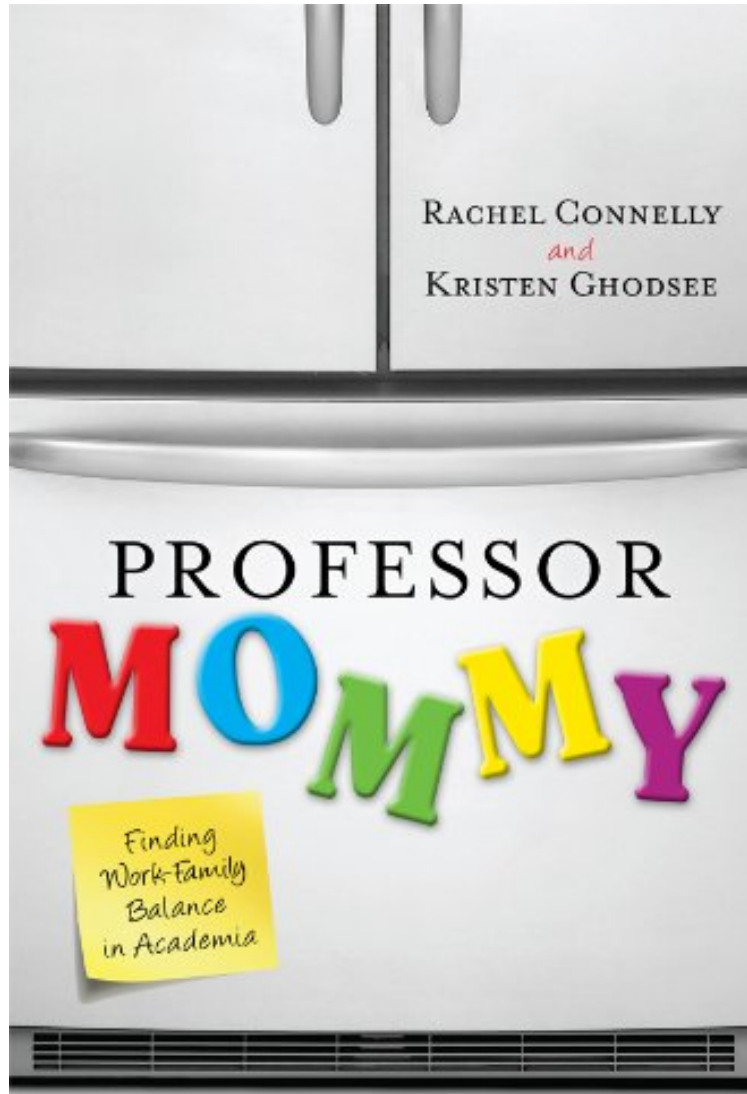


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Professor Mommy: Finding Work-Family Balance in Academia

Rachel Connelly, Kristen Ghodsee

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Rachel Connelly, Kristen Ghodsee : Professor Mommy: Finding Work-Family Balance in Academia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Professor Mommy: Finding Work-Family Balance in Academia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Informative and encouragingBy ZandyI really enjoyed this book primarily because I was able to say "You too?" as I read. I am not on the tenure track, and won't be for some time, so some of the chapters weren't as applicable to me as they would be for someone with a PhD. Still, I found advice and encouragement I can use as a full-time contingent faculty member.Professor Mommy has realistic but ultimately

positive things to say about academic motherhood: essentially, that it is possible to blend the two and to do so successfully. Connelly and Ghodsee don't pretend that it is easy, by any means, but rather offer women considering motherhood and/or academia a clear picture of how much work will be involved. Just when I started feeling a bit overwhelmed, the authors pick up the encouragement and give a positive spin to the busy reality. One thing I didn't like, which has no impact on the quality of this book, was that Professor Mommy still advises women not to mention their families much before achieving tenure. This is a sad commentary on how the academic system is set up, although it is not a problem at my own university. I would have loved a chapter on how women, tenured or otherwise, could start making the university a safer place for mothers.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great Book! Easy Read!

By Kindle Customer I really liked this book. As a woman PhD in a terrible market, I feel like I would be lucky to get a job, and that really, I need to be working 60 hour weeks just to justify hiring me. As a data person, I really like having the data in the book- it helped me realize that I am not crazy- that the world around me really is as it seems. I liked the discussion about the various paths to motherhood- as a graduate student after tenure. I think there isn't enough good discussion about that when you are in graduate school. There really isn't a "good" time to have a kid, there are just "less bad" times to have a kid. There is a really good discussion about timing in terms of pregnancy and the work/research cycle. Just after you give birth maybe isn't the best time to start a new paper or research project. That is a great time to be working on revisions. Great advice. Also, great advice: learn to say no. And if you can't say no, negotiate with your chair so it's not held against you at tenure and promotion time. I would have liked more tips on how to make it work outside of work. I'd like to know what the authors did to get the time they needed to write with a small child (or small children) in the house (outside of working crazy hours- like at 3 am). For me, that has been the hardest part, sitting down to write at 930-1000 pm and knowing that I had to be awake at 6am. Having said that, it's a great book. A must-read for women in Academia.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Must-read for ALL graduate students

By Lori Wright This is a fabulous book. I have just been promoted to full professor shortly after having twins at the end of an epic fertility battle, so this book has really resonated with my experience. I will be assigning this book for all of my graduate students to read at the beginning of their careers. Males too! Not only is the analysis sobering, but the advice given is extremely useful at any stage of a career, whether or not you have plans for parenthood (now...things change). I wish this book had been available when I was in grad school or an assistant professor! Too many students fall into graduate school and academic careers without knowing what they are taking on and how it may affect their other life plans. This book may spare many some pain and agony by helping them to plan life more realistically. Though the news may make some flee academia (better than wasting years and not finishing), the tone of the book overall is optimistic and encouraging. It should be required reading for all students beginning graduate school.