

Harlot: A Revealing Look at the Arts of Persuasion

Number 6 *Family Rhetoric*

Article 2

4-14-2011

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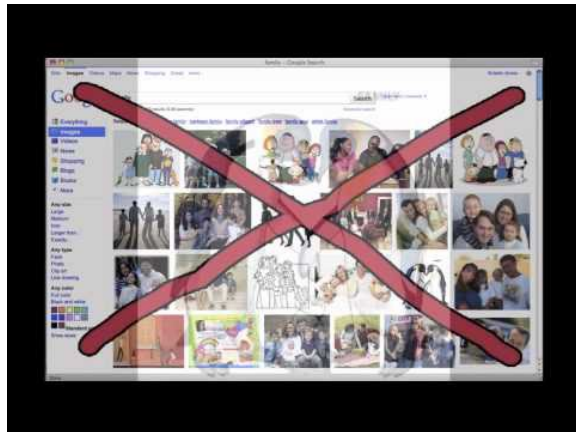
Arola, Kristin L. (2011) "Rhetoric, Christmas Cards, and Infertility: A Season of Silence," *Harlot: A Revealing Look at the Arts of Persuasion*: No. 6, 2.
<https://doi.org/10.15760/harlot.2011.6.2>

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Rhetoric, Christmas Cards, and Infertility: A Season of Silence

Kristin L. Arola

When I first saw the call for the special issue on family rhetoric, I found myself feeling left out. While I am a daughter, a granddaughter, a sister, an aunt, a niece, a cousin, and a wife, in spite of many years and dollars spent trying to be a mother, I am unable to do so. I do not have my own family. As I contemplated my own rhetoric of “the family,” holiday cards began to pile up. Card after card, letter after letter, all about kids—kids I do not have. Suddenly it occurred to me, I did have something to say about family rhetoric, about who gets included and excluded in our notions of family. I also realized I needed to revise my own understandings of family. This short essay is my exploration of the intersections between family, rhetoric, and infertility.



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