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**iAnorexic: A Body Politics of Pro-Anorexia and Cyborgs**

**A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of**

**Master of Arts  
in  
Psychology**

**at Massey University, Manawatu, New Zealand.**

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**2012**

### **Abstract**

The pro-anorexia movement online is a topic of much contention in medical, psychological and public arenas. While psychology has located the source of Anorexia Nervosa within the individual, taking up a historically, socially and culturally contextual perspective enables an understanding of pro-anorexia through the genealogical examination of anorexia, women's embodiment, social movements and technologies. What emerges is the production of a pro-anorexic cyborg, lived both metaphorically and literally by modern Western women experiencing anorexia. Examining the textual content of online pro-anorexia communities allows for a discursive analysis of the complex pro-anorexic voice. What this voice constructs is female embodiment characterised by multiplicity, contradiction, information, connection, blurred boundaries, disrupted dualisms, non-innocence, simulated consciousness and political resistance lived through a troubled, biologically restricted female body. Through the use of cyborg metaphor, this thesis argues that pro-anorexia online is fervent resistance to patriarchal femininity in a way that produces tolerable female embodiment.

## **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank Dr Leigh Coombes for her dedication to pulling me through this process. Without your tireless efforts, this work would have imploded. So thank you for letting me run wild, but reining me in when I ventured too far into left field.

I would also like to thank my family for suffering through my anxieties. I have it on good authority that none of you really has any idea what this thesis is actually about, so happy reading.

I also wish to acknowledge the voices of the women included in this research. It was challenging for me to immerse myself in your online world; however, the challenges you face as you negotiate lived experience are important issues in need of illumination. Thank you for the intensity with which you fight for your representation.

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