**Parental Bodies**

*29. Other (please specify in your proposal)*

*Helena Wahlström Henriksson1*

*Elina Nilsson1*

*1 Uppsala University*

Proposal: Open Panel: Parental Bodies In gender research, maternal bodies have been explored and theorized, whereas paternal bodies have not received as much attention. For this panel, we hope to attract interdisciplinary as well as unidisciplinary presentations on bodies identified as parental, maternal, or paternal from across the humanities, social sciences, medicine, and technology. “Parental bodies” may evoke many different associations, from bodies preparing for procreation via fertility optimization, birthing bodies and the bodies that stand by the side of the one birthing, breastfeeding bodies, and caring bodies, to violent bodies and overbearing bodies. The phrase may also denote ageing or ailing bodies of parents who themselves need care. Between the early stages of becoming-parent to old age lies the long stretch in-between, during which physical aspects of parent-child relations may evolve and shift. Beyond age and gender, parental bodies will relate to children’s bodies variously also depending on many other factors, including, for example, class, race, ethnicity, religion, ability, health, and body size. The panel Parental Bodies wishes to discuss bodily aspects of parenthood, parenting and parent-child relations. It invites presentations that focus on narratives about parental bodies as relational and culturally encoded, but also physical, corporeal, biological, to enable a discussion about how the materiality of parental bodies figures in current gender research. Furthermore, we are curious about research that links parental embodiment to temporality, in terms of historical time, time in the life-course, or normative and non-normative familial temporalities. We welcome empirically and/or methodologically and/or theoretically original contributions for this panel. This panel falls under the research areas Critical Family and Kinship Studies and Intersectional Studies of Bodies and Embodiment