



CALL FOR PAPERS

Demeter Press

Seeking submissions for an edited collection entitled
Bearing the Weight of the World: Exploring Maternal Embodiment

Editors: Alys Einion and Jen Rinaldi

Deadline for Abstracts: August 1, 2016

The maternal body is the site of contested dynamics of power, identity, experience, autonomy, occupation and control. Representations of the maternal body can (mis)present the childbearing and mothering form variously, often as monstrous, idealized, limited, scrutinized or occupied. These readings of the maternal body as out of control are deployed to justify surveillance mechanisms, medical scrutiny and the expectation of self-discipline.

As Rebecca Kukla attests: “The Unruly Mother, with her dangerously permeable boundaries and her insides capable of creating disorder and monstrosity [and] the Fetish Mother, with her extended boundaries and her power to create normative natural order with her body” (2005, p. 105) operate in a falsely dichotomous relation that catches up maternal bodies and calls for their maintenance and management. So maternal bodies are subject to significant surveillance, judgement, criticism, political and health oriented control systems, and culturally constructed expectations. In and through these discursive frames and practices, corporeal boundaries are produced, contained and displaced.

This volume seeks to explore and expose the key debates around maternal embodiment from multiple perspectives, including health, art, science, law, socio-cultural experience and expectation and identity. We welcome academic and creative contributions that explore the maternal body and the bodily experience of pregnancy, birth and motherhood. Our interest is in analysis that foregrounds the maternal body as an affective medium and a site of value.

Topics could include (but are not limited to):

The monstrous maternal body; maternal bodies as transgressing the concept of the singular self; intimacy, privacy and the maternal body; nature versus culture in the maternal body; body/self-image and maternity; family size, gravidarity and the maternal body; maternal embodiment in history; embodiment across generations; the subversion of bodily norms; vulnerable bodies; representation, power and control and the maternal body; art and the maternal body; maternal bodies and disability; maternal bodies and failure; sexuality, sex and the maternal body; ageing and maternal embodiment; maternal embodiment and sexual politics; breastfeeding, breasts and the mothering body; the maternal body and occupation/ownership; idealization and the maternal body; maternal embodiment and disease; the contextualized maternal body; medicalization and maternal embodiment; the meaning of maternal embodiment; feminist debates of maternal and fetal/infant embodiment; performativity and the maternal body; fetal imagery, fetal embodiment and the mothering body; biopolitics, risk and contemporary maternity as expressed through the maternal body; maternal embodiment and health, self-regulation and responsibility; conformity and the mothering body; empowerment through maternal embodiment; the maternal body and transformation.

Submission Guidelines:

Abstracts: 250-word description of the proposed paper, with a tentative title, followed by a 50-word biography and contact information (affiliation, email address) of each author. Deadline for Abstracts: August 1, 2016

Full Manuscripts: MLA style, between 15-18 pages, double-spaced, due January 9, 2017. Final acceptance of the manuscript for inclusion in the collection rests upon the strength of the submission and fit of the submission with the edited collection.

To submit:

Please direct all submission and inquiries to Alys Einion at a.b.einion@swansea.ac.uk and Jen Rinaldi at Jen.Rinaldi@uoit.ca.

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