

## **CALL for PAPERS**

Demeter Press is seeking submissions for  
an edited collection

### **Cross-Cultural Mothering and Forced Migration**

Editors: Maria Jose Yax-Fraser PhD Candidate and Tatjana Takševa PhD.

This edited collection seeks to bring together intersectional and interdisciplinary perspectives on the cross-cultural mothering experiences of women who have migrated who have been displaced and/or are in the process of migrating from one place to another. We understand the lines between forced and voluntary migration and displacement to be fluid and context specific, including persons who are fleeing in the face of threats of violence or open conflict, asylum seekers, those who leave their home country for economic reasons in the hope of finding a better income elsewhere as well as graduates with no prospect of finding a job using her skills in her country of origin who may feel she has no choice but to emigrate in search of a more fulfilling role (Bakewell 2021, Crawley and Skleparis 2018, Long 2013, Aidani 2010). We recognize, however, that the distinctions among those statuses permeate academic, policy and popular discourses, shaping individual experiences of mothering. We ask that prospective authors clearly contextualize their work regarding types of migration and situate their findings with regard to policy or legal frameworks of re/settlement.

Feminist migration scholars have increasingly made women and their experiences visible in their analysis of the complex processes of (in)migration, (re)settlement and integration (Boyd 1976, Gabacha 1991, Pedraza 1991, Pessar 1987, 2003, Ranger 2005, Boyd and Grieco, 2003; Morokvasic, 2003, 2007, 2011; Sinke, 2006) with some focusing on forced migration (Bassel, 2012; Musalo, 2010; Nolin, 2017; Paquet, 2011; Peteet, 1997; Pinelli, 2013). A few studies have also highlighted women's experiences of mothering along their journeys seeking refuge (Auclair, 2017; Baines and Gauvin, 2014; Contreras and Griffith, 2012; Lenette, 2013; Lenette, Brought and Cox, 2013). During the past two decades a growing number of feminist scholars have examined how migration affects women and men in gender specific ways and how the processes of migration, settlement and integration assign a much greater responsibility to women who more often undertake “the meshing” of paid and unpaid work, family, immigration, and cultural (among other) systems (Alzoubi 2011, Brah 1996, Chamberlain 2006, Gretchen 2008, Hiott et al., 2006, Irving 2000, Pratt 2004, Parreñas 2005, Yeo 2010). Particularly women’s gender specific concerns pertaining to paid work, housework, pregnancy, childrearing, and care work have received greater attention (Ahmed et al., 2005, Liamputtong and Naksook 2003, Tummala-Narra 2004). This focus has helped shift the analysis in migration scholarship to recognize women as active agents participating in these processes (Berger 2005, Luther 2015, Hondagneu-Sotelo and Avila 1997, 2007). Nevertheless, maternal agency and the mothering perspectives of women who have experienced migration have received less attention, including migrant maternal subjectivity (Rye, Browne, Giorgio, Jeremiah, and Six, 2018, Madziva and Zontini 2012).

This prospective edited collection on cross-cultural mothering will join the few voices that have started to be heard in recent years recognizing the agency migrant women deploy/exercise to negotiate diverse situations and the multiple changing circumstances involved in their personal, mothering work, family, and work life following forced migration (Liamputtong and Naksook 2003.). Cross-cultural mothering, as coined by Maria Jose Yax-Fraser (2008), refers to the complex forms of agency migrant women as mother exercise to adjust to new context and environments, to re-work their identities, and to

(re)construct and continually renegotiate their mothering practice and values in new economic and socio-political environments.

Focusing on cross-cultural mothering, this collection will add an angle of vision largely silent in the gender and migration discourses to highlight the complex nature of negotiating mothering, and maternity in a new country of resettlement after or, even, during migration, and negotiating with motherhood as a social institution that is situated and embedded in a dominant maternal ideology that may stand at odds with the migrating women's values or worldview. The collection will complement the perspectives on transnational motherhood first identified by Pierrette Hondagney-Sotelo and Ernestine Avila (1997) in reference to the practice of mothers living and working in different countries from those of their children and subsequently amplified by diverse migration scholars (Ehrenreich and Hochschild 2003, Horton 2009, Parreñas 2001, Pratt 2012).

As editors we bring an intersectional feminist lens as the framework for examining the lived experiences of migrant mothers. Tatjana Takševa's academic research has focused extensively on the intersections between maternal theory and feminism, trauma and resilience, the voices of mothers as victims, survivors, and resisters in the context of conflict, and on the ways in which mothers display agency to challenge and negotiate the circumstances that oppress them (Takševa 2023, 2020a; 2020b; 2018; 2016; 2015a; 2015b; Takseva and Sgoutas 2015, Takseva 2012). As an academic and community research practitioner Maria Jose Yax-Fraser interest is in the lived experiences of cross-cultural mothering of women in the diaspora. She has worked in the immigration, settlement and integration sector and has facilitated community-based research on migration and parenting; on migrant women and housing; on immigrant women labour market integration; on immigrant women, gender, and underemployment; and on art as a medium for identity and community connection.

Our aim is to centre the voices of migrant women who are mothers and who have experienced displacement and/or migration. We envision an edited collection that responds to the necessity of viewing the world through the eyes of these mothers and recognizes the sometimes-intense difference – and validity – of their ways of seeing (Gonzalez 1986, Foner 1986). Migrant women are not homogenous populations. They experience forced im/migration, mothering, and motherhood in relation to multiple points of intersection concerning dimensions of gendered, racialized, and cultural identities, and the interplay of political factors and their social reality (Anzaldúa 1987, Crenshaw 1991, Hill Collins and Bilge 2016). We foresee an edited collection that will move the conversation in the feminist and migration literature in non-pathologizing accounts of mothering in relation to migration.

We like to invite submissions from academics, artists, activists, writers, migrant women mothers who have experienced forced migration, service providers, and advocates. Submissions might include personal essay/reflection, academic essay, memoir, creative non-fiction, diary style, poetry, art, photography, and hybrid genres. Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Change in mothering identity during or following migration/re/settlement
- Change in family structures
- Mothering experiences of death (suicide) and separation in violent and unanticipated circumstances
- Loss of status and livelihood
- Loss of home and community
- Asylum-seeking and mothering
- Family reunification
- Sociopolitical cultural factors, trauma, resilience and mothering
- Forced migration, statelessness, and mothering

- Mothering and racism and/or xenophobia
- Negotiating versions of mothering (between country of origin and host country)
- Interculturality, mothering and migration
- Relationship between language, socialization/enculturation and mothering
- Kinship, forced migration and mothering

Submission Guidelines: Abstracts (350-400 words) with a 50-word biography (in *single* document) **due by December 20, 2023**. Please include 'Cross-cultural mothering + title of paper' in the subject line. Decisions regarding proposals will be communicated by January 31, 2024. Full papers (15-18 pages double-spaced with references in MLA format) will be due by August 1, 2024. Please note that acceptance will depend on the strength and fit of the final piece.

Please note that papers will be received and reviewed in English. Prospective authors who may have limited experience with publishing in English are strongly encouraged to seek the assistance of a technical editor before submitting proposals and papers, as language difficulties may be raised as a concern during the external review process.

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