



CALL FOR PAPERS Demeter Press

Seeking submissions for an edited collection entitled
**Where Did I Go? Identity Challenges for
High Achieving Professional Late Mothers**
Editors: Suzette Mitchell and Tania Principe
Deadline for Abstracts: August 1, 2017

Women are having children later in life. Women are more educated than at any other time in history. For the last generation women's ample education and professional careers are the norm. This generation of tertiary educated late mothers has grown up with a clear articulation of feminism despite shifts in the intra-household gendered division of labour remaining relatively unchanged. Professional, passionate career women cum mothers represent a generational shift in modern times and constitute a significant new demographic. For instance, a recent Canadian study of 9000 women found that women giving birth in their late 30s and early 40s were five times as likely to suffer depression as mothers five years younger.

High-achieving women with vocational positions of authority and respect must navigate the emotional and psychological shift of dealing with the myriad demands of child-rearing and often mundane aspects of motherhood. Accustomed to managing complex and highly technical issues in the workplace, they find themselves unprepared for motherhood. And alone. Talking of failure in mothering is taboo. And as the old story goes, good mothers grin and bear it, for the love of their children. Yet for some this creates a staggering conflict of identity. How does one, used to succeeding, confront her conflicted identity? How does she re-think her role in a society, which offers few role models? The media romanticizes or demonizes motherhood- one is either loving and nurturing or selfish. The unfair burdens, stress, discrimination, anxiety and societal judgments, endured by high achieving women are invisibilised.

This book will share stories and case studies from professional, tertiary educated mothers (over 30 for the birth of their first child) in all their diversity from across the Global South and North illustrating their on-the-ground lived experiences and the impact motherhood has on them and those around them, as well as within the workplace and wider society.

Topics could include (but are not limited to):

If you were over 30 when you had your first child, are tertiary educated, and had a meaningful career; you are encouraged to tell of your struggles, challenges and transformation. Topics can include identity and control, the impact of changing identity on intimate relationships and/or your relationship with workmates and friends without children, the balance of paid work, issues of post natal depression, and societal perceptions of older educated mums. Were you prepared for the experience? Did you have realistic, honest role models? Does the media reflect your experience of reality as a mother? If not, why not? What is missing? We welcome stories from. Feel free to suggest what can be done with recommendations to address these issues for these women, their families and society. We encourage all women—Indigenous, lesbian, queer, transgender, women living with disabilities and others to share your stories.

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, 2017

Full Manuscripts: MLA style, between 15-18 pages, double-spaced, due January 9, 2018. 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 Suzette Mitchell at suzettemitchell2002@yahoo.com or
Tania Principe at taniaprincipe@bell.net

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