



DEMETER

CALL FOR PAPERS

Demeter Press

Maternal Narrative: Theory and Representation (Working Title)

Co-Editors: BettyAnn Martin and Michelann Parr

“To think narratively about a phenomenon is to challenge the dominant story of the phenomenon as fixed and unchanging” (Clandinin & Huber 9).

How women come to know themselves as mothers is inextricably linked to the availability of stories that articulate and define maternal experience. The stories we are told, those we tell ourselves, the stories we live each day, and those we imagine are critical to the development of maternal identity. Working toward a more nuanced and authentic understanding of mothering, we invite you to share your stories of mothering, academic explorations of maternal representation, or theorized understandings of the manner in which narrative influences maternal identity. We encourage contributions from a range of diverse experiences, disciplines, and fields, including sociology, anthropology, women's and gender studies, cultural studies, literary studies, studies in education, and all social sciences and humanities.

In this collection, we seek to explore the role of narrative in the scripting of maternal identity, as well as the way in which narrative limits or liberates women's ability to write and inhabit their own mothering story. We are interested in the quest for coherence between personal and cultural stories, as well as within a woman's own particular life story. Possible topics include, but are not limited to, the following: representations of the maternal in narrative (cultural, historical, literary, etc.); narrative trajectories of motherhood as socially constructed through traditional tales, consumer and popular culture (film, television series, news media, social media, etc.), as well as celebrity culture; exploration of counter-narratives that challenge traditional/cultural stories and expand possibilities for maternal being; exploration of the manner in which maternal stories are shaped and how they shape mothers' experience of motherhood and maternal identity; the potential for maternal empowerment through re-writing, re-scripting, and/or reconstructing maternal identity; and exploration of maternal authenticity through life-writing..

Your story may take the form of traditional personal narrative, reflection, fictional prose, intergenerational dialogue, dramatic script, poetry, visual art, correspondence, photo essay, re-writing the past. We invite the blurring of truth and fiction in acknowledgement of the relationship between life and art. Ultimately, this collection aspires toward a more inclusive narrative of mothering that creates a space for potential healing, transformation, and authenticity.

Abstracts should be 250 words and are due by September 18, 2017. Please also include a brief biography (100 words). Please send to maternalnarrative@gmail.com.

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