CALL FOR PAPERS
Demeter Press is seeking submissions for
“The Pain Mothers Must Never Expose”: Confronting the Silences of Maternal Life
Edited by Taralyn Parr and Michelann Parr

What the pain of mothers must never expose is a viciously unjust world in a complete mess. (Rose 12)

This collection aims to expose the pain of mothers and transform these silences into action (Lorde), destabilize hegemonic institutions and structures, serve as an act of critical intervention, and foster a stance of vigilance rather than denial (hooks). “Writing difficult stories is a gift to self, a reflexive attempt to construct meaning in our lives and heal or grow from the pain” (Ellis 26).

Potential contributors (scholars, activists, artists) include, but are not limited to, those who

- mother, including those who may not be viewed as mothers within the institution of motherhood;
- have children but find themselves silenced by everyday life (Olsen) and ongoing patriarchal norms;
- wake up some days to realize that they don’t know, can’t help, or don’t much like their children;
- seek to be re-born into life once their children transition into adulthood and leave their family home;
- have felt the sting of being seen as the cause of who their children are or are becoming (Rose);
- have lost their children through miscarriage, stillbirth, death, war/violence, or to social services;
- have surrendered their children to fostering, adoption, or kincare in hope of a better life;
- who mother children not their own, and navigate the complexities of their chosen family;
- are trying to disrupt or queer motherhood, searching or creating an experience uniquely their own;
- want or hope to have children, but are doing their own reckoning with the institution of motherhood, silence, and ongoing patriarchal norms.

Acknowledging that motherhood intersects with gender, race, ethnicity, Indigeneity, sexual orientation, class, disability and age and can result in interdependent and overlapping experiences of oppression (Crenshaw), we invite voices that have been historically and systemically ignored, marginalized, diminished, distorted, undermined, or silenced.

We are open to all forms of media including poetry, song, script, literary reflection, fiction, creative non-fiction, and visual arts (with accompanying artist statements). We encourage you to resist the traditional narratives that bind and structure lived experience into a coherent, linear whole, recognizing that such structures may interfere with how you choose to live, retell, revise, and transform your experience as one who mothers (Jørgensen and Largacha-Martinez).

We who write are survivors (Olsen 39);
we have the potential to bring to life possibilities for a more just and inclusive future.

Send inquiries and 400-word abstracts with a 50-word biography by July 1, 2022 to Taralyn Parr taralyn.parr@mail.utoronto.ca and Michelann Parr michelap@nipissingu.ca.

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