

## Call for Chapters



Demeter Press is seeking submissions for  
an edited collection entitled

### **Mothers, Mothering, Land and Nature**

Editors: Jessie Carson, Dr Jodie Hawkes and Dr Pete Phillips

Please submit proposals by May 1st, 2024

This anthology explores the intersections between mothers, mothering, land and nature. Our surroundings shape our lives and this includes the lives of mothers and practices of motherhood. Location and connection to history determine the daily lives of mothers and therefore, their experiences and stories. Mothers have endured some of the harshest brutalities of displacement, domination and destruction because of violence and conflict over land and ongoing climate breakdown. It could also be said that the instant transition into motherhood might cause first-time mothers to find themselves inhabiting a new land of their own, isolated from familiar surroundings.

Demeter Press is seeking eco-feminist contributions of stories that foreground and unpack the ecological and socio-political entanglements of mothers and mothering and their complex relations to land and nature. Considering the terms 'mothers' and 'mothering', we invite intersectional experiences of mothers and mothering from diverse positions of gender, class, race and ability. The invitation also recognizes Haraway's call to 'Make Kin, Not Babies,' and includes non-natal kin-making within the scope of the maternal as a practice rather than a gendered identity.

The editors of this edition, themselves separated by thousands of kilometers, parted by land and sea, in their own distinct political and historical landscapes, invite you to offer your own complex understanding of mothers, mothering, land and nature, so that we might make connections, find common ground, foreground invisible histories and continue to recognize the ongoing need for maternal activism.

**Scope:** This edition welcomes interest from a wide range of fields and disciplines, including but not limited to performance art, theatre, live art, visual art, creative writing, feminism, eco philosophy, eco feminism, matricentric feminism, social and cultural studies. Submissions are open to academic essays, creative non-fiction, poetry, performance writing, documentation, practice research reports, personal essays/reflections, and interviews.

Topics may include but are not limited to

- Mothering and connection to land-based stories and knowledge
- Indigenous mothers, mothering, and ancestral lands
- Mothers, mothering, colonialism, ceded and unceded land
- Mothering and a disrupted relationship to the land

- Intersections maternal and environmental activism
- Mothers, mothering, environmental violence and resource extraction
- Mothering, migration and borders
- The maternal body in nature, amongst/within rural, wild and urban landscapes
- National identity and motherhood
- Motherhood and precarity in relation to land and land ownership
- Mothers and mothering in relation to sacred land, common ground and contested territories
- Maternal, mapping and (re)mapping of land and landscape
- Land, fertility and mothers
- Mothers, mothering, ecological thinking and the Anthropocene
- Mothering in strange lands, conflict lands and no man's lands
- Maternal commoning and the maternal commons
- Matricentric language when referring to the Earth
- The maternal landscape

### **Submission Procedure**

Please submit a chapter proposal, which includes the following: title, abstract, and a short biography of the author(s). Proposals should be a maximum of 500 words, written in English, using Microsoft Word format, Times New Roman, 12 font. Authors of accepted proposals will be notified and sent submission guidelines. Chapter contributions will be maximum of 6,500 words, excluding figures, tables, and references.

1. Proposal submission deadline: May 1st, 2024
2. Notification of acceptance: June 1st, 2024
3. Full 1st draft of chapter due: November 1st, 2024
4. Editorial review results returned: Jan 15th, 2025
5. Final chapter submission: March 15th, 2025
6. Publication date: 2025/2026

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### **Editors**

Jessie Carson is a writer and editor as well as the Creative Director of Almonte Readers & Writers, a non-profit organization presenting events and learning opportunities in the literary arts. She teaches writing workshops in her community and environmental classes at Algonquin College in Ottawa, Ontario. Her creative non-fiction had been published in numerous print and online magazines and journals and is most often an inquiry into the themes of motherhood, loss, and how stories live in the body and through generations.

Dr Jodie Hawkes is an artist researcher and senior lecturer in theatre at the University of Chichester. Jodie's research focuses on maternal performance, feminism, class politics and activist practice. Jodie is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Jodie's artistic practice is

undertaken in collaboration with Dr Pete Phillips as live art duo Search Party. Search Party's work is driven by practice and research and engages in collaborative strategies for performance making and thinking.

Dr Pete Phillips is an artist researcher and senior lecturer based at the University of Chichester. Pete's research includes the performativity of sport, collaborative duos, and ecological thinking. Pete's artistic practice is undertaken in collaboration with Dr Jodie Hawkes as live art duo Search Party. Their work has been performed in venues and festivals in the UK and internationally. Jodie and Pete's current collaborative research project examines the performance and politics of care-making.