

**Hypatia Special Issue Proposal**  
**New Conversations in Feminist Disability Studies**  
**Guest Edited by**  
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In 2001 *Hypatia* published a special double issue on feminism and disability. This special issue featured important work that launched a crucial conversation between feminist philosophy and what was at that time understood to be the “new disability studies,” an area of research defined by its critique of the medical model of disability. The essays in *Hypatia*’s first special issue on feminism and disability sought to rethink feminist philosophical approaches to ethics, care, embodiment, identity, and justice from the perspective of disabled women’s experiences.

Over a decade has passed since the appearance of *Hypatia*’s special double issue on feminism and disability, and in that time there has been tremendous growth in the fields of disability studies, feminist disability studies, and queer disability studies/crip theory. Questions raised in these new areas of research continue to build on, challenge, and transform understanding of subjectivity, the body, identity, and agency. For example, an emergent literature in “crip theory” challenges the assumptions of a stable, self-evident disability identity in disability studies and raises new questions about what disability as a category excludes, includes, makes possible (McRuer 2006); feminist disability studies has emerged as a vibrant, diverse field (Hall 2011; Thomson 1997, 2002, 2009; Kafer 2003); and feminist philosophers have turned to intellectual disability to challenge assumptions about reason, citizenship, agency, personhood, justice, and autonomy (Kittay 2001, 2005, 2011; Nussbaum 2006; Carlson 2010). My list of recent works is not exhaustive. Rather, my aim is to point to some of the recent works that have changed the landscape of the field since the publication of *Hypatia*’s first special issue on disability. Yet, I am proposing a new special issue on disability because much of disability studies’ potential for feminist philosophy remains untapped.

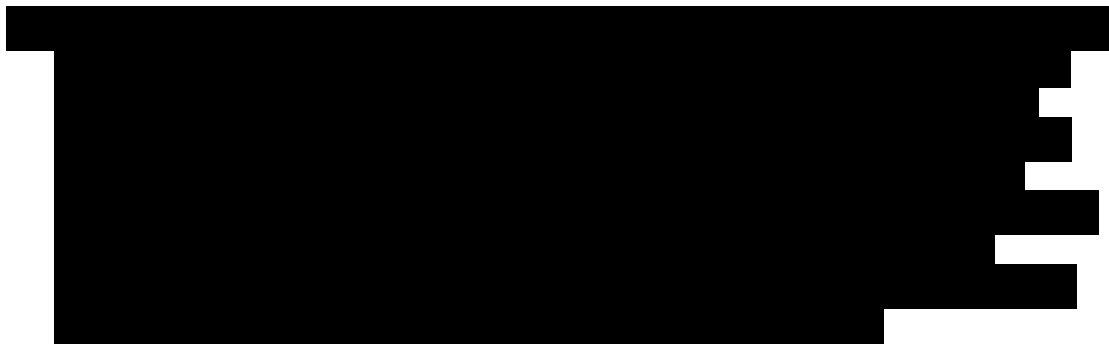
Feminist philosophers have produced and continue to produce groundbreaking work on disability, agency, care, reproductive technologies, autonomy, and justice. While these concerns remain crucial for feminist theoretical work in bioethics, the ethics of care, and social and political philosophy, a new special issue on disability provides an opportunity to engage with projects that utilize a disability studies framework to enhance feminist theoretical work in epistemology, aesthetics, phenomenology, environmental philosophy (including ecofeminism and queer ecology), metaphysics, science studies, queer theory, animal studies, and critical race theory. In other words, within philosophy, the assumption, historically, seems to have been that disability is *most* relevant in ethics and social and political philosophy. The special issue I am proposing would provide an opportunity and space for conversations between feminist philosophical work in ethics and social and political philosophy and feminist philosophical work in other areas.

As the premier journal in feminist philosophy, *Hypatia* is the ideal venue in which to feature this new work. As guest editor of this proposed special issue, I would welcome

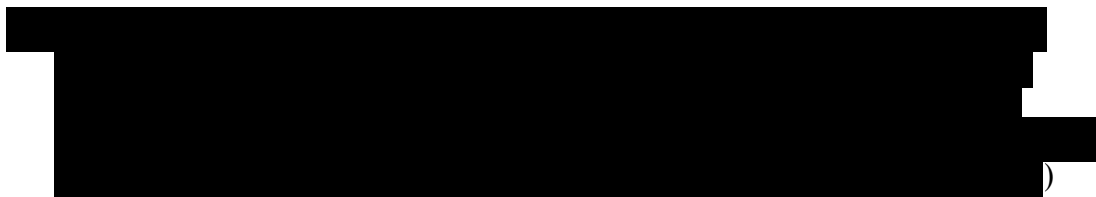
new work on feminist disability studies in bioethics, the ethics of care, and social and political philosophy; but at the same time, I would seek essays that expand feminist philosophical and theoretical engagements with disability. I would like to place these valuable, yet diverse, feminist theoretical approaches to disability in conversation with one another.


The proposed special issue has four primary goals: (1) to make available new scholarship on disability in feminist philosophy and theory; (2) to demonstrate the relevance of disability analysis to feminist philosophical work in epistemology, science studies, environmental philosophy, critical race theory, phenomenology, metaphysics, aesthetics, as well as social and political philosophy and ethics; (3) to offer insight into the possibility of a feminist philosophical conception of and engagement with disability in which the subject and materiality of disability is questioned; and (4) to enrich the field of feminist philosophy by creating a space for conversation between feminist theorists who approach disability through ethics and social and political philosophy and feminist theorists who approach disability through other philosophical traditions. The working title for the call for papers (and this proposal) is *New Conversations in Feminist Disability Studies*; however, a more specific title for the special issue might emerge once I am able to identify common themes between papers accepted for the special issue. At this stage, the more general title would encourage a wider range of contributions.

