

# Site-writing around Breastfeeding

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This position paper presents *site-writing around breastfeeding* to explore how bodies and places are trans-corporeally transformed by one another. Site-writing is a critical spatial practice in which the position of the author is considered in relation to the site of writing itself [9]. My site-writing around breastfeeding includes 1) a poem of social-spatial relations that describes physical locations where we do and don't breastfeed, and who of us is present and absent; and 2) individual site-writings about each location to draw attention to the particulars of each space and place that support the presence or absence of breastfeeding [4]. This practice has been important for thinking with the social, material, and power relationships between bodies and places [1, 12]. This includes the implicit and explicit privileging of particular breastfeeding experiences [6, 10], the situated environmental impact on breastfed-bodies [3, 11], and power hierarchies in multispecies relations [7, 8]. From this, I am further interesting in exploring breastfeeding as entangled in ecological issues and how a more-than-human perspective of milk as agentic [2, 5] might contribute towards radical futures of technology for breastfeeding.

Additional Key Words and Phrases: transcorporeality, breastfeeding, site-writing, more-than-human

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## 1 A POEM OF SOCIAL-SPATIAL RELATIONS (WE/US)

*Mother (I/me), child (she/her), and co-caretaker (he/him)*

### These are the spaces and places

where we breastfeed most,

(Us in the bedroom sleeping)

where we don't,

(She at preschool without me and him)

where we kind of do,

(She and him anywhere without me and with a bottle)

where we won't,

(Me on a trail running without her and him)

where we privately suckle,

(She with me in sling at the store)

where we publicly nibble,

(Us in the kitchen visible to neighbors)

where we hesitate,

(Us in a living room with others)

where we negotiate,

(Us at the table eating)

and where we unwind,

(She and I in the bathtub without him)

bodies mingling in time.

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### 1.1 Bedroom (19:20 Dec 4th 2020)

*A mattress on the floor encompasses most of the room. High on a dresser, the low hum of a humidifier fills the remaining space with a soft mist, faintly blue from its light. The night is long, interrupted in predictable intervals, yet ends too soon. On top of the mattress are two duvets, two pillows, and three indentations. The smaller in between two larger somehow takes much more space.*



### 1.2 Preschool (11:31 Dec 11th 2020)

*Click, tap tap, click, click, tap on two laptops on a big wooden table. The clicking stops, this room is still and silent. The sandbox is probably vacant, except for shovels and buckets. The ball is probably alone, except for traces of dirt and snot. Small chairs are probably occupied, around small tables with warm plates and cold glasses.*



### 1.3 Anywhere (13:55 Dec 21st 2020)

*First, a coffee with an unfolding of birthday weekend stories. Second, a first breakfast of eggs with a side of relationships. Third, a second breakfast of pancakes with a side of work. Or is it lunch?*

### 1.4 Trail (10:05 Dec 6th 2020)

*An array of moons. Pulls path forward. Wet from rain. Sprinkled with pebbles. Swans. Puddles hide. Mud muddles paces. No more blueberries. Two deer wait. The wind is loud. Soft. A fast cloud of exhales. Dogs on either side. Tethered. A silent stroller. Plaid season. Coffee metabolizes. Heavy.*





### 1.5 Store (16:30 Dec 20th 2020)

*Grey wool socks; yellow sneakers; green underwear; big skinny jeans; a grey spandex tank top, one side unclipped, pulled down; a black wool top, split in front, pulled up. A folded muslin, fastened; a blue wool cover, snug; a white onesie, buttoned; pink cotton socks; green sneakers; small skinny jeans; a blue sweater with the wrong monogrammed initials; a grey fleece; a yellow overcoat. A ring sling of many colors. A navy winter coat wraps all, concealing most.*

### 1.6 Kitchen (17:55 Dec 9th 2020)

*The oven is hot, the stove is hot, the fridge is briefly cool. Music plays. Stickers stuck. Some new, some old, all placed with serious intent. This? An onion peel. Rolling, rolling, rolling small balls of blue play-dough: flour, salt, olive oil, water, and food coloring. And a bit of onion peel. Is it raining? Many other windows are close, bright, and occupied. Everything to its place.*

### 1.7 Living Room (13:35 Dec 12th 2020)

*An unfamiliar space. Not new, yet different. Warm and bubbly. Cheese, pâté, and bread. Beer, wine, or both? Many interesting balls: holey ball, yoga ball, meat balls, belly ball. Roll, sit, eat, hug. Kick under the table! Boing on the carpet! Pick with the fork! Rub gently, and poke some too.*



### 1.8 Table (7:50 Dec 15th 2020)

*An incidental collaboration: Scrambled eggs, hummus, and apple slices. Hold spoon, pass fork. Egg on fork, pass back. Bite, repeat. Bite, repeat. Spoon explores hummus... hummus explores table... hummus leaves scene. Sliced tomato joins. Pass tomato, peel skin, pass back. Bite, repeat. All done! Refresh plate with snipped cherries, and oatmeal. Hold spoon, pass fork. Oatmeal on fork, pass back, cheery on oatmeal. Bite, repeat. Bite, repeat. A. Careful. Sip. Of. Water. Hairclipsipofwater. All done!*

### 1.9 Bathtub (18:55 Dec 4th 2020)

*A generous white tub is filled with warm water. And probably some pee. Frog, giraffe! Where did they go? In the bucket? On the floor? There they are! Is that a noise from the apartment above? Frog farted. Not the only one. Big waves come by surprise. The water stills, time pauses. The tub is not empty, but no longer full, with droplets shaken all over the floor.*



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