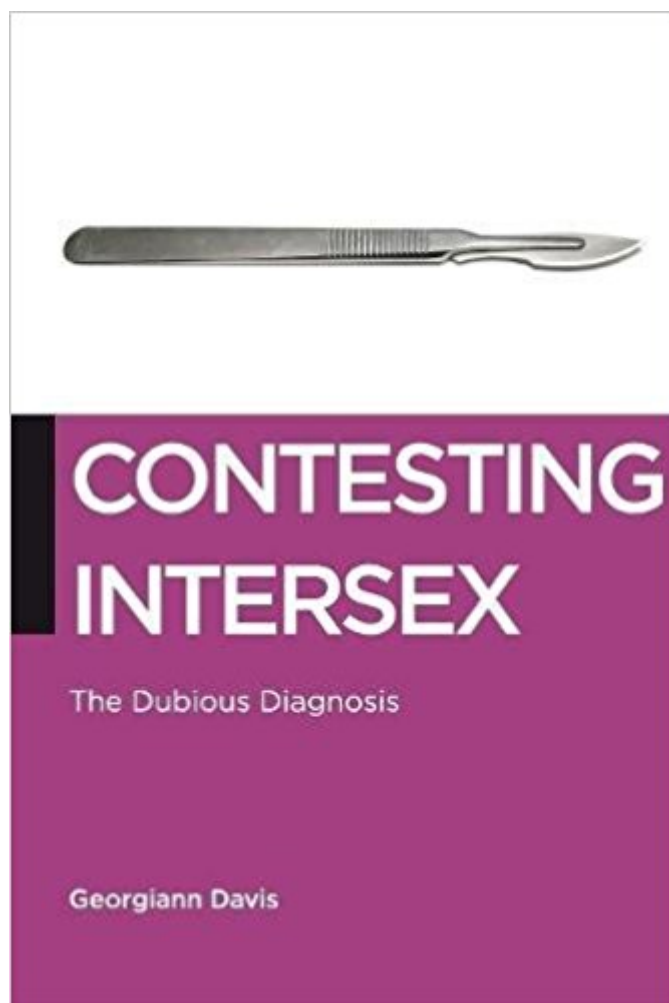


The book was found

Contesting Intersex: The Dubious Diagnosis (Biopolitics)



Synopsis

Watch Georgiann Davis in National Geographic's Gender Revolution documentary with Katie Couric. A personal, compelling perspective on how medical diagnoses can profoundly hurt, or help, the lived experiences of entire communities. Winner, 2016 Donald Light Award for the Applied or Public Practice of Medical Sociology, presented by the American Sociological Association. When sociologist Georgiann Davis was a teenager, her doctors discovered that she possessed XY chromosomes, marking her as intersex. Rather than share this information with her, they withheld the diagnosis in order to "protect" the development of her gender identity; it was years before Davis would see her own medical records as an adult and learn the truth.

Davis's experience is not unusual. Many intersex people feel isolated from one another and violated by medical practices that support conventional notions of the male/female sex binary which have historically led to secrecy and shame about being intersex. Yet, the rise of intersex activism and visibility in the US has called into question the practice of classifying intersex as an abnormality, rather than as a mere biological variation. This shift in thinking has the potential to transform entrenched intersex medical treatment. In *Contesting Intersex*, Davis draws on interviews with intersex people, their parents, and medical experts to explore the oft-questioned views on intersex in medical and activist communities, as well as the evolution of thought in regards to intersex visibility and transparency. She finds that framing intersex as an abnormality is harmful and can alter the course of one's life. In fact, controversy over this framing continues, as intersex has been renamed a "disorder of sex development" throughout medicine. This happened, she suggests, as a means for doctors to reassert their authority over the intersex body in the face of increasing intersex activism in the 1990s and feminist critiques of intersex medical treatment. Davis argues the renaming of "intersex" as a "disorder of sex development" is strong evidence that the intersex diagnosis is dubious. Within the intersex community, though, disorder of sex development terminology is hotly disputed; some prefer not to use a term which pathologizes their bodies, while others prefer to think of intersex in scientific terms. Although terminology is currently a source of tension within the movement, Davis hopes intersex activists and their allies can come together to improve the lives of intersex people, their families, and future generations. However, for this to happen, the intersex diagnosis, as well as sex, gender, and sexuality, needs to be understood as socially constructed phenomena. A personal journey into medical and social activism, *Contesting Intersex* presents a unique perspective on how medical diagnoses can affect lives profoundly. Ask us about setting up a Skype-in with the author for your class.

Book Information

Series: Biopolitics

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: NYU Press; 1 edition (September 11, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1479887048

ISBN-13: 978-1479887040

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #51,945 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in [Books > Gay & Lesbian > Nonfiction > Transgender](#) #72 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Medicine](#) #137 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > Sexuality](#)

Customer Reviews

“Davis presents a compelling and beautifully-crafted text about the complex issues of gender and sexual identity. How medicine and diagnosis can either come in aid of, or brutally disrupt the experience of intersexuality is an important paradox, worthy of reflection and debate.

