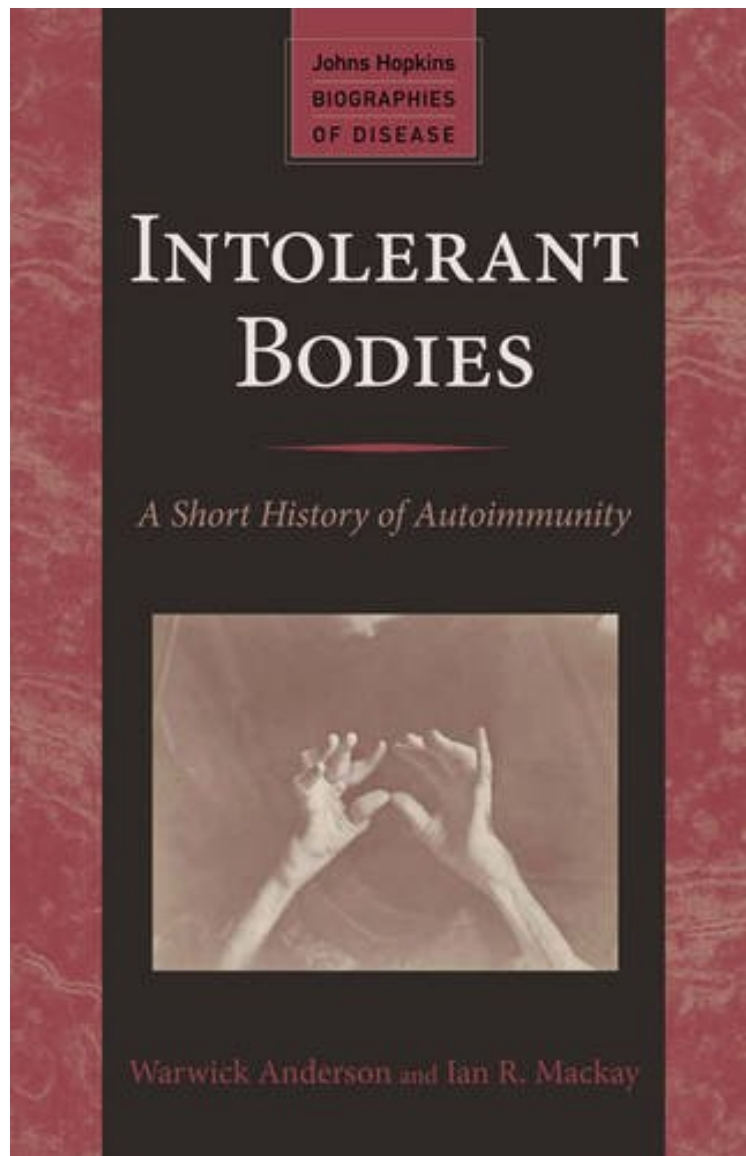


(Library ebook) Intolerant Bodies: A Short History of Autoimmunity (Johns Hopkins Biographies of Disease)

## Intolerant Bodies: A Short History of Autoimmunity (Johns Hopkins Biographies of Disease)

Warwick Anderson, Ian R. Mackay

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Warwick Anderson, Ian R. Mackay : Intolerant Bodies: A Short History of Autoimmunity (Johns Hopkins Biographies of Disease) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Intolerant Bodies: A Short History of Autoimmunity (Johns Hopkins Biographies of Disease):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must read unique historyBy MedanthA must read for anyone interested in the history of immunology - beautifully written0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good ReadBy L. FontanaGood book.1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Lacking substanceBy RainbowThis book has some interesting parts dealing with the history of the discovery of autoimmunity, and it is competently although not engagingly written. It is pretty scant on details regarding the pathology, or even the specific molecular markers and targets of the many diseases. It is also disappointing that the work of several luminaries is dismissed without much discussion of what they actually proposed. For example, the lack of discussion of Jerne, who won the Nobel Prize for his work, which was highly respected at the time but now is thought not really relevant to the understanding of Immunology. Amusingly, the authors refer to the work of Gadjusek in complement fixation, then dismissively state he went on to propose some vague genetic explanation for Kuru, a disease in a native tribe in New Guinea. Whether one respects what he found or not, it did win the Nobel Prize, and it was not a vague genetic disease, but appeared to be a slow virus that was transmitted through cannibalism. The final section of the book is a waste of time. It attempts to inject philosophy into the self- not-self question. This was pure sophistry. Finally, the book proper is actually less than half the total pages, which include a very extensive bibliography and index. The bibliography stands alone, as the cited works are not referenced in the text. Most curious.

Autoimmune diseases, which affect 5 to 10 percent of the population, are as unpredictable in their course as they are paradoxical in their cause. They produce persistent suffering as they follow a drawn-out, often lifelong, pattern of remission and recurrence. Multiple sclerosis, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, and type 1 diabetes are the diseases considered in this book but a handful of the conditions that can develop when the immune system goes awry. *Intolerant Bodies* is a unique collaboration between Ian Mackay, one of the prominent founders of clinical immunology, and Warwick Anderson, a leading historian of twentieth-century biomedical science. The authors narrate the changing scientific understanding of the cause of autoimmunity and explore the significance of having a disease in which one's body turns on itself. The book unfolds as a biography of a relatively new concept of pathogenesis, one that was accepted only in the 1950s. In their description of the onset, symptoms, and course of autoimmune diseases, Anderson and Mackay quote from the writings of Charles Dickens, Edgar Allan Poe, Joseph Heller, Flannery O'Connor, and other famous people who commented on or grappled with autoimmune disease. The authors also assess the work of the dedicated researchers and physicians who have struggled to understand the mysteries of autoimmunity. Connecting laboratory research, clinical medicine, social theory, and lived experience, *Intolerant Bodies* reveals how doctors and patients have come to terms, often reluctantly, with this novel and puzzling mechanism of disease causation.

