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The Fat Studies Reader

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THE FAT STUDIES READER

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#122497 in Books NYU Press 2009-11-04 2009-11-04 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.00 x .99 x 7.00l, 1.56 #File Name: 0814776310396 pages | File size: 23.Mb

From Brand: NYU Press : The Fat Studies Reader before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Fat Studies Reader:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Solid starting point for researchers interested in fat studies that may be of value for some non-academic readers as well. By BrittRae This is an excellent point of entry if you are not familiar with research in the area of fat studies. The essays cover a great breadth of topics relevant to many traditional academic disciplines (medicine, public health, history, rhetoric, political science/sociology/anthropology, education, literature, etc). Although the chapters are brief, they provide citations to previous work that you can easily track down if you want to explore any particular topic in greater depth. Some of the essays serve primarily as literature reviews,

while others seek to make research contributions of their own. Methodologically, the essays either used or cited research involving a wide range of methods from medical/health science, social science (qualitative, quantitative, and experimental), and the humanities (Foucaultian analysis, queer theory, feminist theory, critical race theory, critiques of neoliberalism, etc.). I am particularly interested in the topics of bodies and imagination, both of which were themes of several of the essays. Overall, this volume falls squarely into the tradition of socially conscious academic research that performs both a scholarly and activist function. As always in an edited volume, some of the chapters are stronger than others. Which ones you assess to be the better ones will likely depend on the perspective you're coming from. Some potential readers may wish to take note that this is primarily an academic volume, although there are also several chapters written by activists and other practitioners (e.g. people in the fat burlesque and fat exercise movements). While it is clear to me that most of the authors have a serious attempt to write in a relatively accessible fashion, the primary audience is other academic researchers. I think college-educated adults or even college students should be capable of reading at least many of the chapters in this book without too much difficulty, although you may want to look at some of the popular books on this topic if you are not looking for academic research. I will say that Deb Burgard's essay on *Heath At Any Size* is very important reading for everyone, especially for healthcare providers and fat people who wish to advocate for themselves in medical contexts, even though it uses some technical language (none of which I think is too difficult to follow, but YMMV).

10 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Spectacular assessment of the FAT situation and an amazing body of work
By Joe S. What an amazing book. I read every single page and every essay and loved it start to finish. In some ways I've always felt like a late-comer to Fat Studies, though the pursuit is still in its nascence, but the *Fat Studies Reader* caught me up to speed on a variety of topics. I love that this book is out there and I only hope that it will get into more classrooms so that students can start to understand that there's so much more dimension to a fat life than the medicalized view of "obesity" allows. Congratulations to all of those involved in this amazing project.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. problems with kindle version
By Brooke L Reynoldsthis was not put together very well. I understand fat studies is a new area of study, but the organization was strange, some of the articles were not as relevant as they could have been and the kindle version did not have page numbers or a systematic way to jump from article to article. it was very difficult to work with when writing academic papers.

Winner of the 2010 Distinguished Publication Award from the Association for Women in Psychology
Winner of the 2010 Susan Koppelman Award for the Best Edited Volume in Women's Studies from the Popular Culture Association
We have all seen the segments on television news shows: A fat person walking on the sidewalk, her face out of frame so she can't be identified, as some disconcerting findings about the "obesity epidemic" stalking the nation are read by a disembodied voice. And we have seen the movies—their obvious lack of large leading actors silently speaking volumes. From the government, health industry, diet industry, news media, and popular culture we hear that we should all be focused on our weight. But is this national obsession with weight and thinness good for us? Or is it just another form of prejudice—one with especially dire consequences for many already disenfranchised groups? For decades a growing cadre of scholars has been examining the role of body weight in society, critiquing the underlying assumptions, prejudices, and effects of how people perceive and relate to fatness. This burgeoning movement, known as fat studies, includes scholars from every field, as well as activists, artists, and intellectuals. The *Fat Studies Reader* is a milestone achievement, bringing together fifty-three diverse voices to explore a wide range of topics related to body weight. From the historical construction of fatness to public health policy, from job discrimination to social class disparities, from chick-lit to airline seats, this collection covers it all. Edited by two leaders in the field, *The Fat Studies Reader* is an invaluable resource that provides a historical overview of fat studies, an in-depth examination of the movement's fundamental concerns, and an up-to-date look at its innovative research.

From Publishers Weekly
With 40 essays that span an impressive array of academic and popular approaches, this book is the first to collect the essential texts of the blossoming discipline known as fat studies, which explores why the oppression of fat people remains acceptable in American culture. As contributor Bianca D.M. Wilson notes in her piece, fat studies is an arena where the personal, political and scientific converge, and with this book, readers can mount an informed challenge to the medical construction of obesity and size, the diet industry, insurance companies, public policy and popular culture. Arranged thematically, the essays survey the social and historical construction of fatness, fatness as social inequality and even size-ism in popular culture and literature. While one essay points out the North American biases of the current state of fat studies, new cross-cultural work would do well to attend to this volume first. It may be too soon for the movement to offer utopian alternatives, but these essays offer a rich supply of tools for the activist and scholar willing to start the revolution, including a fat liberation manifesto. (Dec.) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. *Idquo;*With forty essays that span an impressive array of academic and popular approaches, this book is the first to collect the essential texts of the blossoming discipline known as fat studies, which explores why the oppression of fat people remains acceptable in

American culture. . . . Fat studies is an arena where the personal, political and scientific converge, and with this book, readers can mount an informed challenge to the medical construction of obesity and size, the diet industry, insurance companies, public policy and popular culture. . . . It may be too soon for the movement to offer utopian alternatives, but these essays offer a rich supply of tools for the activist and scholar willing to start the revolution." -Publishers Weekly

"The publication of *Fat Studies Reader* is a watershed in the institutionalization of this new field. The thick volume comprises forty succinct pieces authored by a mix of established researchers and budding new scholars, overwhelmingly women, working in diverse academic fields from within the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences... Readers will find plenty to chew on in this big, fat, juicy volume." -*Women's* of Books

"The *Fat Studies Reader* does the important work of exploding assumed connections between weight and health. . . . Feminists of all sizes who care about the answers should jump in to continue the discussion." -*Bitch Magazine*

"Rothblum . . . wonders if part of the appeal of plus-sized shows stems from the overweight being held up for public ridicule." -*CNN.com*

"So what's wrong with putting on an extra pound, or ten pounds, or, for that matter, a hundred and ten? According to the contributors to *The Fat Studies Reader*, nothing." -*The New Yorker*

"In the US, where two-thirds of the population are overweight or obese, the forthcoming book *The Fat Studies Reader* argues the problem is not obesity per se but the way it is presented in culture. Sociologists point to a 'societal fat phobia' which engenders prejudice against the obese and argue that this prejudice is tolerated by those who would never dream of making racist or sexist remarks." -*The Independent (UK)*

"These hard-hitting, provocative essays set the stage for a new paradigm honoring weight diversity and mark an important moment in the history of social justice." -Linda Bacon, author of *Health at Every Size*

"A path-breaking anthology, and the first to map this emerging field. Leading scholars and activists from diverse disciplinary backgrounds explore the pervasiveness of prejudice based on body size, and challenge conventional policy responses. By focusing on goals of health, fitness, and social tolerance, *The Fat Studies Reader* redefines the 'problem' of weight and invites more promising solutions." -Deborah Rhode, Stanford Law School

"The book...marks a watershed moment in fat studies."