

CALL FOR PAPERS

Demeter Press

Seeking submissions for an edited collection tentatively entitled

Revolutionizing Motherlines

Editors: Fiona Joy Green and Andrea O'Reilly

Deadline for Abstracts: January 15, 2024

The concept of motherline, first proposed by Jungian psychologist Naomi Lowinsky (1992), connects mothers to their female ancestors and helps them to understand how their life stories are linked with previous generations of women in their families and cultures. Motherlines are spoken in the mother tongue which uses conversational and relational discourse to help mothers gain authority through exposure to an embodied knowledge of mothering that journeys back in time (Le Guin 1989). Listening to the physical, psychological, and historical stories of foremothers, selves, and children challenges and counters exclusive, authoritative, and patriarchal privileged narratives. Discovering and nurturing one's motherline is an idiosyncratic and chaotic process that takes a lifetime (Abby 2010). For some, exploring one's motherline offers opportunities to reflect upon past personal family stories and lineages while searching for understanding, love, belonging, forgiveness, and revolutionary ways of mothering.

This collection focuses on how to use/trouble/develop Lowinsky's concept of the motherline to include diverse abilities, genders, sexualities, ethnicities, mothering identities, family forms, and parenting practices. How do we think about, examine, and expand motherlines in ways that seriously consider the erasure of certain bodies and particular identities by the hetero-normative imperialist/colonialist, white supremacist, capitalist patriarchy? (Cox 2020) How do we sincerely contend with ALOK's vital argument that "Womanhood is far more expansive than reproductive function. There are plenty of men and non-binary people who can give birth and plenty of women who cannot" (2020). Mothering, as Andrea O'Reilly (2021) and Sara Ruddick (1989) argue, is not limited to reproducing cis-gender women, it is a practice rooted in the experience of mothers as people (generally, but not necessarily, women) who do the work of caring for their children. How may motherlines reflect these diverse experiences of mothers?

We invite contributors to share how they envision and see motherlines being enacted and revolutionized in theory, activism, and practice, and to consider the future impact of reformed and empowering motherlines for mothers, families, feminism and community. We encourage a wide range of submissions, including, but not limited to, personal essay/ reflection, academic/ scholarly essay, memoir, creative non-fiction, diary style, letter form, Q and A, poetry, art, photography, and hybrid genre.

Submission Guidelines:

Abstract of approximately 250-500 words and a 75-word bio on a single page by Jan 15, 2024

Acceptance will be decided by Feb 29, 2024.

Completed works of 4,000 – 6,500 words, double-spaced 12-point Times New Roman font in

MLA reference format due October 31, 2024.

Acceptance is contingent and will depend upon the strength and fit of the final piece.

Please send submissions and inquiries directly to: Andrea O'Reilly at aoreilly@yorku.ca and

Fiona Joy Green at f.green@uwinnipeg.ca