"Anderson and Mackay's engaging survey is a studious examination of autoimmune diseases, and a humble admission that their cures remain stubbornly elusive." (Publishers Weekly)"This is a fascinating read... A solid choice for academic science and health sciences collections." (Library Journal)"... This book packs in serious scholarship in both science and its history, adding hefty amounts of philosophy for good measure." (Historical Records of Australian Science)"A magisterial, historically rich biography of autoimmunity... Anderson and Mackay reveal an expert understanding of how to use 'lived experience' to bring a biography of disease to life. Personal accounts demonstrate how, as theories about the causes of inexplicable chronic debilitating diseases abounded, the variety of treatments devised to alleviate or 'cure' them expanded." (Tilli Tansey Nature)"Succinct, well-written, and informed, *Intolerant Bodies* narrates the history of immunology through the lens of autoimmune disease... the story told here extends far beyond the topic of attack against self to provide perhaps the best overview of immunity (normal and pathological) available for the general reader." (Metascience)"Few topics in contemporary science hold the wide interest commanded by immunology, so this graceful and timely account of the development of this science is a welcomed addition to the literature." "Intolerant Bodies is beautifully written, an informed, informative, and engaging assessment of the history of autoimmunity. But the small book is far more than the short history it humbly claims to be; for Anderson and Mackay take on a complex subject many of us have struggled to summarize with more words than fewer." (A. David Napier Somatosphere)"Anderson and MacKay reward any readers who have dedicated decades to researching a cure for type 1 diabetes, and other equally elusive autoimmune diseases, by illustrating just how far into other scholarly realms the concepts of autoimmunity have reached." (Sarah Linklater The Lancet)"Highly recommended for any collection strong in health history." (California Bookwatch)"Well researched, highly readable history of autoimmune disease... The reader will journey in company with the authors on their fascinating tour of autoimmune history, facts, and observations. And what a journey indeed!" (In Focus)"Within a limited amount of pages, it tells the complicated but intriguing development of immunology and autoimmunity in a clear and consistent narrative that constantly crosses the boundaries between laboratories, hospitals, and patients' lives." (East Asian Science, Technology and Society)"The book's concision, its fluid prose, its courageous (and largely successful) attempt to bring four chronic diseases into a coherent historical relationship, and its bold effort to come at immunology's history from the margins all conspire to make *Intolerant Bodies* a valuable and unique contribution to the field." (Social History of Medicine)"[Anderson and Mackay's] work is refreshingly different from some recent best-selling

histories of medicine written by scientists and clinicians, and the authors responsibly and soberly juxtapose the exciting science with the problematic clinical reality." (Bulletin of the History of Medicine)"With clarity, depth, and subtle provocation, *Intolerant Bodies* covers significant historical, biomedical, and philosophical ground to investigate and explain the aetiological paradox of autoimmune disease...discussions at biomedical science conferences, immunology seminars, and research colloquia will be all the richer if this book is widely circulated." (Health and History)"I am thoroughly beguiled by Anderson and Mackays book. It describes symptoms in straightforward terms, explains the paradox inherent in a natural defense system gone wrong, looks at the conceptual struggles of doctors trying to understand causation, shows how research changed perceptions gradually from disbelief into puzzled acceptance, and relates how the idea of autoimmunity contains philosophical as well as scientific resonances. All that and an exquisite writing style *Intolerant Bodies* is a fine and original work." (Sir Gustav Nossal)" *Intolerant Bodies* tells a fascinating, thought-provoking story about an important but insufficiently studied subject. Thoroughly researched, well-written, and innovative, the book which is enriched with thoughts on the clinical aspects of autoimmune disease and patient testimonies provides a clear and much-needed summary of the history of autoimmunity." (Ilana Lwy, French National Institute of Health and Medical Research)" *Intolerant Bodies* is an extraordinary journey into the ideas behind today's notion of autoimmunity. Who knew that we have returned to concepts that held sway before the age of bacteria? This is a riveting story, full of intriguing archival discoveries and original analytical insights, for anyone who loves the history of science and medicine." (Emily Martin, author of *Flexible Bodies: The Role of Immunity in American Culture from the Days of Polio to the Age of AIDS*)"Treatments have steadily improved, but autoimmune diseases like multiple sclerosis continue to diminish too many lives. This readable account by a physician medical writer and a physician pioneer in the field informs us about the history and nature of the chronic, debilitating autoimmune diseases." (Peter C Doherty, Nobel laureate, University of Melbourne Medical School)About the AuthorWarwick Anderson is an Australian Research Council laureate fellow and a professor in the Department of History and the Center for Values, Ethics, and the Law in Medicine at the University of Sydney. He is the author of *The Collectors of Lost Souls: Turning Kuru Scientists into Whitemen*, also published by Johns Hopkins. Ian R. Mackay is a research professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Monash University. He is the coauthor of *Autoimmune Diseases: Pathogenesis, Chemistry, and Therapy* and the coeditor of *The Autoimmune Diseases*, fifth edition.