

I'm a woman finishing a PhD at the age of 31. I am terrified of the demands on me to have a family, yet simultaneously fight for a full-time job. I don't even think I can afford to have a family, ever. Right now I need to compete with all the men who are also highly educated. If I ever want equality in the workforce, I will need to be working constantly through my 30s. How do babies fit into this picture? If paid maternity leave was a standard and expected aspect of full-time work, then perhaps I could consider pregnancy. But, right now, especially with high housing, food and fuel costs, I fear I will never have the freedom to have children.