



HOLDING IT TOGETHER

HOW WOMEN BECAME AMERICA'S SAFETY NET

JESSICA CALARCO



Holding It Together: How Women Became America's Safety Net

Jessica Calarco, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Heidi Stevens

Chicago-based writer and Director of External Affairs for the University of Chicago's TMW Center for Early Learning + Public Health.

Monday, September 30, 2024, 7:00 PM
Register: www.bit.ly/CalarcoFANWebinar

PLUS: After-Hours Event!

Purchase a copy of *Holding It Together* from FAN's partner bookseller The Book Stall to receive a link to an interactive "After-Hours" event hosted by Calarco and Stevens. Details on the Zoom registration form.

This event is #freeandopentothepublic and will be recorded.
Suitable for youth 12+

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JESSICA CALARCO, Ph.D. – ON ZOOM

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Monday, September 30, 2024, 7:00 PM, Holding It Together: How Women Became America's Safety Net, a FAN webinar featuring Jessica Calarco, Ph.D. in conversation with Heidi Stevens. REGISTER: www.bit.ly/CalarcoFANWebinar

BONUS AFTER-HOURS EVENT: Attendees who purchase a copy of *Holding It Together* from FAN's partner bookseller The Book Stall are invited to attend an AFTER-HOURS event hosted by Calarco and Stevens that will start immediately after the webinar. Details on the webinar registration page.

“Holding It Together is both an authoritative indictment of current and past US social policy and an empathetic, unsettling portrait of American motherhood.” – Jennifer Breheny Wallace, FAN ‘23

America runs on women—women who are tasked with holding society together at the seams and fixing it when things fall apart. In this *tour de force*, acclaimed sociologist **Jessica Calarco, Ph.D.** lays bare the devastating consequences of our status quo.

Holding it Together: How Women Became America’s Social Safety Net draws on five years of research in which Calarco, a sociologist and associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, surveyed over 4,000 parents and conducted more than 400 hours of interviews with women who bear the brunt of our broken system. Tracing present-day policies back to their roots, Calarco reveals a systematic agreement to dismantle our country’s social safety net and persuade citizens to accept precarity while women bear the brunt. She leads us to see women's labor as the reason we've gone so long without the support systems that our peer nations take for granted, and how women’s work maintains the illusion that we don't need a net.

Calarco’s research focuses on education, families, and health decision-making. She is interested in the structures of power and privilege that maintain socioeconomic, racial, and gender inequalities in these settings, as well as the role that qualitative methods can play in uncovering these mechanisms.

Calarco will be in conversation with **Heidi Stevens**, Director of External Affairs for the University of Chicago’s TMW Center for Early Learning + Public Health, and creative director for Parent Nation, an initiative of the TMW Center. Prior to joining TMW, Stevens worked at the *Chicago Tribune* for 23 years, where she wrote a daily column called “Balancing Act.” She maintains a weekly nationally syndicated column. Stevens also serves as a FAN board member.

This event suitable for youth 12+. It will be recorded and available on FAN’s website and YouTube channel.

Sponsored by **FAN**, in partnership with The Alliance for Early Childhood, The Avery Coonley School, Baker Demonstration School, Beacon Academy, Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School, Brickton Montessori School, British International School of Chicago/Lincoln Park, British International School of Chicago/South Loop, Catherine Cook School, Chicago Jewish Day School, Compass Health Center, Countryside Day School, Evanston Scholars, Evanston Township High School D202, The Family Institute at Northwestern University, Family Service Center, Foundation 65, The Frances Xavier Warde School, Francis W. Parker School, Glencoe D35, Gorton Center, Haven Youth and Family Services, Hyde Park Day School, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Kenilworth D38, Lake Bluff D65, Lake Forest Academy, Lake Forest Community High School D115, Lake Forest Country Day School, Latin School of Chicago, Leo Catholic High School, Lycée Français de Chicago, Magnetar Capital, Morgan Park Academy, Near North Montessori School, North Shore Country Day, Northwestern University Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations, Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy, Pope John XXIII School, Regina Dominican High School, Resurrection College Prep High School, Rogers Park Montessori School, Roycemore School, Sacred Heart Schools, Santa Clara University School of Law, The Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School, Stevenson High School D125, Wilmette Public Library, Wolcott College Prep, Woodlands Academy, Youth & Opportunity United.