



DEMETER PRESS CFP

Queering M(Others)and (M)Othering:
Bodies, Identities, and Family Structures

Editors Lorinda Peterson and Mel Freitag
Abstracts due: June 1, 2024

In her 2014 edited collection *Queering Motherhood: Narrative and Theoretical Perspectives*, Margaret Gibson claims that “queering motherhood is a long-term, open-ended, evolving undertaking” (17). The question remains how queer motherhoods and mothering in their domestic, social, political, scholarly, and artistic manifestations have confronted the past 20 years.

As we approach the quarter point of the 21st Century and a half-century since Adrienne Rich claimed in *Of Women Born: Motherhood as Institution and Experience* that “In order for all women to have real choices all along the line we need fully to understand the power and powerlessness embodied in motherhood in patriarchal culture” (67), how and where does queer mothering play out within dominant cultures?

At question now is the relationship between gendered bodies, identities, and family structures that define mothers and motherwork in the move to de-essentialize motherhood. What is beyond it? In the changing twenty-first-century gender landscape, it is necessary to explore queering experiences of conception, childbirth, kinship systems, and de-coupling gender from domestic work, including motherwork.

In this collection we will explore contemporary concepts and experiences of queering motherhood into the future, from a myriad of intersectional positions including but not limited to works entrenched in

- a continuum of gender identity and experience across time
- geographical locations within and without domestic spaces and community-based cultures
- Intergenerational experiences of queer mothering
- day-to-day lived experiences
- traumatic memories
- theoretical contexts including social, political, and creative
- queer mothering and current gender ideologies

- queer and poly kinship systems.

We welcome diverse authors/co-authors, perspectives and voices from all genders on continuums that could change over time. We welcome those with lived experiences of queer(ing) parenthood and those from historically marginalized populations including, but not limited to writers/artists who identify as indigenous, racialized minority, queer, trans, immigrant, economically vulnerable, dis/abled, and culturally diverse. We encourage submissions from countries beyond the United States and Canada.

We also welcome traditional and nontraditional delivery modes, including but not limited to:

- essays (academic and personal),
- traditional and non-traditional storytelling including creative, non-fiction and life writing referencing specific cultural practices of queer mothering,
- poetry,
- visual art including traditional and non-traditional comics/graphic memoirs, photo essays and film clips.

Abstracts (400-500 words) with a 75-word bio in one document are due June 1, 2024, to demeterqueermothering@gmail.com.

Notification of acceptance will be made by September 1, 2024.

Final completed works are due by March 1, 2025:

- Papers/prose: maximum 6,500 words, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, MLA format
- Poetry: maximum 5 poems with no more than 40 lines each, 12-point Times New Roman font.
- Photography/Visual Art/Other: max 5 pieces, JPEG or PNG, in high resolution. An artist statement (100 words maximum) may be submitted with each piece, but it is not required.

Please send questions and abstracts to Lorinda Peterson and Mel Freitag at demeterqueermothering@gmail.com.