Appendix 1

Biographies of Women Who Participated in the Study

All the names of the women and their partners are pseudonyms. Some of the women’s occupations were also altered to ensure their anonymity.

CHILDLESS BY CHOICE

DEBORAH was born in 1958 and was 38 years old at the time of her interview. She was divorced in her early thirties, but is now involved in another relationship. She lives in an inner-city suburb of Melbourne with her new partner and his daughter from a previous marriage.

LATISHA was born in 1964 and was 32 at time of interview. She works part-time for the business she and her husband Camden own. She lives in a suburb of Melbourne with Camden and her three cats.

LORNE was born in 1960 and was 37 at time of interview. She used to work as an actress, and then in her parent’s business, but now owns and works in a costume shop. She has a relationship with Dirk, and lives on her own in an inner-city suburb of Melbourne.
RACHEL was born in 1954 and was 42 years old at the time of interview. She was one of the eldest daughters in a large Christian family. She has been married to Donald for over twenty years and lives and works in country Victoria.

CHILDLESS BY RELATIONSHIP

JANINE was born in 1960 and was 38 at time of interview. She is a qualified health professional currently working as a health researcher in Melbourne. She divorced her husband several years ago and is now living in a coastal Victorian town with her lesbian lover.

KELLY was born in 1959 and was age 39 at time of interview. She and her sister were raised on their own by her sometimes violent mother after her father died. She divorced Larry several years ago and is now married to Ivan. She runs her own business in the same inner city suburb of Melbourne where they live.

SHARON was born in 1962 and was 35 at time of interview. She was raised on a farm in rural Victoria. She now works in Melbourne as a management consultant in the city and shares an apartment there with Martin.

THWARTED MOTHERS

BARBARA was born in 1954 and had just turned 43 two weeks before she was interviewed. She is employed in a professional occupation, and recently married Troy. They live together in an inner-city suburb of Melbourne.
Appendix 1

Biographies of Women Who Participated in the Study

**BLAIR** was born in 1964 and was 34 at the time of interview. She was born and raised in Florida and now works in Boca Raton as a tennis pro. She recently terminated a long-term lesbian partnership with Leesa. She lives alone.

**BRENDA** was born in 1969 and was 28 at time of interview. She grew up in the country and is disabled, spending significant amounts of time in a wheelchair. She works in outer suburban Victoria but lives with several friends in a shared house in inner-city Melbourne.

**BRENNA** was born in 1964 and was 33 at time of interview. Her father, a policeman, died recently and she is still grieving the loss. She recently divorced Kirk and married Sam, with whom she is trying to conceive a child. They live in suburban Florida.

**DARCY** was born in 1962 and was 35 at the age of interview. Her mother left her father when Darcy and her younger brother were young, leaving her father to balance his building job with the work of raising two children. She is studying and self-employed in a variety of capacities. She lives alone, having recently split up with Gregory.
JANET was born in 1956 and was 41 years old at the time of interview. She recently ended a relationship with Fargo, to whom she had become pregnant. She was unemployed at time of interview and living alone in country Victoria.

JUDI was born in 1969 and was 28 at time of interview. She was raised in suburban New York, but now works as a public servant and lives in a shared house in Austin, Texas. She recently ended a relationship with Lyndon.

KARLA was born in 1962 and was age 35 at time of interview. She was born in New Zealand but moved with her family to Australia when she was sixteen. She is a qualified art teacher but has worked in a variety of capacities. She lives alone in an inner-city suburb of Melbourne.

KRISTINA was born in 1968 and was 29 at time of interview. She was raised in the country but now lives with friends in an inner-city suburb of Melbourne. She works from home in the travel industry. She recently ended a love affair with Martin.

KYLIE was born in 1966 and was 31 at the time of interview. She is divorced and newly married to Paul, who has two children from a previous marriage. She has
worked as model and has just quit her most recent managerial-type position in a furniture chain. She lives with Paul in a suburb of Melbourne.

**Lori** was born in 1965 and was 32 at the time of interview. She lives alone, but in the same gated community in Boca Raton as her mother and siblings. She is a manager in a company that manufactures sports equipment. She recently broke off her engagement with Tony because he wasn't willing to raise their children Jewish, and has begun dating Burton.

**Mary** was born in 1966 and was 31 at time of interview. Recently divorced from Troy, she has recently begun a relationship with long-time friend Raoul. Raised in the country, she now lives and works in an outer suburb of Melbourne.

**Peta** was born in 1964 and was 33 at time of interview. She was raised in a small town in northern Australia, but she now lives in inner-city Melbourne working as a freelance actor. After a difficult break-up with her longstanding boyfriend Allen, she is now involved and living with Mitchell.

**Renata** was born in 1956 and was 41 years old at the time of interview. She was single and living by herself in an inner-city suburb of Melbourne at the time of interview, having ended a long-term relationship with Justin five years earlier.
**SHANEY** was born in 1960 and was 37 at time of interview. She had a Christian upbringing in the country, and now lives alone in an outer suburban area of Melbourne. At time of interview, she was recovering from a miscarriage and the end of her relationship with Prentice. She is running her own small business.

