

Extended bodies

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Propositions supplement to the dissertation

EXTENDED BODIES

An empirical-philosophical study to women's bodily experiences in breast cancer

1. Women's bodily experiences in breast cancer are constructed in relation to their material, narrative, socio-cultural, and temporary contexts. (*this dissertation*)
2. In order to move around comfortably, women who have lost one breast may make a 'pirate bra'. It is through these kinds of material adjustments that women shape their embodied agency in breast cancer. (*this dissertation, chapter 2*)
3. In daily life, women with breast cancer are generally represented as unmarked, feminine and energetic survivors. Weblogs offer women alternative possibilities to present themselves, namely as also disfigured, disabled, and ill. (*this dissertation, chapter 3*)
4. Sharing breast cancer experiences between partners is not only a harmonious effort, but also goes together with distancing, negotiation, and conflict. (*this dissertation, chapter 4*)
5. The use of the term 'reconstruction' in the context of a breast reconstruction is misleading. (*this dissertation, chapter 5*)
6. Experiencing and making sense of self and life becomes possible within and through personal stories. (*Paul Ricoeur, Narrative Identity*)
7. In breast cancer research, the aspect of women's subjective illness experiences is not properly accounted for.
8. Philosophers should come out of their armchair and include empirical research as part of their theorizing.
9. Pink ribbons obscure reality. Cancer is not a glamour party, cancer is not a glossy magazine. Cancer is scary and nasty, and all too often lethal. (*Karin Spaink, I write therefore I am*)
10. Doing a PhD requires putting the best foot forward, getting the bit between the teeth, having a strong backbone, and a shot in the arm.
11. A dissertation in philosophy questions our existence. It is contradictory to summarize such a dissertation in propositions.