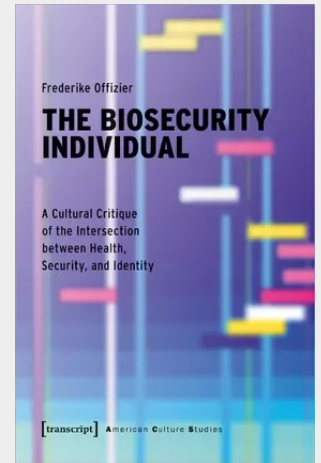


The Biosecurity Individual

A Cultural Critique of the Intersection between Health, Security, and Identity

Discoveries in biomedicine and biotechnology, especially in diagnostics, have made prevention and (self)surveillance increasingly important in the context of health practices. Frederike Offizier offers a cultural critique of the intersection between health, security and identity, and explores how the focus on risk and security changes our understanding of health and transforms our relationship to our bodies. Analyzing a wide variety of texts, from life writing to fiction, she offers a critical intervention on how this shift in the medical gaze produces new paradigms of difference and new biomedically facilitated identities: biosecurity individuals.

1. Why did you choose this topic? Security as well as processes of biomedicalization are incredibly current topics and central cultural paradigms. With this book I wanted to show that security holds a central position in U.S. American culture that extends beyond questions of national security to the biological. Often the same logics apply to individual bodies and life as to the nation at large. So I wanted to study how this focus on risk and security in biomedicine changes and challenges identity formation. 2. What new perspectives does your book offer? The book extends the study of biosecurity – usually focused on contagion and bioterrorism – to processes of biomedicalization and surveillance medicine. It complicates the understanding of health offering a new perspective on how security logics which dominate the current medical gaze change the way the body is understood. It argues that the focus produces new relations between the individual and their body, engendering new biomedically facilitated identities: biosecurity individuals. 3. What makes your topic relevant for current research debates? Recent events and developments – the opioid crisis, the pandemic, discoveries in biomedicine – have shown how central the intersection of biology and culture is for the study of society and culture. But my analysis of biomedicalization from a literary and cultural studies perspective interrogates not only an incredibly relevant topic. It aims to bridge the gap between different fields – most centrally the humanities and natural science – to allow for a more thorough understanding of these phenomena. 4. Choose one person you would like to discuss your book with! I would like to discuss the book with a scholar in the field of disability studies, such as Lennard Davis. At the same time it would be interesting to talk to scholars such as Judith Butler, Sarah Ahmed, or Lauren Berlant – whose concepts I used – to see what they think about my application of their concepts to the context of security and health. A different group of people would be researchers or practitioner in the medical field who specialize in the topic of one of my case studies. 5. Your book summary in one sentence: The book scrutinizes how the focus on risk and security in biomedicine changes our understanding of health and our bodies, producing new biomedically facilitated identities.



48,00 €
44,86 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9783837671452
Medium: Buch
ISBN: 978-3-8376-7145-2
Verlag: transcript
Erscheinungstermin: 11.01.2024
Sprache(n): Englisch
Auflage: 1. Auflage 2024
Serie: American Culture Studies
Produktform: Kartoniert
Gewicht: 513 g
Seiten: 294
Format (B x H): 155 x 240 mm

