



CALL FOR PAPERS

Demeter Press

On the Precipice of Parenthood:

Narratives About Conception, Pregnancy, and Birth

**Co-editors: Claudia Ludwig, Mary Mahoney,
and Lauren Mitchell**

Deadline For Abstracts: November 15, 2017 (Extended Deadline)

When pregnancy is addressed in popular and political culture, the focus is often on the outcome—the new mother and her newborn—but not the journey to becoming a parent. The experiences immediately preceding motherhood (conception and pregnancy) have a profound impact on views of self and worth, as pregnant people stand on the precipice of an immense life change. We propose to edit an anthology that works in support of people who speak out and who step outside of the box as they decide if, when, and how to create a family. The decision to become a parent in an age where there is no standard road map can feel excruciating and isolating, exhilarating and sublime, all at once. We hope this volume will be a space to explore the seemingly contradictory identities that cohere around the process of creating a family.

In this interdisciplinary anthology, we'll use a wide spectrum of perspectives to support an intersectional approach to parenthood—how maternity is affected by class, race, and gender identity—honoring that it can look different from culture to culture. We will accept a range of academic topics as well as creative genres. Ideally, we would include personal essays/creative non-fiction, fictional prose, and interviews that work within the topic of identity and motherhood. Finally, we are committed to using gender-inclusive language in this collection by using words such as pregnant “person” or “parenthood” when appropriate.

The anthology will be divided into three sections: conception, pregnancy, and birth. We are flexible and interested to hear what contributors plan to do with our topic, though we would be happy to furnish suggestions by request.

Submission Guidelines:

For academic articles: 250 word abstracts plus 50 word biography (with citizenship information) due by November 15, 2017.

Full drafts of creative submissions (including creative non-fiction and memoir) are due by November 15, 2017.

If accepted, papers will be due for submission by June 1, 2018.

DEMETER PRESS

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