**SYLVIE** was born in 1963 and was 33 at time of interview. She and her brother had a complicated upbringing, with their mother divorcing and re-marrying several times. She was raised in inner-city Melbourne, but now works in a high profile position in Sydney.

**TINA** was born in 1968 and was 29 at time of interview. She was born in South Africa, but immigrated to Australia with her family as a young adult. She owns and works in a shop in the same inner city suburb of Melbourne where she shares a house with another woman. She has recently divorced Daniel, and is single.

**WAITERS AND WATCHERS**

**BETHANY** was born in 1965 in the United States to an American mother and Australian father, but spend most of her childhood and adult life in Melbourne. She was 29 at the time of interview, and living in a shared house in the inner
city. She is employed in a variety of short-term contract positions and is engaged to Jack.

**Catriona** was born in 1966 and was 31 at the time of interview. She works as a curator at a gallery in Melbourne and lives nearby with her boyfriend Sandy.

**Jacinta** was born in 1965 and was 33 at time of interview. She was raised in the country and educated at an outer suburban Catholic girl’s school. She works in a plumbing supplies business, where she was recently promoted from office assistant to an account manager’s role. She is married to Ronald and lives with him in an inner city suburb of Melbourne.

**Jocelyn** was born in 1964 and was age 33 at time of interview. She was born in the US but spent most of her childhood in suburban Melbourne. She now works in Melbourne at a prominent accounting firm and lives with a housemate in an inner-city suburban flat. She is single.

**Katelin** was born in 1965 and was 32 at the time of interview. She was the eldest daughter in a working class Catholic family. She now lives in inner city Melbourne and works nearby in the area of women’s health. She is single.
Appendix 1
Biographies of Women Who Participated in the Study

**LANEY** was born in 1959 and was 38 at the time of interview. Her father left her mother for another woman when she was relatively young, prompting their move from a provincial city to Melbourne. She lives alone in an inner-city suburb and is the director of her own small company. She is single.

**MARTINE** was born in 1961 and was 36 at time of interview. She was born in New Zealand but moved with her parents to Australia when very young. She is the director of a Melbourne museum and lives alone in a nearby suburb. She is single.

**MATILDA** was born in 1961 and was 36 at time of interview. She was raised in an inner city suburb by Greek immigrant parents. She works as a public servant and lives alone in an inner city suburb of Melbourne. She is in a relationship with Joe.

**RHYLL** was born in 1962 and was aged 35 at time of interview. She was raised in the country, the youngest in a large family. She works as a political activist and lives alone in an inner city suburb of Melbourne. She is in a relationship with Jock.
**SAMANTHA** was born in 1965 and was 32 at time of interview. She has recently ended a long-standing relationship with Tristan. She does freelance work and lives in a shared house in an inner-city suburb of Melbourne.
Appendix 2

Interview Questions

These were the questions I used to guide me in the interviews.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Can you sketch your family tree?
Parents married, remarried?
Siblings? Their marital status? Do they have children?
Where did you grow up?
Birth order?

What kind of ideas were there in your family about parenthood, having children and childlessness? How did you learn about them?
Spoken or unspoken?
In the past? Currently?
Did you expect or plan to have children when you were growing up and/or a young adult?
Did you plan to get married? Be in a relationship/s?

What kind of ideas were there in your family about work and career? Specifically as it related to women?
Did you plan to work/have a career?
Make money?
HAVING CHILDREN, BEING CHILDLESS/CHILDFREE

What words and/or images come to mind when you hear the expression “having children”? “Childless”? “Childfree”?

Would you describe yourself as childless? Would you describe yourself as childfree? Why/why not? Do you feel others treat you as a childless/childfree woman? Which others? What do they do? How do you respond to that?

Do you intend to have children in the future?

How do you feel at the moment about having children/not having children/being childless/childfree? Have you always felt this way? When did your feelings differ? What kinds of things were going on in your life at this time:

Family?
Siblings?
Friends?
Relationships?
Work?

What people or influences do you see as having contributed to your views and feelings about having children/childlessness/childfreeness?

Family?
Siblings?
Friends?
Relationships?
Work?
What do you take the feminist message about these issues to be? Do you feel you’ve been influenced by this message? In what ways?

On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the intensity of your desire to [remain childless/childfree][have a child]?

Are you happy you feel the way you do about [being childless/childfree][having a child], or do you wish you felt differently?

Do you know any childless/childfree women whose attitude towards childlessness you admire?

Have you acted on your ideas and/or feelings about being childless or childfree?

  Sought to become pregnant?
  When and how?
  How did it go?
  What else was going on in your life at that time with family, siblings, friends, relationships, work?
  Sought sterilization for self or a partner?
  When?
  How long ago?
  How did it go?
  What else was going on in your life at that time with family, siblings, friends, relationships, work?

  Had an abortion?
  When?
  How did it go?
  What else was going on in your life at that time with family, siblings, friends, relationships, work?
What is it going to be like for you if it doesn’t work out?

