

TINAKORI:

Critical Journal of the Katherine Mansfield Society

Editors: Dr Kym Brindle and Dr Karen D'Souza



Pain

But a queer thing is – this is personal – however painful a thing has been when I look back it is no longer painful, or no more painful than music is.

Letter from Mansfield to Ida Baker [7 March 1922]¹

This special issue of *Tinakori* seeks to explore representations of physical and emotional pain in Mansfield's writings. In her seminal text *The Body in Pain*, Elaine Scarry suggests that pain defies language to become 'unrepresentable', an idea more recently challenged.² How does Mansfield represent hurt and pain using the literary conventions of short story form (or verse) as a medium? How is this also communicated in her letters and journals? How do bystanders in Mansfield's work or life respond to those who suffer in some way? Is pain a source of connection or separation? In what ways does Mansfield initiate innovative modernist literary strategies to communicate an experience of pain in all its diversity of body and/or emotional experience? This issue seeks submissions that will investigate what Susanna B. Mintz identifies as the 'shaping role of literature' whereby 'writers navigat[e] the experience of pain through the myriad possibilities of form'.³ We will focus on writing shaped to suit a modern age under pressures of change and examine issues of pain and hurt in Mansfield's creative and autobiographical writings.

Suggested topics include, but are not limited to Mansfield's depictions of:

- Physical suffering
- Emotional pain
- Private suffering
- Pain of recollection
- Pain of jealousy and rivalry
- Pain of displacement
- Pain of betrayal
- Pain of loss

- Bodily pain: doctors and medicine
- Illness and impairment
- Witnessing pain: the bystander
- Mansfield's portrayal of victims
- The spectacle of pain
- Cathartic pain
- Autobiographical dimensions for pain and narrative

*Proposals for essays on Mansfield's lesser discussed stories are especially welcome.

Please e-mail abstracts of 500 words to brindlek@edgehill.ac.uk and dsouzak@edgehill.ac.uk by 12 December 2021

Completed essays of 5,000 -6,000 words (including endnotes) in MHRA format due 31 March 2022.

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All essays submitted will be double peer-reviewed prior to acceptance.

¹ *The Edinburgh Edition of the Collected Letters of Katherine Mansfield*, ed. by Claire Davison and Gerri Kimber, 4 vols (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2020), I, p. 122.

² Elaine Scarry, *The Body in Pain* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987), p. 5.

³ Susannah B. Mintz, *Hurt and Pain: Literature and the Suffering Body* (London: Bloomsbury, 2013), p. 10.