



Call for Chapters

Demeter Press is seeking submissions for an edited collection tentatively entitled:
**From mother to caregiver: Mothering children with lifelong care needs
across the lifecourse**

Editors: Drs. Genevieve Currie and Kinga Pozniak

Please submit (400-500 words) abstracts by **Mar. 24, 2024**

Mothering is the experience and work of mothers. Historically, mothering has been considered a gender-based role with practical, physical, and emotional dimensions and women are socialized to fulfil this role across cultures, races, and social conditions (Cowdery & Knudson-Martin, 2005; Doucet, 2018). Mothers are socially responsible for preserving and fostering the lives of their children and families, sometimes under extreme social pressure and expectations (Green, 2012; O'Reilly, 2012). This responsibility extends to creating and sustaining personal relationships and networks, communal obligations, improving the quality of life for the family, and the physical and emotional work of care and connection within the family and community (Arendell, 2000; O'Reilly, 2016). These responsibilities which traditionally take precedence over all other forms of work for women have been defined as care work (England, 2005; Armenia, 2018). Care work is distinguished by Armenia (2018) as meeting the physical, emotional, and social work of others and should not be devalued or depreciated based on payment (or lack of), location of where care takes place or the relationship between caregiver and the person who is cared for.

The work of caring for children with complex health and social needs is also overwhelmingly the responsibility of women (Douglas et al., 2021). The social expectation in most cultures is that mothers should care for their children regardless of the medical, social, economic, or physical circumstances (Knudson-Martin & Silverstein, 2009; Runswick-Cole & Ryan, 2019). This caregiving for children with lifelong care needs can extend into adulthood until death of the caregiver or the child. Lifelong caregiving is undervalued, unremunerated, and underestimated but essential in preventing institutional care, health care costs, and expenditures, and keeping children healthy and alive (Ennis, 2014; Singer et al., 2009). These experiences of mothering and care work, structured from women's daily lives, have been largely unknown, hidden, or silenced, and not considered as important knowledge (Aptheker, 1989; Arendell, 2000; Douglas, 2021). There is a need to understand the everyday tensions, physical, emotional and social complexities, and lifelong accountability and responsibilities for mothers as lifelong caregivers. These experiences can offer insight into how to support and build capacities for mothers' profound courage, creativity, persistence, and strengths in meeting these care responsibilities. These experiences can also provide insight and build capacity into the creation of equitable care arrangements and care models in communities, organizations, governments and other systems that intersect with the care of children with lifelong care needs for mothers and families.

This collection engages with the idea of mothering and care work for children with lifelong care needs with connections between the literature on mothering and other literature on caregiving across the lifecourse. This collection also seeks to extend the possibilities of theorizing with intersectional and interdisciplinary perspectives. We are interested in work that calls us to re/imagine and re/story alternative stories of mothering, care models and carework for children with disabilities and lifelong care needs.

As co-editors we have shared commitments to mothering our own children with disabilities and extended care needs and furthering the critical discourse on these care responsibilities and their impacts toward re/imagining and re/storying the concepts of care and carework. Dr. Genevieve Currie is a nurse who has two children with neurodevelopmental disabilities, one with a rare genetic disorder. She brings a focus in her academic research on mothering and care work, family centered care, family engagement in health care and research, and pediatric medical complexity and rare disease. Dr. Kinga Pozniak is a socio-cultural anthropologist whose research focuses on the experiences of parents of disabled children with healthcare delivery, family-centered care, and family engagement in healthcare and research. The editors are committed to reveal what we currently know about mothering and carework with children with lifelong care needs and provide alternative narratives of mothering, care models, and carework.

We invite submissions from academics, artists, activists, writers, mothers, and those who support work with/in communities. Submissions might include: personal essay/reflection, academic essay, academic research, memoir, creative non-fiction, narrative, poetry, art, photography, and hybrid genre.

Tentative sections for this collection are outlined below and you are welcome to identify a section for your submission, but this is not a requirement.

Section 1: History/Theoretical Background on Mothering, Caregiving and Carework

- Definitions of mothering
- Historical and present views on mothering and carework

Section 2: Mothering and care work of children with disabilities and lifelong care needs: strengths, dilemmas and challenges

- Rare diseases
- Developmental and Neurodevelopmental disorders
- Acquired injuries and health conditions

Section 3: Caregiving children with disabilities beyond mothering

- Siblings
- Fathers
- Grandparents
- Others

Section 4: Mothering, and caregiving with adult children with disabilities

- Transitioning from the child to adult systems of care
- Care from older mothers: implications on aging, housing and meeting care needs

Section 5: Re/imagining and re/storying narratives and care models for children with lifelong care needs

- Research and family engagement
- Caregiving Policies
- Interdisciplinary/intersectional collaborations
- Models of care
- Community based care models
- Cross-cultural perspectives on carework and caregiving

Submission Guidelines:

Abstract (400-500 words) with a 75-word bio (single document) by March 24, 2024.

Acceptance will be made by April 30, 2024.

Completed works (4,000 – 6,500 words double-spaced pages, 12-point font, in MLA reference format) are due Sept. 8, 2024.

Please note that acceptance will depend on the strength and fit of the final piece.

Also please note that papers will be received and reviewed in English. Prospective authors who may have limited experience with publishing in English are strongly encouraged to seek the assistance of a technical editor before submitting proposals and papers, as language difficulties may be raised as a concern during the external review process.

Inquiries and abstracts may be sent to: gcurrie@mtroyal.ca and pozniakk@mcmaster.ca