Have you every heard of the “biological clock”? What does it mean to you?

Have you experienced the “ticking” of the biological clock?

Have there been times when it has been particularly noticeable/intense?
Do you have any ideas about why it was particularly noticeable/intense at that time?
What else was going on in your life at that point with family, siblings, friends, relationships, work?

If you hadn’t been told about the biological clock - women’s declining fertility with age - would it have been something you would have noticed yourself? Do you feel any less fertile as you’ve gotten older?

What words of images come to mind when you hear the expression “womb”? “Uterus”? What are your views/feelings about your own womb?

**WORK**

What words and/or images come to mind when you hear the expression “working woman”? “Career woman”? “Unemployed”?

Can you describe your work history briefly?

What kinds of jobs have you held?
When did you begin working?
What were you doing?
Did you enjoy it?
What prompted job/career changes?

Is your working life anything like you imagined it would be when you were growing up?

In what ways?
In what ways is it different?

Do you think there may be a connection between your experience of work and your feelings about having children/being childless/childfree?

If things had been different for you at work, do you think you would feel differently than you do currently about having children/being childless/childfree?

**RELATIONSHIPS**

What words and/or images come to mind when you hear the expression “single woman”? “In a relationship”? “Married woman?”.

Can you describe your relationship history briefly?

How old were you when you began dating?

Had your first meaningful relationship?

How many meaningful relationships have you had?

When did they end, and why?

Is/has your experience of relationships [been] anything like you imagined it would be when you were growing up?

In what ways?
In what ways is it different?
Do you think there may be a connection between your experience of relationships and your feelings about having children/being childless/childfree?

If things had been different for you in relationships, do you think you would feel differently than you do currently about having children/being childless/childfree?

*That’s all the questions I have. Is there anything else you’d like to tell me, or think it’s important I should know?*
Appendix 3

Questionnaire

Q1: What Year Were You Born In?

Q2: Place of Birth?

Q3: Mother’s Place of Birth?

Q4: Father’s Place of Birth?

Q5: What Level of Education Have You Achieved So Far?
- Secondary School
- Diploma/Certificate/Trade qualification
- Undergraduate Degree
- Postgraduate Degree
- Other

Q6: What religion, if any, are you?

Q7: Would you please indicate your current household income?
- $1-$799 per fortnight or $1 to $20,799 per year
- $800-$1199 per fortnight or $20,800 to $31,199 per year
- $1200-$1599 per fortnight or $31,200 - $41,599 per year
- $1600-$2999 per fortnight or $41,600 - $77,999 per year
- $3000 or more per fortnight or $78,000 or more per year
Appendix 3

Questionnaire

Q8: Are you currently married or in a de facto relationship?

Yes, married
Yes, de facto
No, I’m single

Q9: Are you currently in paid work?

Yes (Go To Question 12)
No

Q10: How long have you been unemployed?

Q11: What was your last paid job? (Go to Q13)

Q12: Is your current job part of a career?

Yes
No

Q13: Would you consider yourself to have a career?

Yes
No

Please indicate the statement that best describes how you feel. Please indicate only one statement for each question.

Q14: How important is a career to you at the moment? (If you are unemployed, go to Q16)

486
Appendix 3

Questionnaire

Very important
Important
Neither important nor unimportant/indifferent
Not important
Not at all important

Q15: I feel fairly well satisfied with my present job

Strongly agree
Agree
Undecided
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

Q16: I feel that I am more fulfilled by my job than most other people

Strongly agree
Agree
Undecided
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

Q17: How important is religion to you?

Very important
Important
Neither important nor unimportant/indifferent
Not important
Not at all important
Appendix 3

Questionnaire

Q18: I feel fairly well satisfied with my current marital or de facto relationship (If you are single, go to Q20)

Strongly agree
Agree
Undecided
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

Q19: I feel that I am more fulfilled by my marital or de facto relationship than most other people

Strongly agree
Agree
Undecided
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

Q20: I feel fulfilled by my life at the moment

Strongly agree
Agree
Undecided
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

Thank you.
Bibliography


Bibliography


Various. (2000). *Responses to list posting regarding home-based work*, [feminist discussion group]. Ausfempolnet
Abigail's Rebels [2000, 2 May 2000].


Author/s: 
CANNOLD, LESLIE

Title: 
Who's crying now? Chosen childlessness, circumstantial childlessness and the irrationality of motherhood: a study of the fertility decisions of Australian and North American women

Date: 
2000-06

Citation: 

Publication Status: 
Unpublished

Persistent Link: 
http://hdl.handle.net/11343/39435

File Description: 
App. & bib.

Terms and Conditions: 
Terms and Conditions: Copyright in works deposited in Minerva Access is retained by the copyright owner. The work may not be altered without permission from the copyright owner. Readers may only download, print and save electronic copies of whole works for their own personal non-commercial use. Any use that exceeds these limits requires permission from the copyright owner. Attribution is essential when quoting or paraphrasing from these works.