MAVERICK MOTHER - FROM SOCIAL PARIAH TO SOCIAL PROGRESSIVE: SOLO MOTHERHOOD BY CHOICE AND THE CHANGING ROLE OF FATHERS IN THE AUSTRALIAN FAMILY.

This presentation, including the screening of extracts from the award-winning Australian documentary Maverick Mother, will examine non-normative conceptions of ‘family’, in particular the increasingly common decision educated women make to become ‘single mothers by choice’.

Janet Merewether will consider the importance of non-residential male role-models, the potential benefits of solo mothering, as well as a brief history of unwed mothers, illegitimacy and more recent legislative reform of rights and financial benefits in the Australian context.

Dr Janet Merewether

DATE:
12 August 2010

TIME:
1PM – 2PM

VENUE:
Building X5B, Room 224

BIOGRAPHY
Janet Merewether is a Sydney-based filmmaker with a distinct creative practice who regularly teaches screen production at Macquarie University. Her screen works have won numerous Australian and international prizes including ATOM, IF and AFI awards, and have enjoyed retrospectives in Taipei, Berlin, Boston and Australia.

She has published and presented on women’s and experimental screen arts, innovative documentary, as well as non-normative sexuality, embodiment, genetics and family structures, recently focussing on the subject of single mothers by choice. Her feminist documentary films reflect how reflexivity and hybridity, through the interrogation of “objectivity” and fixed definitions of history and culture, can contribute to a documentary filmmaker’s distinct “signature” or “authorial voice”.

Recent articles have been published in SCAN and Hecate. Conference papers include Somatechnics: Macquarie University, The Mother and History: University of Queensland, Representing Motherhood: Ryerson University / MIRCI Canada, and the Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference Melbourne 2010.

Documentaries commissioned by SBS television include:

Jabe Babe – A Heightened Life (2005):
http://gogirlproductions.com.au

Maverick Mother (2007):
http://www.maverickmother.net

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