ABSTRACT

NORMALIZING BODIES, SITUATED PRACTICES

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In this article I want to explore the mainly surgical normalization of bodies in the medical practices of plastic surgery, cosmetic surgery and rehabilitation of the disabled. I will do this by drawing on feminist analyses of cosmetic surgery, disability studies and analyses of my own fieldwork in plastic reconstructive surgery clinics. As theoretical tools I will use medicalization, the gaze and inscription. I will put these tools in dialogue with the medical practices and discuss how these tools are both exposing and making normalization. I will question what bodies are made normal and how bodies are marked as abnormal. In this I will pay special attention to the making of difference in terms of gender and disability, but also investigate the different meanings the normal and the abnormal carry.

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