



Telling Lives: Mothers and Life Writing
Demeter collection on Mothers and Life Writing
edited by Lorinda Peterson,
Miranda Francis, and Veronica Frigeni

According to Hélène Cixous in *Rootprints, Memory and Life Writing*, “words, writing, and language are bound up with love, ... They are ‘of the body’” (28). Life writing locates mothers’ bodies in specific contexts defined by lifetimes, life stages, and life moments that change across biological, chronological, and evolutionary time.

As mother, mothering, and motherhood concepts and experiences evolve, life writing provides opportunities for mothers to share their domestic, social, political, scholarly, and artistic mothering experiences and spaces. Until mothers speak about experiences that fit their bodies in their time and place, they will write someone else’s life.

The works in this collection gain validity as part of a growing body of works by mothers who use writing to voice experiences first filtered through their minds and bodies. It is time to question the limiting concepts that define mothers and mother work and the relationships between gender, identity, and mothering. At the same time, it is crucial to critically evaluate how life narratives about/from mothers problematize traditional understandings of selfhood, life and writing.

This anthology explores life writing as it repositions mothers through a twenty-first-century lens. We welcome scholarly, photo, or personal essays, letters and testimonials, and creative life writing, including fiction, biography, poetry, autobiography, memoir, graphic memoir, and comics.

We welcome diverse authors/co-authors, perspectives and voices. We welcome those with lived experiences of mothering 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 also seek submissions that engage with debates about mothering in the Anthropocene, for example by exploring posthuman motherhood and multispecies life writing. We encourage submissions from countries beyond the United States and Canada.

Submission Guidelines:

Abstracts (300 words) with a 75-word bio all in one document are due September 1, 2024, to demeterlifewriting@gmail.com

Notification of acceptance will be made by December 15, 2024.

Final completed works are due by July 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 editors Lorinda Peterson, Miranda Francis, and Veronica Frigeni at demeterlifewriting@gmail.com