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Legacy of Eugenics: Reproduction, Female Body, and Medical Technologies

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Abstract

Eugenics has been consistently based on the medical model of disability, which has used “hereditary disease” or “incurable disease” as a marker for invasion into the body. It has used the female body as a “breakwater” to select offspring. Multiple discrimination against women with disabilities is closely related to eugenic issues, not only in terms of forced sterilization and abortion as the negative eugenics, but also in terms of the exercise of reproductive technologies such as hereditary human genome editing, which is active eugenics. Behind the problem lies women’s heavy and disproportionate burden in human reproduction. The desired relationship between sexuality, reproduction, and medical technologies needs to be examined with reference to the women’s bodies.