



## Call for Chapters

### *Psychologies of Mothering: Literature and Literacy*

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DEADLINE APRIL 30, 2024

As we become readers and literate beings, we enter new spaces, learning not only the decoding and encoding of words but also walking into the world of texts and literature. And as we move through time—and time, clearly, moves through us—we co-editors, as mothers and professionals, continue to feel that “[a]ll human life on this planet is born of woman. The one unifying, incontrovertible experience we spent unfolding inside a woman's body” (Rich 11). Furthermore, O’Reilly’s concept of “matricentric feminism” insists that “mothering matters, and it is central to the lives of women who are mothers” (1) as it “begins with the mother and takes seriously the work of mothering—and that it is multidisciplinary and multi-theoretical” (6-7). Therefore, we ask, what are mothers’ psychological sense of self and experiences of the world regarding literacy and in literature? What are the multiple, embodied and constructed, roles of mothers in these literacy and textual journeys? And what is the psychological impact of mothering for literacy learning and within texts?

This collection aims to explore the psychological experiences, contexts, conflicts and liminal places of mothers in literature and literacy. We encourage submissions that examine, investigate, and interrogate mothering and psychology in literature or lived literacy-related experiences as mothers. We are seeking chapters from all disciplines. Reflective work and academic work are both encouraged.

Topics may include but are in no way limited to:

- representations, analysis, and/or exploration of mothers/mothering in literature and storytelling through a psychological lens
- the psychological impact in/of literature on mothering
- learning to read, write, and/or learning other literacy practices from the perspective of mothering and psychology
- the literate lives of mothers framed from a psychological perspective
- the psychology of writing as mothers (i.e. “momoirs”, written by or about a mother)
- diversity, culture, Indigeneity, or otherness of mothering and literacy
- literacy and its psychological impact on mothers and families
- the psychological experiences of mothering those learning to read and/or becoming literate members of society
- the psychological influences of literacy on mothering
- the psychological effects or experiences of family literacy practices on mothering

### Submission Guidelines

Please submit an abstract of 250-500 words by April 30, 2024 to the Nipissing University Centre for Literacy: [nucentreforliteracy@nipissingu.ca](mailto:nucentreforliteracy@nipissingu.ca) .

If accepted, full manuscripts of 4000-6500 words will be due December 31, 2024 (written in English, 12-point Times New Roman, MLA format).

The manuscript will be peer-reviewed, and authors must be willing to complete revisions as required. Acceptance is conditional and will depend on the quality and fit of the final full manuscript.

## References

O'Reilly, Andrea. *Matricentric Feminism: Theory, Activism and Practice*. Demeter Press, 2021

Rich, Adrienne. *Of Woman Born: Motherhood as Experience and Institution*. Virago Press, 1976.