

CALL FOR PAPERS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Hosted by the *Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement* (MIRCI) and Ryerson University

**MOTHERS, MOTHERING, AND MOTHERHOOD IN
LITERATURE (Fiction, Poetry, Drama, Life Writing, Creative Non-
Fiction, Social Media)****STILL ACCEPTING ABSTRACTS**

**October 22-24, 2014 Heaslip House, Ryerson University
(297 Victoria Street, Toronto)**

In 1976, Adrienne Rich broke new ground with her text *Of Woman Born*, in which she challenged scholars to confront their tendency to avoid discussions of motherhood, observing: “We know more about the air we breathe, the seas we travel, than about the nature and meaning of motherhood.” Rich’s book helped to launch the academic study of mothering in literature, as evidenced by the publication of several key texts: *The Lost Tradition: Mothers and Daughters in Literature* (1980), *Mother Puzzles: Daughters and Mothers in Contemporary American Literature* (1989), *Women’s Fiction Between the Wars: Mothers, Daughters, and Writing* (1998), *This Giving Birth: Pregnancy and Childbirth in American Women’s Writing* (2000), and *Textual Mothers, Maternal Texts* (2010). The aim of this conference is to advance the study of maternal representations in literary texts throughout history, across diverse narrative genres (fiction, poetry, drama, life writing, creative non-fiction, and social media), and from various maternal perspectives (nationality, ethnicity, race, class, ability, sexuality, ability, age, etc.). Papers from a wide range of disciplines and cultural perspectives, both theoretical/scholarly and creative (stories, narrative, creative non-fiction, poetry) are highly encouraged.

If you are interested in being considered as a presenter, please send a 250-word abstract and a 50-word bio to BOTH

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**** TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT FOR THIS CONFERENCE,
ONE MUST BE A MEMBER OF MIRCI:**

<http://www.motherhoodinitiative.org/membership.html>

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