



CALL FOR PAPERS

Demeter Press

Seeking submissions for an edited collection entitled

Menstruation Now

Editor: Berkeley Kaite

Deadline for Abstracts: August 1st, 2016

Menstruation and menstrual blood go beyond the brute particulars of biology and are discursively constructed by all facets of culture. Menstruation enters the domain of language, taboo and censorship, from advertisements that offer “power over periods” to Republican candidate Donald Trump’s comment about a moderator, regarding her pointed question to him about his comments on women: “you could see there was blood coming out of eyes, blood coming out of her wherever.” Adrienne Rich wrote that menstrual taboos are “powers only half-understood” (*Of Woman Born*, 1976) and Elizabeth Grosz illuminates the philosophical dimensions of this and notes the association of femininity with uncontrollable leakiness reinforces a tenacious binary of the solid over fluidity (*Volatile Bodies*, 1994). And while Simone de Beauvoir wrote in 1949 that during menstruation “woman feels her body as an obscure, alien thing” (*The Second Sex*), today there are several commercially available products – sponges, diva cups – which invite a more nuanced relationship with one’s blood and menstrual cycle. Menstruation is only a feminine thing but is not just one thing. Its discursive construction ensures that it belongs to, among others, patriarchal culture *and* feminism.

The purpose of this collection is: to bring together discussions of the many and diverse ways in which menstruation has been appropriated by culture but also gives rise to new ways of imagining what it can signify and also what it can mean for girls and women who bleed.

Topics may include (but are not limited to):

Metaphors of blood; menstruation and birth control; femininity and fluidity; femininity as interiority; menstruation in advertising; menstruation in film; menstruation in fiction; menstruation in memoir; menstruation in poetry; menstruation and girlhood; menstruation in religion; philosophy and menstruation; menstruation in cross-cultural perspective; menstruation in non-Western cultures; menstrual rituals; menstruation and sexuality; menstruation and maternity/post-maternity; menstruation and medicine; menstruation and illness; menstruation and exercise/sport; menstruation and menopause; menstruation and consumer products; menstruation and diet; menstruation and fashion; menstruation and language/metaphor; menstruation and feminist theory; menstruation in art; menstruation and alternative practices/consumption; menstruation and education; menstruation and transgenderism; menstruation and men/masculinity.

Submissions Guidelines:

Please send abstracts of approximately 300 words together with a short bio to Berkeley Kaite, McGill University, Department of English: (Berkeley.kaite@mcgill.ca) **by August 1, 2016.**

Accepted papers of 4000-5000 words (15-20 pages including references and endnotes) will be due **March 1st, 2017**. Contributors will be responsible for ensuring that manuscripts adhere to MLA style.

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