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contents

CLUSTER: CONTESTING THE NORMS OF EMBODIMENT

Edited by Debra Bergoffen and Gail Weiss

Editors' Introduction

Articles

Gayle Salamon 243

The Phenomenology of Rheumatology: Disability, Merleau-Ponty, and the Fallacy of Maximal Grip

261

Bodily Disorientation and Moral Change

281 Jenny Slatman

Phenomenology of Bodily Integrity in Disfiguring Breast Cancer

Marjorie Jolles

Between Embodied Subjects and Objects: Narrative Somaesthetics

319 Talia Bettcher

Full-Frontal Morality: The Naked Truth about Gender

Review Essay

338 Paddy McQueen

Embodiment and Agency edited by Sue Campbell, Letitia Meynell, and Susan Sherwin and Agency and Embodiment: Performing Gestures/Producing Culture by Carrie Noland

OPEN ISSUE CONTENT

Articles

Jennifer Rosato 348

Woman as Vulnerable Self: The Trope of Maternity in Levinas's Otherwise Than Being

Tove Pettersen 366

Conceptions of Care: Altruism, Feminism, and Mature Care

Samuel A. Butler 390

A Fourth Subject Position of Care

Ornaith O'Dowd 407

Care and Abstract Principles

Paula Cameron 423

Curriculum Vitae: Embodied Ethics at the Seams of Intelligibility

Review Essay

440 **Shelley Tremain**

The Faces of Intellectual Disability: Philosophical Reflections by Licia Carlson and Racism and Sexual Oppression in Anglo-America: A Genealogy by Ladelle McWhorter

Book Reviews

Moira Howes 446

Feminist Technology

edited by Linda L. Layne, Sharra L. Vostral, and Kate Boyer

Li-Hsiang Lisa Rosenlee

Femininity and Feminism: Chinese and Contemporary [A Special Issue of the Journal of Chinese Philosophy] edited by Linyu Gu

Emanuela Bianchi

Rewriting Difference: Irigaray and "The Greeks" edited by Elena Tzelepis and Athena Athanasiou

Musings

Louise Antony and Ann E. Cudd 461 The Mentoring Project

Notes on Contributors 469

Hypatia (Hy-pay-sha) was a philosopher, mathematician, and astronomer who lived in Alexandria from her birth in about 370 A.D. until her death in 415. She was the leader of the Neoplatonic School in Alexandria and was famous as an eloquent and inspiring teacher. The journal *Hypatia* is named in honor of this foresister. Her name reminds us that although many of us are the first women philosophers in our schools, we are not, after all, the first in history.

Hypatia has its roots in the Society for Women in Philosophy, many of whose members have for years envisioned a regular publication devoted to feminist philosophy. Hypatia is the realization of that vision; it is intended to encourage and communicate many different kinds of feminist philosophy.