



CALL FOR PAPERS

Journal of the Motherhood Initiative

Unruly Mothers and Mothering as Lived and Represented

To be unruly is to resist the rules that seek to govern and contain mothers. The Unruly Mother Scholars Network brings together scholars who challenge normative and patriarchal motherhood as it is lived and represented, and who imagine empowered mothering through theory, activism, and practice. This special issue of the *Journal of the Motherhood Initiative* invites work on unruly mothers and mothering in lived experience, scholarship, and cultural representation. We welcome contributions that question the ideal of the “good mother,” explore how mothers are judged and regulated, and consider the ways mothers resist, redefine, and reclaim mothering. The issue grows from the October 2026 international remote conference hosted by the Unruly Mother Scholars Network and Demeter Press.

Topics may include, but are not limited to: ‘bad’ mothers in film, television, social media, art, photography, and literature; mother outlaws and outlaw mothering; myths and discourses of the good mother; maternal regret, rage, and ambivalence; maternal activism; queer mothers and queering motherhood; empowered and feminist mothering; pagan and witch mothers; resistance across race, region, ethnicity, sexuality, and age; mothers and daughters; mothers and sons; legal and medical discourses; public policy; religion; matricentric feminism; motherhood studies; and feminist theory. We encourage a wide range of submissions, including scholarly articles, personal essays and reflections, creative nonfiction, poetry, art, photography, and hybrid work

Articles due: January 15, 2027

For scholarly articles: 5,000–8,000 words, excluding notes and works cited; double-spaced; 12-point Times New Roman; MLA format.

Please send your submission with a 250-word abstract and a 150-word bio to
info@demeterpress.org