CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: Thinking about our mothers: Reflecting on influences from a mother’s relationship with her own mother

Editors: Dr Joan Garvan and Kandee Kosior

This anthology will examine the diverse and complex connections, experiences and relationships between women and their mothers that arise after the birth of an infant from a range of disciplinary perspectives. Relationships are a central fixture to our lives be it with our families - partners, children parents, siblings - friends, neighbours, workmates or casual acquaintances. The mother-infant/child connection is a foundational relationship. This forms the basis for our expectations and our experiences and is a significant influencing factor over interactions and relationship with our own children.

The maternal role that is associated with motherhood can constrain action and overshadow authentic relationships between mothers and their child/ren. Second wave feminists reflected on their relationship with their mothers in titles such as My Mother Myself, poetry collections such as Mother I’m Rooted, and the landmark work of Nancy Chodorow in The Reproduction of Mothering who was primarily concerned with the mother daughter connection. Given the significance of this relationship it is surprising there is so little contemporary research and writing on a mother’s connection with her own mother and influences over her relationship with her child/ren.

Submissions are welcome on the topic of the ‘mother’s connection with her own mother after the birth of an infant’ through the lenses of feminist theory and may include historical, cultural, semiotic, philosophical or sociological. We hope to include both creative (art, poetry and creative writing) and scholarly submissions so as to provide a space for women to reflect on the associated gamut of emotions and experiences. Essays from all disciplinary perspectives are welcome, and interdisciplinary work is especially encouraged. Topics may include (but are not limited to): Social, cultural and historical aspects; theoretical and philosophical explorations; case studies; critiques of media representations; discussion of artistic explorations; cross-cultural, social-geographical or anthropological investigations of maternal experience; other relevant topics.

Submission Guidelines: Abstracts (350-400 words) with a 50-word biography due April 20, 2020. Acceptances made by: 27th July 2020. Completed manuscripts (15-18 pages double-spaced with references in MLA format) are due: April 2021. Please note, acceptance will depend on the strength and fit of the final piece. Please send inquiries and abstracts to editors: motherreflections@gmail.com