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Ph.D., M.A., P.G. Dip. Psych. (Comm.), Dip. Counselling (Psychosynthesis), SRN.

- PhD ‘Will the real mother please stand up’
  - Constructions of dual mothers
  - Child as prosthetic to maternal identity
  - The role of envy

- Evaluation of Happy ‘N’ healthy programme

- Current
  - Pilot project ‘Successful dual mother relationships in open adoption’
  - Cultural safety teaching

- Future
  - Large study of diverse dual mother relationships
Cinematic representations of dual mothers

Aliens

The Hand That Rocks the Cradle

Stepmom

Losing Isaiah
In the equation of mum, dad and kids another mother upsets the mathematics
prosthesis [ˈprɒsθɪsɪs prɒsˈθiːsɪs] n pl -ses [-ˌsiːz]

1. (Medicine / Surgery) *Surgery*
   a. the replacement of a missing bodily part with an artificial substitute
   b. an artificial part such as a limb, eye, or tooth

2. (Linguistics / Phonetics & Phonology) *Linguistics* another word for *prothesis* [via Late Latin from Greek: an addition, from *prostithenai* to add, from *pros-* towards + *tithenai* to place]

David Wills (1995) has broadened this view of prosthesis by elaborating the idea of language as prosthetic. He contends, like Lacan, that the body is a construction based on lack, a false integrity, and he argues that language is the prosthetic process that effects wholeness while simultaneously signaling its lack.
Some writers have suggested that as an outcome of appropriation the object may serve as an extension of the self outwards in space, resulting in a ‘territory of the self’ that surrounds the body. The [objects] become what Gonzalez (1995) calls ‘prosthetics’ of the self. (Lupton, 1998, pp.143-4)

While we are used to thinking about a baby as limiting the woman’s life in myriad ways as a result of feminist discourses, the child-thing also extends the mother, mediates between her body as a woman and the culture that turns her into a mother, and thus opens up opportunities not previously available to her. She enters into a company of others from which she was previously excluded; she is mirrored by and accepted into “a community of recognition” (Russon, 2004, p. 199).
Future research
how do women manage their identities and their relationships when there are two mothers?