



Call for Chapters

Demeter Press is seeking submissions for
an edited collection tentatively entitled:

Moving out of crisis:

Valuing and enabling the critical work of caregiving

Editors: Emily Wolfinger and Amanda Watson

Please submit 400–500-word abstracts by: August 1st, 2024

Women's workforce participation has been a core aim of feminist advocacy over the last 60 years. Implicit within this aim is a belief that women's liberation from the domestic sphere will lead to gender equality. While gains have been made in improving the status of women, mothers remain disempowered, particularly in a context of neoliberalism whereby caring work has been rendered invisible even as it has intensified. This disempowerment is further exacerbated by persistent structural inequalities and multiple intersecting crises, including housing unaffordability, cost of living pressures, endemic loneliness, widening inequality, structural and exceptional acts of violence, and climate change.

As the administrative demands on family life swell, the interconnectedness of caregiving for others and the planet becomes clear, though our sense of powerlessness to stop this encroachment deepens. Indeed, the pressing nature of current financial and caregiving responsibilities leaves little room to consider environmental practices in our everyday lives, much less effective stewardship for the future. Supporting mothers and caregiving is therefore intimately linked to human and planetary health, as well as integral to improving the overall status of women. In short, an advocacy and policy agenda that centres mothers and caregiving is urgently needed.

The aim of this collection is to offer a critical reflection on the ways in which policy and practice can work to support the vital work of caregiving—for humans and other species, the planet, community, and the self. We encourage submissions that interrogate the undervaluation of caregiving in capitalist cultures, in public and social policy, and across societies more broadly, examining the consequences of this devaluation for mothers, intersectionally marginalised women, children, families, communities, and the planet. We are seeking chapters from intersectional maternal, post-development, eco-feminist, disability, and queer scholars, anthropologists,

policy specialists, caregivers with lived experience, and maternal advocates from around the world. Both academic and reflective pieces are encouraged, as are contributions from Indigenous and First Nations scholars and mothers. The international collection hopes to inform local government and advocate perspectives and social policy on gender, care, families, and welfare.

Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Anti-capitalist, Indigenous or collective economic structures that support maternal/caregiver wellbeing
- Co-housing, intentional community, or other community initiatives
- Case studies of effective social policies
- Government income support for mothers/caregivers
- Other proposed social policies that directly or indirectly support mothers and caregiving
- Matricentric, eco-feminist, post-development, and intersectional feminist analyses of motherhood and caregiving

Submission guidelines:

Please submit an abstract (400-500 words), outlining your proposed chapter, along with a brief bio (75 words) by August 1, 2024. Abstracts should be sent to Emily Wolfinger (e.wolfinger@westernsydney.edu.au) and Amanda Watson (adwatson@sfu.ca), with the subject line, "Moving out of crisis".

Important dates:

- Abstract Submission Deadline: August 1, 2024
- Notification of Acceptance: September 1, 2024
- Chapter Submission Deadline: May 1, 2025