

Spring 2009
920:572:01
W 1:10-3:50
LSH A256

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Office hours: W 4:30-5:30 or by appt
LSH A257

SOCIOLOGY OF THE BODY

The body is at once material and symbolic, an object of regulation and control and a site of contentious political struggle. It exists at the intersection of multiple discourses (e.g., occupational, reproductive, technoscientific, feminist, leisure, sport, aesthetic, and sexual). In this seminar, we will draw on an interdisciplinary literature and use a range of theoretical traditions to consider ways in which the body is constituted by these discourses. For example, what is “natural” about the body? How are distinctions made between the normal and pathological? Are bodies subordinate to the mind? How are bodies commodified? How are bodies categorized and constituted by discourses of race, class, gender, and sexuality?

Course Logistics

This is a seminar course. The quality of our discussions depends on your full participation.

Students must fulfill the following requirements

- 1) Over the course of the semester, each student will be expected to write a 1-2 page memo responding to each week’s readings. (single-space is fine.) These comments will be uploaded to the appropriate folder on sakai the day before class (Tuesday) by noon, so that everyone has time to read each other’s comments by Wednesday afternoon. comments may be informal, but they must be a critical response. Memos will be graded as pass/fail. You can take three exemptions from writing these memos. If you choose to take an exemption, please let me know by email.

These memos should help you focus your ideas in a way that can contribute to our collective conversation during class time. In general, each memo should include: a) a brief summary of the main idea of the readings and how these claims were supported; b) a synthetic analysis of some dimension of the course readings that you found compelling and warrants further discussion; and c) two to three well-crafted questions for the class to consider as a group. These memos ought to compare readings within that particular week, but you may also bring compare that week’s readings to themes and theories discussed earlier in the semester. This is also a good opportunity to raise questions and concerns about the substance of the readings. Finally, these memos are a great opportunity to develop a killer set of notes.

- 2) Each student will be responsible for helping me lead at least one weekly class discussion. Sign-up sheets will be passed around during the second week of class.

As a co-discussant, your job is to critically introduce the material and to come up with a few (3-5) substantive questions in the form of a one-page handout (to be electronically distributed to the rest of the group by 9 am on the day of class) to get the discussion rolling. Such questions may target what you consider the key issue/problematic raised by the author(s) in question, a shortcoming in the argument/evidence, a puzzling claim, broader implications, exciting/provocative comparisons, and so forth.

- 3) Students taking the course for credit are expected to submit a 20-25 page paper on a topic related to this course. The paper can be analytical, critically reflecting on a substantive issue related to the sociology of the body or you may choose to write a research proposal, drawing on theoretical perspectives and existing empirical work to identify an interesting and until now unsolved empirical question.

In order to get approval for your topic, you must submit a 2-3 page memo describing your project, complete with a brief bibliography by March 4th, when you are expected to make an appointment to discuss this paper with me further. Of course, I'm happy to discuss this with you in advance. **Final paper is due on May 8th.** Late papers are strongly discouraged.

- 4) Students will present their research in progress in class on April 29th. These presentations are both an opportunity to share your work with the class and to receive feedback on your project.

Grade Allocation

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|---------------------|-----|
| Class participation | 25% |
| Memos | 25% |
| Presentation | 10% |
| Final Paper | 40% |

Required Texts

Alice Dreger. 2004. *One of Us: Conjoined Twins and the Future of the Normal*. Harvard University Press. *Selections*.

Arthur Frank. 1997. *The Wounded Storyteller*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Sharon Preves. 2005. *Intersex & Identity*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

Loic Wacquant. 2003. *Body & Soul*. Oxford University Press.

Recommended Texts

Excerpts from these books will be posted online, but you may find it helpful to purchase your own copy:

Margaret Lock and Judith Farquhar, editors. 2007. *Beyond the Body Proper: Reading the Anthropology of Material Life*. Duke University Press.

Kris Paap. 2006. *Working Construction: Why Working Class Men Put Themselves – And the Labor Movement – In Harm’s Way*. Cornell University Press.

Week One: January 21st

Bringing in the Body

Chris Shilling. 2007. Sociology and the Body: Classical Traditions and New Agendas. *Sociological Review*. 55(1). 1-18.

Margaret Lock. 1993. Cultivating the Body: Anthropology and Epistemologies of Bodily Practice and Techniques, *Annual Review of Anthropology*. 22, 133-155.

Week Two: January 28th

Phenomenology and the Lived Body

Merleau-Ponty, *Phenomenology of Perception*. Selection from BBP.

Iris Marion Young, “Throwing Like a Girl” and “Embodied Pregnancy.” *On Female Bodhrowing Like a Girl and Other Essays*.

