Although feminist theories have blamed motherhood for preventing women from reconciling their roles in public and private domains, many feminists have also recognized the existence of empowering mothers and the value of the experience of motherhood. Feminist responses to motherhood in fact depend on the discourse of motherhood inherited from earlier generations of women in our cultures. This session will compare the discourses and practice of motherhood in Brazilian and Canadian societies in the last century and how they affected feminist reaction to the image of the mother during the 1960s-1990s in these two contexts.