

Future Directions in Feminist Phenomenology
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Feminist Bio-phenomenology

ABSTRACT

Biotechnological interventions aim at the materiality of the human body, they reconstruct the gender, political and social relations between humans.

Phenomenologists have emphasized that the human body is more than a thing. It *has* sensation, it is an anchorage in the world and someone is her body. Therefore, medical and technological interventions into the body are always more than touching the body's materiality, its bones and blood. They are challenges to the corporeal integrity and personal identity, to society and its power structures.

Bioethics has the task to reflect upon biotechnological intervention; it aims, however, often only at juridical and normative questions of permission or prohibition. Thus, in order to also address the underlying personal, bodily, social practices and its meaning structures, bioethics and phenomenology must be intertwined. Hence, if the relation between human life and its prepersonal materiality – my body which is no longer me – becomes questionable, phenomenology becomes bio-phenomenology. Moreover, it becomes feminist bio-phenomenology because the issues of gender and the restructuring of gender relations within society are central to biotechnological intervention.