

Dear Mad Reading folk,

Per our last email, at February's meeting we will be discussing *Madness and the experience of pregnancy and childbirth*.

Date and Time: Tuesday 16th February, 7-8.30pm AEST (8am UK time). **Please note the change of usual day and time!**

Facilitator: Zara and Antonia

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5280992948>

Meeting ID: 528 099 2948

Readings:

We considered quite a few options for readings this week, eventually settling on the following readings -

[*Grieving for an imaginary baby – the loneliness of psychosis*](#) by Jennifer Reese (@miserysqid) for Mad Covid Diaries, 27 Jan 2021

Ellie Lee, "Medicalizing Motherhood," *Society* 43, no. 6 (October 9, 2006): 47–50. (Attached here for study purposes only)

For further reading if you are interested, please get in touch via email. I have been reading the first couple of chapters of *Hillbilly Gothic: A Memoir of Madness and Motherhood* by Adrienne Martini, and am happy to share an electronic copy with anyone who is particularly interested in this topic. Rai Waddingham, who many of you will know, has also written very insightfully about this topic [on her website](#).

Just a heads up that the readings for this month contain references that could be distressing, content notes appear on the Mad Covid post in particular.

We would also like to acknowledge that pregnancy, childbirth, and parenting are experiences shared by all genders. Please try to keep this in mind during the discussion. While of course you are very welcome to discuss your own experiences using terminology that best captures them for you, please be aware that some parents prefer gender-neutral language when talking about these experiences in general terms. [Here are some examples of gender inclusive and gender affirming language around pregnancy and families](#).

Also, I have recently set up a Twitter page for Mad Studies, for those who find this a more useful forum for connecting/getting notifications about events etc. (I know I sometimes struggle checking my emails!) Feel free to follow [@MadStudiesMelb here](#).

Hopefully see you on the 16th!

Take care,
Antonia