

1. Género, feminismos e estudos sobre as mulheres

OC - (22921) - MODERN VULVA: BETWEEN FEMALE CIRCUMCISION AND GENITAL COSMETIC SURGERIES - PHYSICIANS SHAPING THE FEMALE BODY IN EGYPT.

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The female body and its alterations carry knowledge about social dynamics in contemporary societies. In the Egyptian society a continuum of practices (ranging from female circumcision to cosmetic surgeries) coexists within the medical field. Through these practices, the female body, and particularly the female genitalia, is physically and symbolically shaped by public regulation and the "technical knowledge" of physicians. The latter is manifested throughout the presence of a "consultation" and a "diagnosis" to detect any "abnormality" in the female sex that requires any modification practice. This "pathologization" of women's sexuality and, more specifically, the morphology of the female vulva justifies medical intervention perceived as corrective surgery. Motivated by various societal norms of female sexuality, practices such as female circumcision, labioplasty, or even genital reconstruction surgery are situated within a dual framework. They are driven by both a pursuit of "bodily normality" and the ideal of feminine beauty, as well as the construction of female vulnerability. These interventions are "socializing surgeries," an inscription on the body of gender norms, a procedure for crafting "real women". Can we consider these irreversible surgeries as a continuity in the process of standardizing women's bodies? In this logic of shaping the female body, is it possible to speak of agency and women's choices? What autonomies and constraints can be discerned? Is it more a matter of reinforcing women's agency by strengthening their alienation to gender norms and medical control over their bodies? How healthcare personnel have taken ownership of this "power" (though do they perceive it as such?), translated it into practices and contributed to the shaping of women's bodies throughout the emergence of new techniques. Can we speak of delegated biopolitics? How to understand the role of contemporary medicine that incorporates external norms into this discipline in regulating social issues?

Palavras-chave : Female Circumcision, Genital Cosmetic Surgeries, Egypt, Physicians