equality and equity are harder to manage within the home sphere when organising caring and associated responsibilities, re-addressing the concept of 'maternal gatekeeping' and offering insights into a new concept of 'paternal gatekeeping.' The findings presented will inform both scholarly work and policy on family lives, gender equality and work.

TINA MILLER is Professor of Sociology at Oxford Brookes University. She is recognised internationally for her research on gendered and cultural practices in families and family transitions. She is the author of *Making Sense of Motherhood* (2005) and *Making Sense of Fatherhood* (2010).

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Sheila Stockwell 1959–2014

This book is dedicated to the memory of my dear friend Sheila Stockwell. A sociology graduate, a schoolteacher and, the thing she would prize above all, a brilliant mum to her three children. Sheila embodied a rare and genuine altruism and kindness towards others, was always a willing partner in spontaneous dancing (usually to Motown) and morphed into a competitor of Olympic stature when it came to the annual raisin game our families have played every Boxing Day. I think you still hold the record. We carry you with us every day in many different ways and try not to dwell too long on your physical absence. Your memory is held with enduring love and gratitude.

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