S. Kay Toombs. 1995. “The Lived Experience of Disability.” *Human Studies*. 18, 1: 9-23.

Elizabeth Grosz. 1994. “Lived Bodies” in *Volatile Bodies: Toward a Corporeal Feminism*. Pp.86-111.

Recommended

Nick Crossley, Merleau-Ponty, the Elusive Body and Carnal Sociology, *Body & Society*, vol. 1, no. 1, pp. 43-63, Mar 1995

Drew Leder. 1990. *The Absent Body*. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press.

Csordas, Thomas (ed.). 1994. Embodiment and Experience: The Existential Ground of Culture and Self, Introduction, chapter 12.

Week Three: February 4th

Habitus and the Social Body

Marcel Mauss. 1935/1973. “Techniques of the Body.” *Economy and Society* 2: 70-88. Reproduced in *Beyond the Body Proper*, edited by Margaret Lock and Judith Farquhar.

Pierre Bourdieu. 1984. The Habitus and the Space of Lifestyles in *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*.

Matthew Desmond. 2006. “Becoming a Firefighter.” *Ethnography*. 7(4). 387-421.

Philippe Bourgois and Jeff Schonberg. 2007. "Intimate Apartheid: Ethnic dimensions of habitus among heroin injectors." *Ethnography*. 8(1): 7-31.

Recommended:

Bourdieu, Pierre. [1980] 1990. *The Logic of Practice*, Preface, Book I, esp. "Belief and the Body," and chapter 3 of Book II, "The Devil of Analogy."

Loic Wacquant. 1995. Pugs at Work: Bodily Capital and Bodily Labor Among Professional Boxers. *Body and Society* 1-1 (March): 65-94.

Week Four: February 11th

Normal & Pathological

Michel Foucault, Docile Bodies from *Discipline & Punish*, excerpted in *The Foucault Reader*.

Margaret Shildrik. "Unreformed Bodies: Normative Anxiety and the Denial of Pleasure." *Women's Studies*. 34: 327-244.

Alice Dreger. 2004. *One of Us: Conjoined Twins and the Future of the Normal*. Harvard University Press. *Selections*.

Recommended:

Karin Martin. 2003. Giving Birth Like a Girl. *Gender & Society*. 17(1): 54-72.

Week Five: February 18th

Medicalized Bodies, Bodies at Risk

Nicholas Rose. 2001. The Politics of Life Itself. *Theory, Culture & Society*. 18(1). 1-30.

Adele Clarke, Janet Shim, Laura Mamo, Jennifer Ruth Fosket, and Jennifer Fishman. 2003. Biomedicalization: Technoscientific Transformation of Health, Illness and US Biomedicine. *American Sociological Review*. 68(2).

Elizabeth M. Armstrong. 1998. Diagnosing Moral Disorder: The Evolution of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. *Social Science & Medicine*.

Eugenia Kaw. 1993. "Medicalization and Racial Features: Asian American Women and Cosmetic Surgery." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. 7(1991): 74-89.

Week Six: February 25th

Do Bodies Speak?

Arthur Frank. *The Wounded Storyteller*. *Selections*.

Kleinman, A. and Kleinman, J.: *Somatization: Interconnections among Chinese Culture, Depressive Meanings and the Experience of Pain*. In A. Kleinman and B. Good, Eds: *Culture and Depression*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 429-490.

Recommended:

Byron J. Good, Mary-Jo DelVecchio Good, Robert Moradi. 1985. "The Interpretation of Iranian Depressive Illness and Dysphoric Affect. *Culture and Depression; Studies in the Anthropology and Cross-Cultural Psychiatry of Affect and Disorder*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Laurence J. Kirmayer. 1992. The Body's Insistence on Meaning: Metaphor as Presentation and Representation in Illness Experience. 6(4).

Week Seven: March 4th

Are Bodies There? The Making of Biological Facts

Ian Hacking. 1986. Making Up People. Reproduced in *Beyond the Body Proper*, edited by Margaret Lock and Judith Farquhar.

Judith Butler. 1993. Bodies That Matter. Reproduced in *Beyond the Body Proper*, edited by Margaret Lock and Judith Farquhar.

Bruno Latour. 1999. Do You Believe in Reality? Reproduced in *Beyond the Body Proper*, edited by Margaret Lock and Judith Farquhar.

Michel Foucault. "Truth and Power." *The Foucault Reader*. Paul Rabinow, editor.

Recommended:

Chris Shilling. 2007. *The Body in Culture, Technology & Society*. Sage Publications.

Week Eight: March 11th

The Two Sex Problem

Anne Fausto-Sterling. 2000. "The Five Sexes, Revisited" *The Sciences* (July/August) pp. 18-23.