With this book, Davis gets the ball rolling and demands our attention. It is well-worth the read.”

—Annemarie Jutel, author of *Putting a Name to It: Diagnosis in Contemporary Society*

“Davis provides her readers with a concise overview of her research as well as lists calls to action. Davis’s strengths lie in the seamless blending of research, ethnography, interviews, and personal activism.”

—American Book Review

“Contesting Intersex is an unapologetic coalescence of Davis’s first-hand experiences of an intersex diagnosis and her academic inquiry into the topic.”

Whilst this, as she acknowledges, may make the book read like an autoethnography at certain points, theory, politics and practice have never been discrete in intersex studies.

Davis’s own history and current participation in the intersex community help her to provide a circumspect consideration of the tensions at play.”

—Sociology of Health & Illness

“Contesting Intersex” is an essential update to studies of the intersex and a must-read for those interested in social movements, gender, medicalization, diagnosis, and the relationship between science and culture.”

—American

Journal of Sociology

“The histories of medicine, social movements, and gender productivity collide in sociologist Davis’s compelling account of how activists, parents, assorted

medical specialists and institutions, and people with intersex traits respond to the diversity of human reproductive development...[T]his book will inspire and inform the wide readership it deserves. —Choice—“Through piercing interviews and astute analysis, and in a readable style, *Contesting Intersex* gets at the heart of recent controversies about the medical management of intersex and perceptively tracks the political engagement of intersex activists.” —Elizabeth Reis, author of *Bodies in Doubt: An American History of Intersex*—“With refreshingly honest prose and an insider’s insight, Georgiann Davis illuminates the ongoing, heated, and often painful debate about how best to respond to the naturally occurring diversity of sex development in human beings. This is groundbreaking work that is sure to become required reading for scholars of gender and the social history of medicine.” —Sharon Preves, author of *Intersex and Identity: The Contested Self*

Georgiann Davis is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She is the past President of the AIS-DSD Support Group (www.aisdsd.org) for individuals with differences of sex development.

Very informative! I had to write a research paper on the medical field in relation to the intersex community, and it was just what I needed. I would recommend this to anyone with an intersex child, student, patient, or friend.

Just finished reading this, and I highly recommend it. Academic books are not always beautifully written, but this one was absolutely readable, well-structured and fascinating. The author has a gift for research and for clarity of thought. She elegantly uses aspects of her own story and those of other intersex individuals to draw out and provide concrete examples of the human implications of her research. Even if you don’t think you’d be interested in intersex issues/politics/medical interventions, you will be from the moment you pick up this book. I teach at the university level, and I think that this book (or excerpts from it) should be required reading in all Gender, Sexuality, & Women’s Studies programs.

Interesting study of intersex. I feel like I also now know the author because she really writes herself and her experience into the book.

A passionate and accessible account of intersex in contemporary U.S. society.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Contesting Intersex: The Dubious Diagnosis (Biopolitics) Intersex (For Lack of a Better Word) Fixing Sex: Intersex, Medical Authority, and Lived Experience Reproductive Disruptions: Gender, Technology, and Biopolitics in the New Millennium (Fertility, Reproduction and Sexuality: Social and Cultural Perspectives) The Birth of Biopolitics: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1978--1979 (Lectures at the College de France) Infrastructures of Race: Concentration and Biopolitics in Colonial Mexico (Border Hispanisms) Processing the Past: Contesting Authority in History and the Archives (Oxford Series on History and Archives) Contesting Elder Abuse and Neglect: Ageism, Risk, and the Rhetoric of Rights in the Mistreatment of Older People Exhibiting Patriotism: Creating and Contesting Interpretations of American Historic Sites The Real War on Obesity: Contesting Knowledge and Meaning in a Public Health Crisis (Palgrave Studies in Science, Knowledge and Policy) Green Encounters: Shaping and Contesting Environmentalism in Rural Costa Rica (Environmental Anthropology and Ethnobiology) John Steinbeck : Novels and Stories, 1932-1937 : The Pastures of Heaven / To a God Unknown / Tortilla Flat / In Dubious Battle / Of Mice and Men (Library of America) Dubious Gastronomy: The Cultural Politics of Eating Asian in the USA (Food in Asia and the Pacific) Dubious Knowledge: Doubtful Facts, Twisted History and Other Humorosities (Book One) Useless Facts Galore Part 2 - Yes, It's A Weird And Crazy World! Unusual Trivia And Facts You Didn't Know!: Discover Mind Blowing Stories, Dubious Places And People And Humorous History Events. Stat-Spotting: A Field Guide to Identifying Dubious Data Claiming His Prize: Forceful Men Prey Fantasy (Dubious Book 1) Very Late Diagnosis of Asperger Syndrome (Autism Spectrum Disorder): How Seeking a Diagnosis in Adulthood Can Change Your Life Differential Diagnosis for Physical Therapists: Screening for Referral, 5e (Differential Diagnosis In Physical Therapy) Stroke E-Book: Pathophysiology, Diagnosis, and Management (Stroke Pathophysiology Diagnosis and Management)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)