

La Raison du sensible. Entretiens autour de la

Bioéthique, Artège, 2009.

Reason and Sensitivity. Interviews on Bioethics.

The topics of debate during the “Bioethics General Assembly” in France offered the opportunity to raise issues related to the beginning of human life, parentage, and our relationship with the body. Corine Pelluchon, a specialist in political philosophy, focused on medical practices and biotechnology, which led her to meet caretakers and patients and to propose an original reconfiguration of most of the categories of ethics and political thought. Euthanasia, assisted reproductive technology, nanotechnology use, and the treatments inflicted on animals are discussed in a new and relevant way. The philosopher underscores the compatibility or incompatibility of medical practices with the values that give a political community its identity. She also explains what she means by an ethics of vulnerability. This book thus helps link bioethics to an examination of the conditions that would enable citizens to participate more in collective decision making. These interviews also lead to thinking about the respective roles of religion and philosophy in these debates.