Sharon Preves. 2005. *Intersex & Identity*. Rutgers University Press. Selections.

Recommended:

Londa Schiebinger, 1986. Skeletons in the Closet: The First Illustrations of the Female Skeleton in Eighteenth-Century Anatomy. *Representations*. (14), pp. 42-82.

Thomas Laqueur. 1986. Orgasm, Generation, and the Politics of Reproductive Biology. *Representations*. 14: 1-41.

Week Nine: March 25th

Race in science

Troy Duster. 2005. Race and Reification in Science. *Science*. 307: 1050-1051.

Anne Fausto-Sterling. 2008. The Bare Bones of Race. *Social Studies of Science*. 38: 67

Jenny Reardon. 2004. Decoding Race and Human Difference in a Genomic Age Differences. 15: 38 - 65.

Steven Epstein. 2004. Bodily Differences and Collective Identities: The Politics of Gender and Race in Biomedical Research in the United States. *Body & Society*. 10(2-3). 183-203.

Recommended:

Steven Epstein. 2007. Chapter 7 in *Inclusion*.

Week Ten: April 1st

Technologies and the Body

Donna Haraway, "A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century", in *Simians, Cyborgs and Women*: 149-81.

Anne Balsamo. 1995. Forms of Technoogical Embodiment: Reading the Body in Contemporary Culture. 1(3/4) 215-237.

Sarah S. Jain, 1999, "The Prosthetic Imagination: Enabling and Disabling the Prosthesis Trope" *Body & Society*. 24(1). 31-54.

Laura Mamo, 2007, "Negotiating Conception: Lesbians' Hybrid-Technological Practices", *Science, Technology and Human Values* 32: 369-93

Vivian Sobchack. 2006. "A Leg to Stand On: Prosthetics, Metaphor and Materiality." *The Prosthetic Imagination: From a Posthuman Present to a Biocultural Future*. Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Week Eleven: April 8th

Metaphors and the Body

Bryan Turner. 2003. Social Fluids: Metaphors and Meanings of Society. *Body and Society* 9:1:1-10.

Emily Martin. 1987. *The Woman in the Body*. Beacon Press. Selections.

Emily Martin. 1990. "Toward an Anthropology of Immunology: The Body as Nation State." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 4, 4: 410-426 and 'Complex Systems', in *Flexible Bodies: Tracking Immunity in American Culture From the Days of Polio to the Age of AIDS*, Boston: Beacon Press, 1994.

Catherine Gallagher. 1986. "The Body Versus the Social Body in the Works of Thomas Malthus and Henry Mayhew." *Representations*. 14: 83-106.

-or-

Biopower

Michel Foucault, Part IV, History of Sexuality, vol. 1

Adriana Petryna, 2002. *Life Exposed: Biological Citizens After Chernobyl*. Princeton University Press.

-or-

Mind and Body

Rene Descartes. 1664. 'Treatise on Man' 1664.

Drew Leder. 1998. A tale of two bodies: the Cartesian corpse and the lived body. in *Body and Flesh: A Philosophical Reader*, ed. D. Welton, London: Blackwell.

Charles Rosenberg. 1989. Body and mind in nineteenth-century medicine: some clinical origins of the neurosis construct. *Bulletin in the History of Medicine*. 63(2):185-97.

Elaine Scarry. 1985. *The Body in Pain: The Making and Unmaking of the World*. Oxford University Press. *Selections*.

Week Twelve: April 15th

Commodifying Bodies

Rene Almeling. 2007. Selling Genes, Selling Gender: Egg Agencies, Sperm Banks, and The Medical Market in Genetic Material. *American Sociological Review*. 72(3). 319-340.

Nancy Scheper-Hughes, The Last Commodity: Post Human Ethics and the Global Traffic in "Fresh" Organs. *Global Assemblages*.

Margaret Lock. 2001. The Alienation of Body Tissue and the Biopolitics of Immortalized Cell Lines. *Body & Society*.

Jennifer R. Fishman. 2004. Manufacturing Desire: The Commodification of Female Sexual Dysfunction. *Social Studies of Science*. 34(2): 187-218.

Bordo, Susan. 1990. "Material Girl": The Effacements of Postmodern Culture." in *Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture, and the Body*.

Week Thirteen: April 22nd

Embodied Fieldwork

Judith Okely. 2007. Fieldwork Embodied, *Sociological Review*. 55(s1). 65-79.

Kris Paap. 2006. *Working Construction: Why Working Class Men Put Themselves And the Labor Movement In Harm's Way*. Cornell University Press. *Selections*.

Loic Wacquant. 2003. *Body & Soul*. Oxford University Press, Section 1

Week Fourteen: April 29th

Presentations