

Mothering and Psychoanalysis



Prof Nancy Chodorow with Dr Petra Bueskens

Dr Petra Bueskens, editor of the [Psychotherapy and Counselling Journal of Australia](#) and lecturer at the Australian College of Applied Psychology recently attended the [Motherhood and Cultures](#) conference at Maynooth University in Dublin, Ireland. The keynote speakers were Professor Nancy Chodorow and Professor Andrea O'Reilly – both leaders in the field of motherhood studies. Sessions focused on motherhood in contemporary art, literature, media and culture, including in psychology and psychotherapy research and practice.

Dr Bueskens chaired a session on mothering and psychoanalysis with papers by Professor Rosemary Balsam, author of *Women's Bodies in Psychoanalysis* (Routledge, 2012), Dr Nollaig Frost, academic psychologist and psychodynamic counsellor and Dr Anthony McCarthy, perinatal psychiatrist. Petra also presented a paper in a panel "politics of the home" on her doctoral research in sociology on mothers who use periodic absence to reconstruct gender dynamics in the home. She says that meeting Professor Chodorow, the author of *The Reproduction of Mothering*, chosen by *Contemporary Sociology* as one of the ten most influential books of the previous twenty-five years, was a real highlight.

Professor Chodorow's work has been hugely influential in the sociology of gender, in psychoanalytic analyses of gender-identity formation and in many other disciplines including ethics, literary studies, cultural studies, gender studies and more. Professor Chodorow appears in Dr Bueskens' recent book *Mothering and Psychoanalysis: Clinical, Sociological and Feminist Perspectives* (Demeter Press, 2014). Dr Bueskens will also be co-editing a special 40th anniversary edition of *The Reproduction of Mothering* in 2016.

Medibank Private - First Aid Certificate Requirements

In June 2015, PACFA was audited by Medibank Private to check that we are meeting all their requirements for Registrants to have continued access to Medibank Private Provider numbers. Following the audit, Medibank Private advised us that practitioners are required to provide evidence of current First Aid training in order to retain their Medibank Private provider numbers.

The PACFA CEO wrote to Medibank Private to ask them not to remove Medibank Private provider numbers from PACFA Registrants without allowing time for them to complete the required First Aid training. Fortunately, Medibank agreed to allow all Registrants three months to complete the First Aid training and to provide evidence of completion.

PACFA wrote to all PACFA Registrants in June to advise them that if they wish to retain their Medibank Private provider numbers, they will need to undertake a First Aid course by 30 September 2015.

A number of Registrants have asked what type of First Aid Certificate is accepted and Medibank have now advised the following:

- First Aid Course HLTAID003 is a nationally recognised qualification course in Australia. This course is valid for 3 years and the Australian Resuscitation Council recommends a resuscitation update every 12 months.
- Medibank Private also accept current registration as a nurse as being acceptable when it comes to First Aid.