

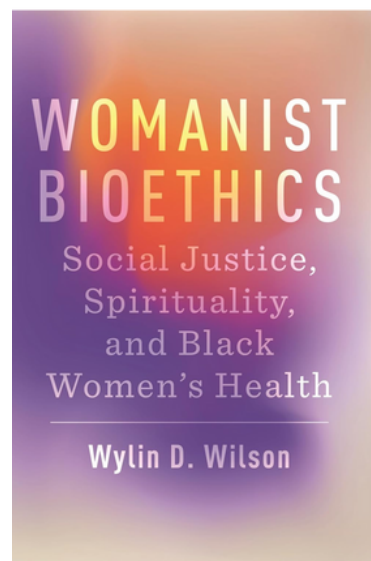
WOMANIST BIOETHICS

Social Justice, Spirituality, and Black Women's Health

Black people, and especially Black women, suffer and die from diseases at much higher rates than their white counterparts. The vast majority of these health disparities are not attributed to behavioral differences or biology, but to the pervasive devaluation of Black bodies.

Womanist Bioethics addresses this crisis from a bioethical standpoint. It offers a critique of mainstream bioethics as having embraced the perspective of its mainly white, male progenitors, limiting the extent to which it is positioned to engage the issues that particularly affect vulnerable populations. This book makes the provocative but essential case that because African American women— across almost every health indicator— fare worse than others. We must not only include, but center, Black women's experiences and voices in bioethics discourse and practice.

To this end, *Womanist Bioethics* develops the first specifically womanist form of bioethics, focused on the diverse vulnerabilities and multiple oppressions that women of color face. This innovative womanist bioethics is grounded in the Black Christian prophetic tradition, based on the ideas that God does not condone oppression and that it is imperative to defend those who are vulnerable. It also draws on womanist theology and Black liberation theology, which take similar stances. At its core, the volume offers a new, broad-based approach to bioethics that is meant as a corrective to mainstream bioethics' privileging of white, particularly male, experiences, and it outlines ways in which hospitals, churches, and the larger community can better respond to the healthcare needs of Black women.



"[Wylin Wilson's] argument underscores the importance of Black Studies in documenting the lived experiences and histories of Black people, and of rectifying historical and systemic injustices, and she offers a new bioethical framework for addressing these issues."

— Dána-Ain Davis, author of *Reproductive Injustice: Racism, Pregnancy, and Premature Birth*

"I have been waiting for this book for 15 years. A must-read for those who work in medicine, the church, or bioethics, as well as for those who know that we have to start thinking differently about how we care for the health of each person and our communities."

— M. Therese Lysaught, Loyola University Chicago

"The theory of womanist bioethics meticulously weaves Black women's experiences throughout the book as it critiques mainstream bioethics and advances feminist bioethics. Thank you Dr. Wilson! This is the book that I've been waiting for!"

— Evelyn L. Parker, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University

"In this rich constellation of Womanism, Black Church prophetic witness tradition, and Black health activism, Wylin D. Wilson lays fertile ground for the flourishing of womanist bioethics and anti-oppression bioethics at large."

— Charlene Galarneau, author of *Communities of Health Care Justice*



Wylin D. Wilson is Assistant Professor of Theological Ethics at Duke Divinity School where she teaches Womanist Bioethics within the Theology Medicine and Culture program. She is author of *Economic Ethics and the Black Church*.

Publisher: NYU Press

Publication Date: January 28, 2025

Price: Hardcover \$89.00 / Paperback \$30.00

ISBN-13: 978-1479817207/978-1479817238

 NYU PRESS

CONTACT:
Nanda Dyssou, Publicist
nanda@corioliscompany.com
(424)-226-6148