l'intensité des crises actuelles, la situation serait sans doute pire sans le travail essentiel des groupes de défense des locataires : « le FRAPRU dérange dans les officines gouvernementales, mais où en serait le droit au logement, s'il ne l'avait pas fait par le passé et s'il ne le faisait pas encore? » (246)

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Julia Smith, *Conscripted to Care: Women on the Frontlines of the COVID-19 Response* (Montréal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2023)

"[I]T IS CLEAR MANY women on the front lines have suffered for their commitment; the question is, has their contribution been recognized, honoured, and indemnified?" (12) In *Conscripted to Care: Women on the Frontlines of the COVID-19 Response,* Julia Smith pays tribute to the sacrifices and contributions of the women who led the COVID-19 pandemic response across Canada. Based on research conducted as part of the Gender and COVID-19 Project, each chapter examines the experiences of women positioned in a different line of essential work: long-term care staff, teachers, nurses, moms, midwives, early childhood educators, and physicians. Chapters are structured in a similar way, with the same sections throughout: (1) introduction; (2) the quadruple burden; (3) being essential; (4) mental health, moral distress, and burnout; and (5) power.

Smith introduces and develops the concept of "quadruple burden" to encompass paid work, unpaid care work, household and community management work, and emotional labour. She traces the burdens faced by women, as well as some of the organizational and structural forces giving rise to them. In each chapter, Smith examines the extent to which women were recognized as "essential," as well as the mental health costs associated with their work. With a focus on questions of power, she considers women's power to influence change, and the constraints they faced in doing so, such as when being left out of meaningful consultation processes. As one participant remarked, "I think policy, decisions, comments made, all those things you know they're through a lens of someone who is not living it." (74)

Part of what I most enjoyed about the book was reading the different chapters—about different lines of work—together and in conversation. I'll admit it was a bit daunting to finish the first substantial chapter, only to have six more to go with the same lines of analysis (as I questioned if they'd all be heading to the same punchline), but, in the end, I appreciated the opportunity to learn from women's stories, with my own questions about what differences make a difference.

There were multiple refrains across the book, as well as aspects that were distinctive to particular contexts. In writing about long-term care, Smith makes links to societal attitudes toward aging, disability, and death, while in writing about teaching and early childhood education work, concerns about young learners at formative life stages are brought to the fore. A long-term care worker reflected on how hard it was to be cutting out baths and keeping residents in bed for dinner, while early childhood education workers reflected on their fears around being "advised against wearing masks because of concerns it would scare children and impede communication." (130) Neither were able to provide care they were comfortable with. Across contexts, the guilt expressed by women—in speaking of the care they provided at work and in the household—was a refrain. Some felt as though they were sacrificing their own families in service of others.

Of particular note, the book captures a broad range of the additional and lesser-represented work that women performed during the pandemic. Midwives reflected on being tasked with trying to access PPE (at times even asking clients to secure their own), on top of navigating the challenges that came with being "on-call midwife business owner[s]." A nurse reflected on needing to forgive herself after she "couldn't get into [a patient's] room on time" with requirements to "properly protect [herself]." (84) A middle school teacher also spoke to the intensification of her work, in describing providing emotional support to a student who stayed after class, to a colleague who walked out of work with her, and then to yet another colleague who was "pulling out of her parking spot" and "needing to communicate her struggle that day." (59)

The scope of the work provided by women (including their unpaid work at work) has clear links to structural issues and to the lack of needed public investments in care, as Smith's gendered analysis illustrates. In the case of teachers in Alberta, Smith mentions there was an existing supply teacher crisis prior to the pandemic, with Alberta's school system being "one of the lowest funded in the country." (55) In speaking of long-term care, Smith notes the poorer quality of care provided in for-profit private facilities as compared to public facilities, which is a matter of government inaction and long-standing policy failures. Across sectors, workers spoke to existing problems in the care sector, and to the lack of value and recognition afforded to their work. An early childhood education worker commented "nobody's clapping for us" (135), while others similarly raised concerns about the lack of support they were offered when compared to the male-dominated work of paramedics and police.

