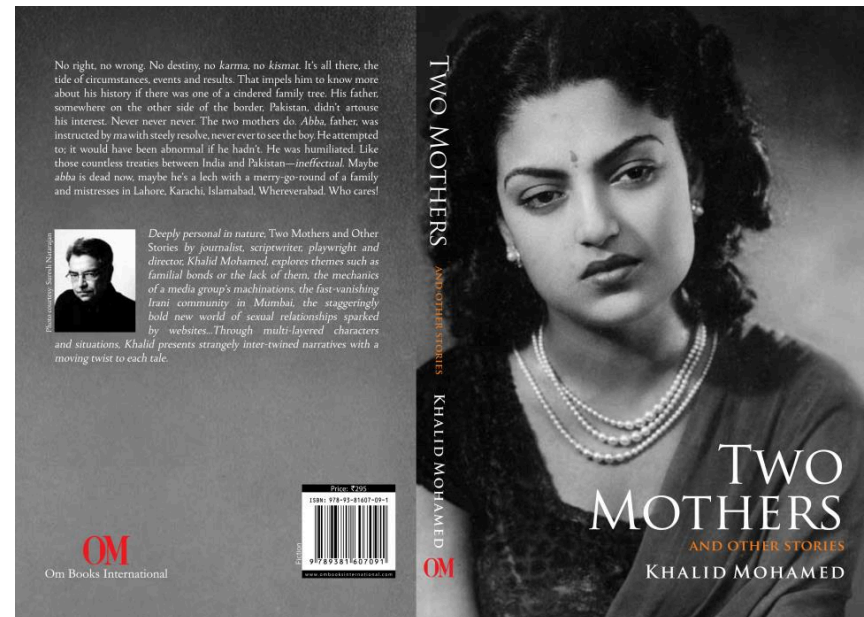


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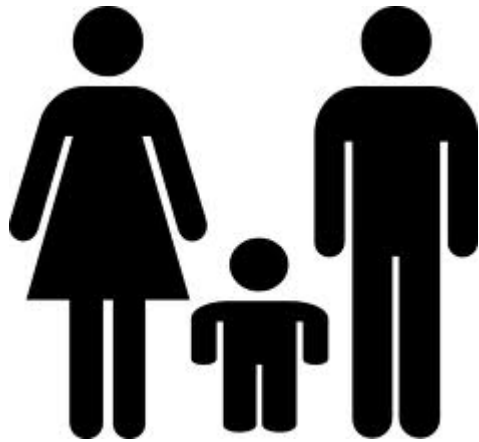
- **PhD ‘Will the real mother please stand up’**
 - Constructions of dual mothers
 - Child as prosthetic to maternal identity
 - The role of envy
- **Evaluation of Happy ‘N’ healthy programme**
- **Current**
 - Pilot project ‘Successful dual mother relationships in open adoption’
 - Cultural safety teaching
- **Future**
 - Large study of diverse dual mother relationships



Cinematic representations of dual mothers



In the equation of mum, dad and kids another mother upsets the mathematics



prosthesis

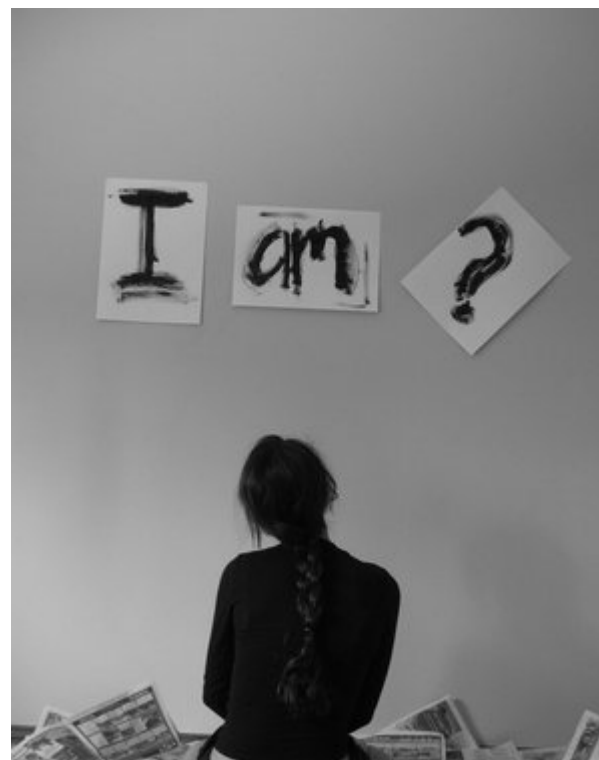
[ˈprɒsθɪsɪs prɒsˈθiːsɪs] *n pl -ses* [-,siːz]

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?

LESBIAN MOTHERS

Projection

Recognition

Envy

WHANGAI

Attachment

OPEN ADOPTION

Identity

SURROGACY

Conflict

Resilience

FOSTER FAMILIES

Creativity

STEPFAMILIES

Rejection