DECOLONIZING THE BODY: BREAST CANCER AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN TOXIC TIMES

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Abstract
This dissertation explores cultural narratives regarding the relationship between environmental toxins and breast cancer causation. It is not an analysis of current scientific research; grounded in Foucault's theory of genealogy and archaeology, it evaluates cultural narratives on breast cancer causation that may be subsumed by the mainstream focus upon a cure for breast cancer, overlooking how people with breast cancer perceive illness causation, particularly as it relates to toxic exposure. Theories of place, space, and the neoliberal politics behind biotechnology support understanding the toxification of the human body as neocolonialism, and invite decolonizing methodologies as a means of understanding and opposing what is happening in the microgeographies of "inner space." Current artistic representations of breast cancer causation and the toxic body are evaluated as a means for reframing discussions about breast cancer to bring discourses of breast cancer causation into what Rancière identifies as "the sensible," or that arena of political discourse that is mainstream, topical and drives mass cultural awareness.

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This dissertation explores cultural narratives regarding the relationship between environmental toxins and breast cancer causation. It is not an analysis of current scientific research; grounded in Foucault's theory of genealogy and archaeology, it evaluates cultural narratives on breast cancer causation that may be subsumed by the mainstream focus upon a cure for breast cancer, overlooking how toxic halides excrete very slowly from the body, because there is no known liver detoxification pathway for them. But excretion can be increased with the following: high-dose iodine, high-dose vitamin C (which aids detoxification), unrefined sea salt (which substitutes chloride for bromide), Epsom salts baths, and sweating in a dry heat far infrared sauna. Perchlorate is found naturally in the environment and can be manmade. It has become a major contaminant of ground water in 43 states. The entire lower Colorado River is contaminated with perchlorate, affecting 20 million people.