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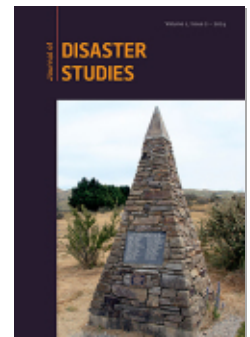
*Living with an Infected Planet: Covid-19, Feminism and the  
Global Frontline of Care* by Elke Krasny (review)

Hanna A. Rusczyk

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*Living with an Infected Planet: Covid-19, Feminism and the Global Frontline of Care*

Elke Krasny

Bielefeld, Germany: transcript, 2023

230 pp., €29.00 (paper), open access electronic edition

*Living with an Infected Planet: Covid-19, Feminism and the Global Frontline of Care* by Elke Krasny and published in transcript's "x texts" series, is about the discourse used during the COVID-19 pandemic. The book questions what the response to the pandemic means in cultural, social, spiritual, affective, and emotional terms. The pandemic catastrophe was not articulated in a vocabulary of care but in the terminology of war (12). This leads to a fundamental question: Why were the histories and value systems of masculine patriarchy and militarized nationalism (12) used?

The structure of the book includes an introduction, three chapters, and a conclusion. The three chapters follow the words "war," "frontline," and "feminist recovery" as they relate to care, and the book provides a feminist cultural analysis of their meanings and possible implications. Krasny describes care as an inclusive concept that acknowledges the interdependency in social, ecological, infrastructural, epistemic, and emotional registers. She develops an epistemic intervention—feminist worry and feminist hope as analytics that are derived from viewing care as knowledge.

Chapter 1, "We Are at War," is concerned with why war appeared to be the apt choice for political imaginaries when what we really needed was unity and collaboration in a time of planetary crisis. Other imaginaries, such as care and peace, could have been chosen by our leaders. The war metaphor provided a site of exceptionalism in which what needed to be done, who had to do it, and who could be blamed in the event of failure (39) were all stage managed.

Chapter 2, "Serving at the Frontlines," focuses on how the terminology of war spearheaded a new militarized care essentialism and a compulsory heroism expected of those who were conscripted to the global frontlines of care. The caring classes needed to fight so that others could survive.

Chapter 3, "Feminist Recovery," focuses on how colonial sexist and racist capitalism and patriarchal modernity have foreclosed care as a form of knowledge and have eroded the capacity of developing public and political

imaginaries of care (169). Feminist recovery as an idea in and beyond policy is a proposal for finding ways of living as a form of recovery from the historical and present-day attack on care. We need to recover the capacity of developing new political and public imaginaries of care.

The book is a valuable contribution not only for its literature on COVID-19 pandemic but for feminist political scholarship. I found it analytical, philosophical, and thought-provoking. My only critique is that the book is dense and must be read slowly. It is well argued, well structured, and flows well. The book is full of ideas about how language is used. Krasny's arguments stayed with me long after I finished reading.

*Hanna A. Ruszczyk*

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