

Maternal Care

SARAH KNOTT

This essay was a theoretical and historical meditation on how to write the history of maternal care. It draws on Lisa Baraitser's feminist theory of maternity, on the history of the eighteenth century (mainly in Britain and North America), and on a tradition of "vulnerable" interpretation in the arts and sciences (such as the work of Michigan anthropologist Ruth Behar) which lends itself to the history of maternity in particular and of care in general. It drew heavily from a book manuscript I am preparing, entitled *Mother: The Past in our Present*.