

# Narratives of Disability Motherhood and the Politics of Normalcy

The experience of motherhood is often portrayed as a universal and inherently fulfilling one. However, for mothers with disabilities, the reality can be vastly different. They face additional challenges and barriers due to the social construction of disability, which devalues their abilities and experiences.

This article explores the narratives of disabled mothers, examining how they navigate the politics of normalcy and the ways in which their experiences challenge dominant narratives about motherhood.



## Constructing the (M)other: Narratives of Disability, Motherhood, and the Politics of «Normal» (Disability Studies in Education Book 22) by Chris Mulder

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 259 pages



## The Social Construction of Disability

Disability is a social construct, meaning that it is not an inherent characteristic of individuals but rather a label that is assigned by society.

This label can have a profound impact on a person's life, as it shapes how they are perceived and treated by others.

For mothers with disabilities, the social construction of disability can create a number of challenges. They may be seen as less capable or less deserving of being mothers. They may face discrimination in employment, housing, and healthcare. And they may be subjected to negative attitudes and stereotypes from family, friends, and even strangers.

### **Navigating the Politics of Normalcy**

The politics of normalcy is a system of beliefs and values that privileges certain bodies and experiences over others. This system values able-bodiedness, heterosexuality, and whiteness as the norm. As a result, people with disabilities are often marginalized and excluded.

Disabled mothers face the added burden of navigating the politics of normalcy. They must constantly negotiate their own identities and experiences in relation to the dominant narratives about motherhood. This can be a difficult and isolating experience.

### **Challenging Dominant Narratives**

Despite the challenges they face, disabled mothers are also agents of change. They are challenging dominant narratives about motherhood and disability through their own stories and experiences.

By sharing their stories, disabled mothers are raising awareness about the unique challenges they face. They are also creating a more inclusive understanding of motherhood. And they are inspiring other disabled people to embrace their own identities and experiences.

The narratives of disabled mothers are complex and multifaceted. They challenge dominant narratives about motherhood and disability. They also offer a unique perspective on the politics of normalcy.

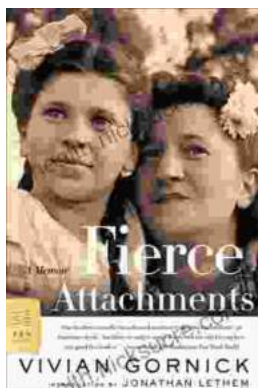
By listening to and learning from disabled mothers, we can create a more just and equitable world for all.



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