



# **The Politics of Life Itself: Biomedicine, Power, and Subjectivity in the Twenty-First Century**

*Nikolas Rose*

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For centuries, medicine aimed to treat abnormalities. But today normality itself is open to medical modification. Equipped with a new molecular understanding of bodies and minds, and new techniques for manipulating basic life processes at the level of molecules, cells, and genes, medicine now seeks to manage human vital processes. *The Politics of Life Itself* offers a much-needed examination of recent developments in the life sciences and biomedicine that have led to the widespread politicization of medicine, human life, and biotechnology.

Avoiding the hype of popular science and the pessimism of most social science, Nikolas Rose analyzes contemporary molecular biopolitics, examining developments in genomics, neuroscience, pharmacology, and psychopharmacology and the ways they have affected racial politics, crime control, and psychiatry. Rose analyzes the transformation of biomedicine from the practice of healing to the government of life; the new emphasis on treating disease susceptibilities rather than disease; the shift in our understanding of the patient; the emergence of new forms of medical activism; the rise of biocapital; and the mutations in biopower. He concludes that these developments have profound consequences for who we think we are, and who we want to be.

## The Politics of Life Itself: Biomedicine, Power, and Subjectivity in the Twenty-First Century Details

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# **From Reader Review The Politics of Life Itself: Biomedicine, Power, and Subjectivity in the Twenty-First Century for online ebook**

## **MS Glennon says**

Rose, a neo-foucaultian, is (but not as a consequence of that theoretical position) an over-rated social theorist with seductive but upon closer examination problematic celebratory interpretations of "advanced liberal democracies"

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## **Kai Peattie says**

Nikolas Rose modifies his previous genealogical approach (in the style of Foucault or Canguilhem) to the 'life sciences' with a new methodology of 'mapping the present', which examines how myths about the future of biomedicine are deployed in debates about what it means to be human. This descriptive account of the relationship between human subjectivity and biomedicine is valuable for those interested in the technologies by which human beings are framed.

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## **Richard McColl says**

An evolution on philosophical thought essential to read to further the understanding of Michel Foucault. Chapters 1 and 2 are particularly recommended for people wishing to explore a descriptive source about governmentality, biomedicine and subjectivity.

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## **Patricia says**

Fascinating ideas, but this book badly needed an editor. And for Nikolas Rose to be a better writer. The kind of scholarly text that you want someone else to write a gloss on so that you don't have to return to the original.

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## **Zawn V says**

When you're getting paid to write a book, it's really not acceptable to offer such amateurish, terrible writing to your readers. This book is in dire, desperate need of an editor. The challenge, of course, is that as with most bad writing by social scientists, if well-edited, this book would be 1/10 its current length. With the removal of buzzwords, the book would be reduced to obvious truisms like, "Medicine has changed" and "genetics can't explain everything." So I guess if you have nothing new to contribute to the debate, it's better to write 100-word sentences packed with empty academic jargon.

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