Some Ways That a Thing Can Go Wrong: 
Malfunctions, Disorders and Perversions

by

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ABSTRACT

“Selection and Artifacts” is about how artifacts acquire functions. According to Karen 
Neander, the function of an artifact is the purpose for which it is designed or built. But I 
argue that in order for an artifact to have some function its parts and properties must also 
have been properly selected.

“Defining ‘Disorder’” examines the conceptual analysis of medical disorder. I 
defend and develop the idea that a medical disorder is a harmful malfunction.

“Teleological Theories of Sexual Perversion” examines attempts to analyze 
sexual perversion in terms of the biological goal of sex or the functions of sexual organs 
and psychological mechanisms. I argue that teleological theories are false, and defend 
the view that sexual perversion is excessive, and therefore unwarranted, sexual attraction, 
especially sexual attraction to that which is disgusting.

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