

Stine W. Adrian | Tromsø University

Leaking milk, and falling hair

Embodied experiences and
technological remaking's of
becoming a mother to a dead child

impossibilities
of letting life end

17th February 2023

11.00 CET

Online Lecture

To join on Zoom [click here!](#)

There is no word for being a mother to a dead child, and no easy ways to work out how to mother after infant death. With Facebook, blogs and Instagram, ways of practicing motherhood after the loss of a child, are however becoming increasingly available on social media. In this presentation, I explore how social media is being used by women that have ended their pregnancy or lost a child, due to a severe congenital heart defect by asking: How do women use social media to become mothers to a dead child, and how does social media take part in remaking motherhood of the dead?

Methodologically, the presentation draws on multi-modal material that includes: 18 interviews with women that have lost a child or ended a pregnancy, autoethnographic material from the loss of my first child, and social media material. Inspired by Haraway and Barad, I read the stories of becoming mothers to a deceased child diffractively. I hereby show how social media remake and reconstitute norms of motherhood. It is at the same time stories, that calls for being circulated as part of a feminist reproductive future, that can teach us about the experience of infant loss, and the need for support of women that face embodied loss and grief, as they go through and live with abortions or the loss of a child

Stine W. Adrian is Associate Professor in Sociology of Health and Welfare at University of Tromsø in Norway. She has published widely on technologies, both at the beginning and the end of life, in journals such as *Science as Culture*, *BioSocieties*, *Feminist Encounters*. She is currently leading the project "Technologies of Death and Dying at the Beginning of Life".

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