Smith's project centrally involves recognizing, valuing and amplifying women's contributions. Throughout the book, key recommendations and insights primarily emerge from women's own accounts, with Smith paying tribute to them. As I read, I would have liked to hear, in Smith's words, what it was that she found most striking about work in each context or what recommendations and insights she herself would most offer, following her analysis, as an expert in health policy.

That said, read alongside other contemporary analyses of work and care, the book offers rich and multi-layered insights into an important social and historical period. Smith has a nice eye for the unique vulnerabilities faced by some, including housekeepers in long-term care, nurses working outside hospitals, single moms, and newcomer parents. A single mother recounted being reprimanded by a grocery store worker asking, "Why are you taking your kid to get groceries?" without realizing it was her only option. Newcomer families reported struggling to access the right technology to support with online learning and feeling devastated witnessing the regression of their children. Smith registers this work as essential work. She also adeptly attends to contradictions, for instance in noting how being labelled as "essential" can confer status and recognition, yet can also restrict "one's ability to leave a job, refuse unsafe work, or demand change, intensifying 'the prison of care' (Folbre 2008)." (23)

Two stories presented in the book that have stuck with me are from a recreational therapist in long-term care and a public-school leader. The rec therapist mentioned personally responding to "twenty messages a day" on Facebook from family members who were prevented from entering facilities due to visitor restrictions. The school leader talked about the added work of supporting parents who needed extra reassurance, with

https://doi.org/10.52975/llt.2025v96.018

each phone call "taking ten, twelve, thirteen minutes a call." (58) Both of those stories had me thinking about times when I myself have perhaps been "one of many" relying on the support of others or reaching out with my own seemingly little wee requests and without a fuller picture of the scope of another's workload or of the gendered expectations or assumptions at play. Part of the power of *Conscripted to Care* is in presenting so many examples—line after line, page after page, context after context—that invite reflection on just how much we've been squeezing out of women, and just how much needs to change. The book indeed shows the value of thinking and learning about forms and contexts of work and care as they are interconnected and interwoven.

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Andrew Crosby, *Resisting Eviction: Domicide and the Financialization of Rental Housing* (Halifax and Winnipeg: Fernwood, 2023)

One of the more exciting developments in local working-class politics over the last decade has been the emergence of grassroots tenant movements in Canada's major urban centres, autonomous from the state and the non-profit sector and fighting fierce battles against large-scale, financialized landlords. We are fortunate, then, to have activist-scholar Andrew Crosby's detailed description of one such struggle in the Herongate neighbourhood of Ottawa, where racialized renters faced off against major developer Timbercreek/Hazelview (as it's now called) and colluding municipal authorities in an attempt to block a series of mass evictions and demolitions in 2016 and 2018.

More than a simple narrative account, Crosby employs movement-engaged, political activist ethnography to examine real-estate capital's "ruling relations" (8) through his participation in the Herongate Tenant Coalition (HTC), the group driving local opposition to eviction. Timbercreek's push to carry out mass "domicide," a term borrowed from geographers J. Douglas Porteus and Sandra Smith, is placed within the longer history of settler colonialism's constant drive to divide, improve, and profit from stolen Algonquin territory. "Liveability," the current watchword of urban planners and progressive gentrifiers in Ottawa and indeed across North America, is here depicted as an ideological apparatus that guarantees the reproduction of white settler life, predicated on the removal of working-class, racialized communities like that of Herongate. The heart of the book's subject material details the various mobilization and political strategies pursued by the HTC, based in a fulsome cross-section of interviews, documents, and testimonies gathered through the author's participation in public consultations and municipal council meetings, and meticulous Freedom-of-Information (FOI) requests. The latter, an important part of Crosby's personal contribution to the HTC struggle, is particularly effective in outlining what he refers to as the "municipal-developer nexus" (136) and the close-knit collaboration of state and capital in advancing working-class displacement.

There are some criticisms to be made of *Resisting Eviction*, beginning with the editorial, moving to the theoretical, and ending with the political. This research was originally carried out as part of Crosby's doctoral work in sociology at Carleton University, and the traces of the disciplinary requirements of a thesis make themselves felt in the essentially bifurcated nature of the book's layout, with several chapters on theory and method and then several chapters on the actual terrain of struggle. Each respective