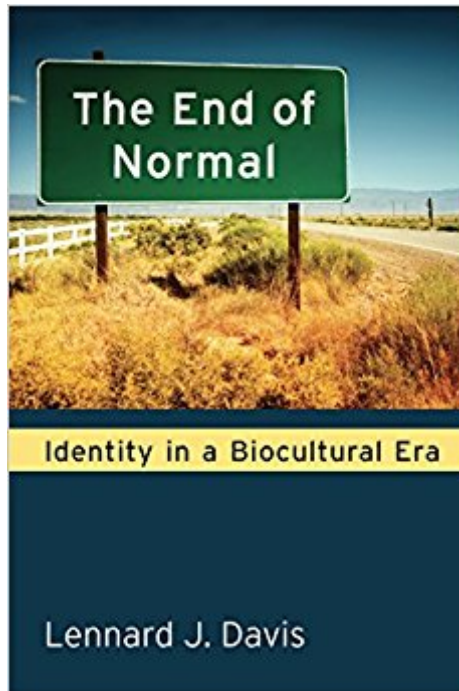




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The End Of Normal: Identity In A Biocultural Era



Synopsis

In an era when human lives are increasingly measured and weighed in relation to the medical and scientific, notions of what is "normal" have changed drastically. While it is no longer useful to think of a person's particular race, gender, sexual orientation, or choice as "normal," the concept continues to haunt us in other ways. In *The End of Normal*, Lennard J. Davis explores changing perceptions of body and mind in social, cultural, and political life as the twenty-first century unfolds. The book's provocative essays mine the worlds of advertising, film, literature, and the visual arts as they consider issues of disability, depression, physician-assisted suicide, medical diagnosis, transgender, and other identities. Using contemporary discussions of biopower and biopolitics, Davis focuses on social and cultural production "particularly on issues around the different body and mind. *The End of Normal* seeks an analysis that works comfortably in the intersection between science, medicine, technology, and culture, and will appeal to those interested in cultural studies, bodily practices, disability, science and medical studies, feminist materialism, psychiatry, and psychology.

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Customer Reviews

This series of essays is well-written, and clearly presents its points in well-reasoned arguments. Even if you disagree with some of the viewpoints, you are compelled to admit that the author has done his homework. For an academic work this book is engrossing and compelling.

Davis wrote an excellent and highly thought-provoking series of essays defining the concept of bioculture and its ramifications for disability studies and on disability itself. He casts a wide lens various topics from examining why nondisabled actors corner the market on portraying disabled characters on film and TV to depression to evolving Freudian concepts of gender and sexuality. It is a highly scholarly work which should be read not only by professionals but also the general reader as well. There are references to earlier work and the narrative flows easily. Sometimes he may sound contrarian to prevailing viewpoints but the prevailing logic behind his arguments are always sound. Well worth the read!

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