Synopsis

Phenomenological insights into health issues relating to bodily self-experience, normality and deviance, self-alienation, and objectification. Situated at the intersection of phenomenology of medicine and feminist phenomenology, this volume provides insights into medical practices such as surgical operations, organ transplants, dentistry, midwifery, and psychiatry. The contributors make clear the relevance of feminist phenomenology to the fields of medicine and health by highlighting difference, vulnerability, and volatility as central dimensions of human experience rather than deviations. It also further vitalizes the field of phenomenology by bringing it into conversation with a range of different materials—including case studies, fiction, and other forms of narrative—and shedding new light on issues like bodily self-experience, normality and deviance, self-alienation, and objectification. The volume’s focus on concrete experience develops and sharpens the methodological tools and conceptual framework of phenomenology and makes it an excellent resource for scholars, students, and medical practitioners alike. This book is a significant and original contribution to both feminist theory and phenomenology. The volume bridges a range of fields of inquiry, filling a gap in the feminist scholarship on medicine while, at the same time, providing theoretical insights that will inform conceptual and practical concerns within biomedicine.

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