

SAMPLE OUTLINE

Bear in mind that this sample is a model only.

Working Title: “Precarious Embodiment: Unwanted Pregnancy and Bodysubject Interruptus”

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1. Introduction to paper
 - a. Provocation: Margaret Atwood’s *Handmaid’s Tale* and coerced pregnancy
 - b. Claim/thesis: The lived body is missing in the abortion debate
 - c. Overview of supporting material/evidence: phenomenological analysis/description, and other materials
 - i. Husserl and Merleau-Ponty’s analyses of embodied subjectivity
 - ii. Iris Marion Young’s analysis of pregnant subjectivity
 - iii. More contemporary elaborations of Young’s analysis
 - iv. Judith Butler’s notion of “precarity,” as applied to lived bodies
 - v. Foucault, disability studies, and other social ontologies
 - d. Importance/relevance: paper demonstrates the ontological price of coerced pregnancy in the context of a general structure of lived embodiment
2. Body of paper
 - a. Analysis and argumentation
 - i. Bodies described in general phenomenological terms
 1. Inseparable from subjectivity
 2. Source of all experience
 3. Our bodies are not “owned”—they are lived and utterly inalienable: “body-subjects”
 - ii. Pregnant body-subjects
 1. Emerges out of biological imperatives
 2. These imperatives present a sense of “doubling” or “splitting”
 3. Pregnancy changes our bodies and transforms the spatial dimensions of our lived worlds
 4. Though we alone exclusively live our bodies, biology has a corporeal “claim” on them

- iii. The fluid corporeal and subjective dimensions of embodiment
 - 1. Sometimes our corporeality flows *with* our subjectivity
 - 2. Sometimes our corporeality flows *against* our subjectivity
 - 3. In principle subjectivity can reorient itself in relationship to its corporeality
 - a. Examples: illness and competitive running
 - 4. Pregnant body-subjects can also reorient themselves in relationship to their corporeality
- iv. The social meaning of body-subjects
 - 1. The meaning of body-subjects is also intersubjectively constituted
 - 2. Pregnant body-subjects emerge from a private into a public sphere
 - 3. In this sphere they are subject to inspection, assessment, judgment
 - 4. This dynamic also shapes the meaning of the world of the pregnant body-subject
- v. Coerced pregnancy and bodysubject interruptus
 - 1. Pregnancies that are legally coerced radically alter the lives of body-subjects who are unwillingly pregnant
 - 2. Such body-subjects become profoundly alienated from a body they are nonetheless compelled to live, which they experience in precarity
 - 3. Since there can be no absolute split from their bodies, these body-subjects become alienated from their own subjectivity and the whole of their lived worlds—this is an example of bodysubject interruptus

3. Conclusion of paper

- a. Comparison of Atwood's *Handmaids* to nonfictional pregnant body-subjects
- b. Statutory barriers to legal abortion, and a changing Supreme Court
- c. Deficient post-natal care and a rising maternal mortality rate in the US.
- d. Given the general structure of embodiment, would men consent to live under the same circumstances for the same ontological stakes?