

CFP: PARENTING WHILE PHDing: SURVIVING AND IMPROVING THE WORKING CONDITIONS OF GRADUATE STUDENT PARENTS

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OBJECTIVE

This edited collection seeks to equip graduate student parents and those who work with graduate student parents with tools and advice to advance a more equitable and inclusive landscape for future graduate students, faculty, and staff parents in higher education. We envision a collection that draws out the stories and strategies proven to be pivotal – even life altering, in some cases – for parents also enrolled in graduate school. We invite contributors from all disciplines to compose short academic essays and/or personal narratives that close with specific strategies, advice, or even warnings about how their disciplinary training and/or lived experiences helped them respond to the challenges of childbearing and childrearing in the academy.

WHY THIS BOOK?

This book continues conversations started by academic mothers earlier in the twenty-first century, acknowledging that quite a lot has changed for parents in the last two decades. *Professor Mommy*, *Academic Motherhood*, and *Mama, PhD*, for example, provide some insight into how parenting can be made possible while rising up the professorial ranks. While excellent resources, these books don't focus specifically on the unique challenges that graduate student parents face, especially parents who identify as BIPOC, transgender, queer, disabled, immigrant, multilingual/ non-native speakers, or first-generation college students. We invite stories and advice from a wide range of folx with the hope to expand the range of voices typically shared in these spaces. Ultimately, this collection aims to uplift and support current and future graduate student parents while also providing faculty and administrators with new ideas for supporting graduate student parents.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We define parenting in broad and inclusive terms. We welcome submissions from writers who identify as biological, foster, adoptive, (non)custodial, stepparents, mothers, fathers, or other primary caregivers for children. We can also imagine possibilities for submissions from authors beyond these commonly accepted parenting roles, too, i.e., authors who encountered infertility, loss, or who otherwise offer interesting perspectives on supporting graduate student parents. Our aim is to represent a diversity of perspectives and voices from academic parents. Some ideas for contributions include (but are not limited to):

- Navigating pregnancy/adoption/parental leave in graduate school
- Balancing parenting and graduate school
- Negotiating the job market while pregnant or parenting
- Supporting pregnant/parenting grad students as WPA/supervisor
- Creating teaching/scholarly/administrative accommodations for pregnant/ parenting graduate students

- Finding or coping with lack of access to childcare
- Coping with pregnancy complications, infertility, miscarriage, or infant loss
- Caring for older children while in graduate school
- Finding strategies/networks/mentors to offset negative or toxic reactions from immediate supervisors/mentors

We envision chapters of approximately 2-3,000 words each because we want to offer contributors the opportunity to author shorter entries that make publishing the viewpoints of former or current graduate student parents more realistic than composing 7-8,000-word chapters. We also hope that these shorter contributions make reading the collection less daunting for interested but overwhelmed working parents.

WHAT'S THE TIMELINE?

April 5, 2022: CFP released.

May 1, 2022: Proposal submissions due.

July 15, 2022: Acceptances sent.

October 15, 2022: Complete submissions due.

January 1, 2023: Feedback provided.

HOW DO I SUBMIT?

Please send a document containing your name, preferred email address, institutional affiliation, current title or graduate student status along with a 250- to 300-word proposal to parentingwhilephding@gmail.com by **May 1, 2022**; queries can be directed to the same address.