**List of Feminist Philosophers and Theorists Working on this Subject or in this Field**



In addition to the above-named scholars, the following is a list of theorists who might not self-identify as scholars who work on the topic of feminist disability studies. Nonetheless, their work has already made (or has the potential to make) important contributions to disability studies and feminist disability studies. Thus, I include them in my list of potential contributors and/or readers. In addition, there are a few people on the following list who situate themselves more centrally in disability studies; however, their expertise in disability studies could be useful when I need readers in particular areas.





I would use these lists to generate more readers if necessary, and I would reach more potential contributors with the call for papers. In addition to *Hypatia's* website, I would post the call for papers in the following venues: SWIP-L (society for women in philosophy listserv), FEAST listserv (feminist ethics and social theory listserv), WMST-L (women's studies listserv), QStudy (queer theory listserv), DSHUM (disability studies in the humanities listserv), American Philosophical Association website, the Society for Disability Studies website, women in philosophy and disability studies blogs, and the call for papers website offered through the English Department at University of Pennsylvania (a site widely accessed by interdisciplinary scholars). I would also welcome additional suggestions from *Hypatia's* editors. I would work hard to post the call for papers wherever relevant in order to ensure diversity, breadth, and depth of submissions.

### **Statement of Qualifications and Interest in Editing this Special Issue**

My own work in feminist philosophy focuses on questions about the body and subjectivity as they are informed by gender, race, disability, and sexuality. I have published in this field, and I have significant editorial experience. I was the guest editor for a special issue of *NWSA* (National Women's Studies Association) *Journal* on feminist disability studies. Also, I am the editor of a book titled *Feminist Disability Studies* (Indiana University Press 2011), and I am the co-editor of a book titled *Whiteness: Feminist Philosophical Reflections* (Rowman and Littlefield 1999). During the years that *NWSA Journal* was housed at my university, I served for one semester as its Book Review Editor and for three years as an Associate Editor. As is most likely true for all feminist philosophers, *Hypatia* has played a formative role in my career. Its first issues were published when I was an undergraduate, and as a graduate student, I had the opportunity to serve as an Assistant Book Review Editor for *Hypatia*. It would be an honor to be a guest editor of a new *Hypatia* special issue on disability. I am confident that my expertise in this area and editorial experience, as well my many contacts within the field upon whom I can call for advice and networking, would enable me to produce a special issue that would make a significant contribution to scholarship in feminist philosophy and disability studies.

**Call for Papers Draft**  
**New Conversations in Feminist Disability Studies**

*Hypatia: Journal of Feminist Philosophy* is seeking new work for a special issue on disability with the general theme of *New Conversations in Feminist Disability Studies*. In 2001 *Hypatia* published its first special issue on feminist philosophy and disability. Since that time, there has been a great deal of disability scholarship in feminist and queer theory. A new special issue provides the opportunity to consider interventions, innovations, and transformations in feminist theory occasioned by theories and concepts that animate feminist disability studies, disability studies, queer disability studies/crip theory.

Within philosophy, much of the discussion of disability has occurred in the areas of bioethics, ethics of care, and social and political philosophy. This work remains crucial for furthering philosophical understanding of disability. In addition to these areas of philosophy, this special issue seeks to provide a space for new feminist philosophical analyses of disability, as well as new feminist, queer, and feminist queer crip conversations between scholarship on disability in ethics and social and political philosophy and scholarship on disability in epistemology, science studies, environmental philosophy, ecofeminism, queer ecology, aesthetics, critical race theory, metaphysics, phenomenology, and queer theory. Papers on any topic pertaining to feminist or feminist queer crip analyses of disability are welcome, including (but not limited to) the following:

- Disability and Phenomenology
- Disability and the meaning and/or experience of sex and gender, transgender, and intersex
- Disability and orientation/reorientation/disorientation of understandings of time and space
- Disability and epistemologies of ignorance
- Disability, gender, race, class, and sexuality
- Disability, national identity, and nationalism
- Disability and/as “assemblage”
- Disability and the question of “the animal”
- Disability and environmentalism, ecology, ecofeminism, and/or queer ecology
- Disability and critical analyses of science, scientific knowledge, nature, and human nature
- Disability and posthumanism
- Disability, feminist materialism, and “agential realism”
- Disability, ethics, and politics
- Access, accommodation, quality of life
- The relationship between impairment and disability identity
- Illness, disease, impairment, bodily limitation, pain, failure
- Bodies and borders

- The meaning of art and aesthetic concepts through the lens of disability
- Rethinking the canon of western philosophy through the lens of feminist disability studies
- Disability and globalization
- Feminist/queer/crip perspectives on the Occupy Movement and other global movements for economic, environmental, social, and political justice

Deadline for submissions would be indicated here and will be set when/if this proposal is approved.

Papers should be no more than 8000 words, inclusive of notes and bibliography, prepared for anonymous review, and accompanied by an abstract of no more than 200 words. For details please see *Hypatia's* submission guidelines (link to those guidelines would be included here).

Details about uploaded papers to manuscript central, along with my name and contact information would be included here.

### **Copy of my CV**

A copy of my cv is attached as a separate document.