



Limits of Knowledge, The: Generating Pragmatist Feminist Cases for Situated Knowing

Nancy Arden McHugh

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Argues for a transactionally situated approach to science and medicine in order to meet the needs of marginalized groups.

The Limits of Knowledge provides an understanding of what pragmatist feminist theories look like in practice, combining insights from the work of American pragmatist John Dewey concerning experimental inquiry and transaction with arguments for situated knowledge rooted in contemporary feminism. Using case studies to demonstrate some of the particular ways that dominant scientific and medical practices fail to meet the health needs of marginalized groups and communities, Nancy Arden McHugh shows how transactionally situated approaches are better able to meet the needs of these communities. Examples include a community action group fighting environmental injustice in Bayview Hunters Point, California, one of the most toxic communities in the US; gender, race, age, and class biases in the study and diagnosis of endometriosis; a critique of Evidence-Based Medicine; the current effects of Agent Orange on Vietnamese women and children; and pediatric treatment of Amish and Mennonite children.

“...an exemplary model of situated, engaged philosophy, both as a set of arguments compiled in a book, and as a reflection of the practices of situated, engaged philosophical research used to support the arguments.” — *hypatia*

“...McHugh’s book provides an example of what a pragmatist feminist theory of knowledge looks like in practice.” — *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal*

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