



# Metamorphosis

Who We Become after Facial Paralysis

by Faye Linda Wachs

## DESCRIPTION

Losing her smile to synkinesis after unresolved Bell's palsy changed how Faye Linda Wachs was seen by others and her internal experience of self. In *Metamorphosis*, interviewing over one hundred people with acquired facial difference challenged her presumptions about identity, disability, and lived experience. Participants described microaggressions, internalizations, and minimalizations and their impact on identity. Heartbreakingly, synkinesis disrupts the ability to have shared moments. When one experiences spontaneous emotion, wrong nerves trigger misfeel and misperception by others. One is misread by others and receives confusing internal information. Communication of and to the self is irrevocably damaged. Wachs describes the experience as a social disability. People found a host of creative ways to reinvigorate their sense of self and self-expression. Like so many she interviewed, Wachs experiences a process of change and growth as she is challenged to think more deeply about ableism, identity, and who she wants to be.

### Paperback

9781978805316, \$35.95

### Hardback

9781978805323, \$150.00

### eBook

9781978805330, \$35.95

### PDF

9781978805354, \$35.95

**Date:** September 2023

**Pages:** 226

## AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

**FAYE LINDA WACHS** is a professor of sociology at Cal Poly Pomona. She is the co-author, with Shari L. Dworkin, of the award-winning book *Body Panic: Gender, Health and the Selling of Fitness*.



**Get 30% OFF • Use code RUP30**

Free Shipping in the USA • USA & Latin American: [rutgersuniversitypress.org](https://rutgersuniversitypress.org) • 1-800-621-2736

Canada: <https://www.ubcpublishing.com/rutgers-university-press> • Rest of the World: <https://mngbookshop.co.uk/publisher/rutgers-university-press/>

Booksellers / bulk sales: [sales@rutgersuniversitypress.org](mailto:sales@rutgersuniversitypress.org) • Examination and desk copies: [rutgersuniversitypress.org/educator](https://rutgersuniversitypress.org/educator)