

Anthropology 3<sup>rd</sup> year Advanced Topic Option  
**Anthropology of the Body**  
Spring and Summer Term 08/09

**Course Convenor and Tutor:** Meike Fechter

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**Office Hours:** Monday, 2:15-3:15 and Wednesday, 11-12

**Course Times** (Spring Term): Tuesdays 1-4pm in Arts D710

### **Course Outline**

This course explores the body from an anthropological perspective, and considers how different societies and cultures conceptualize and experience the human body. In recent decades, anthropologists and other academics have become increasingly interested in the body, including authors such as Foucault and Bourdieu. The course asks how the body represents a challenge for anthropological research, and explores recent ethnographic contributions to this field. We consider the body as a site on which social and cultural processes are inscribed, where power relations converge and are articulated, and as a site where agency is performed. Materials are drawn from non-Western and Western societies. Students will have the opportunity to conduct their own fieldwork for their dissertation projects if they wish.

### **Course Format**

This is a fifteen-week course which runs over the spring term and first half of the summer term. The spring term format consists of a weekly 3-hour session, which will include the convenor's introduction to the topic, student tasks, as well as student-led presentations, group discussions, and use of short video clips. In week 10 of the spring term there will be individual dissertation tutorials. In the summer term, there will be no seminar sessions, but further individual meetings with students to support all aspects of dissertation production.

### **Seminar and Study Group Participation**

Students are expected to devote a considerable amount of time each week preparing for the seminars and working on their essays. Participation in seminars and study groups is compulsory, and students will be required to take an active role in discussions. We will organise the study groups in week 1; each group will meet outside of class to discuss readings, prepare presentations and written reports each week.

### **Course Work and Assessment:**

Students should submit two pieces of non-contributory assessment in the spring term: a 1500-word essay which is due in week 5, and a 2000-word dissertation outline which is due in week 9. This will be the basis for the individual tutorials in week 10. **Assessment:** This 36-credit course is assessed through a dissertation of 8,000 words, which is due in week 5 of the Summer Term.

## **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students should:

- Be familiar with some of the major theoretical approaches to the body, and aware of how different cultures conceptualize and experience the human body
- Have an understanding of the methodological issues of researching and representing bodily experiences and practices
- critically analyse and assess anthropological approaches to the body
- construct and present arguments about the body and society in both written and verbal form, using theoretical and empirical data

## **Course Outline**

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>The Body in Social/Anthropological Theory</b>
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Embodiment, the Senses and Emotions</b>
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Body, Self, Society</b>
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Techniques of the Body</b>
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Race, Gender, Bodies</b>
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>‘Fat’ and ‘Thin’: The Politics of Body Shapes</b>
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Body Modification</b>
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Bodies as Commodities</b>
<b>Week 10</b>	<b><i>Dissertation Tutorials</i></b>

## **General Background Reading**

Featherstone, M., M. Hepworth and B. S. Turner (eds) 1991 *The Body: Social Process and Cultural Theory*, Sage Publications.

Fraser, Mariam and Monica Greco (eds) 2005 *The Body: A Reader*. London: Routledge.

Lock, Margaret and Farquhar, Judith (eds) 2007 *Beyond the body proper : reading the anthropology of material life*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Shilling, Chris 2005. *The body in culture, technology and society*. London:Sage.

Thomas, Helen and Jamilah Ahmed (eds) 2004. *Cultural Bodies: Ethnography and Theory*. Oxford: Blackwell.

## **Week 1 Januar 13<sup>th</sup>**

### **Introductory Session**

This week, we will discuss the seminar format and assessment, organise study groups and presentation topics, and start exploring people's interest in 'the body'.

## **Week 2 Jan 20<sup>th</sup>**

### **The Body in Social/Antropological Theory**

In Western cultural theory, the body has long been considered as a passive object on which meanings are inscribed, as a 'text', which can be read. More recently, this has been reconceptualised insofar as the body can also be understood as an agent, a site of the production of meaning, and a possible site of resistance. In this course, we want to explore these ideas through discussing different notions of the body, bodily practices, and ways in which they relate to particular cultures and societies.

### **Background Reading**

- Csordas, T. 1999. The Body's Career in Anthropology, in Moore, H.(ed) *Anthropological Theory Today*. Malden, MA: Polity Press.
- Featherstone, M., M. Hepworth and B. S. Turner (eds) 1991 *The Body: Social Process and Cultural Theory*, Sage Publications. [Chapter by Turner, 'Recent Developments in the Theory of the Body' pp. 1-36.]
- Jackson, M. 1983. Knowledge of the Body. *Man* (n.s.)18: 327-345.
- Lock, M. 1993. 'Cultivating the Body: Anthropology and Epistemologies of Bodily Practice and Knowledge,' *Annual Review of Anthropology* 22: 133-155
- Shilling, Chris 2003 *The Body and Social Theory*. London: Sage.  
(esp. The Socially Constructed Body, Chapter 4)

### **Methods/Epistemology:**

- Kirmayer, Laurence J. 1992 The Body's Insistence on Meaning: Metaphor as Presentation and Representation in Illness Experience. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 6(4):323-346.
- Lambek, M. 1998. Body and Mind in Mind, Body and Mind in Body: Some Anthropological Interventions in a Long Conversation, in M. Lambek and A. Strathern (eds) *Bodies and Persons: Comparative Perspectives from Africa and Melanesia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Nichter, M. 2008. Coming to Our Senses: Appreciating the Sensorial in Medical Anthropology, *Transcultural Psychiatry* 45(2)
- Okely, J. 2007. Fieldwork embodied, *Sociological Review* 55: 65-79.
- Retsikas, Kostas (2008) 'Knowledge from the Body: Fieldwork, Power, and the Acquisition of a New Self', in Halstead, N., Hirsch, E. and Okely, J. (eds.), *Knowing How to Know: Fieldwork and the Ethnographic Present*. EASA, Volume 9. Oxford: Berghahn Books, pp. 110-129.
- Samudra, J.K.2008. Memory in our body: Thick participation and the translation of kinesthetic experience, *American Ethnologist* 35:4.
- Todres, L. 2008. Embodied interpretation: a novel way of evocatively re-presenting meanings in phenomenological research *Qualitative Research* 11, 8:5.

**Further Reading:**

- Grosz, Elizabeth 1994 *Volatile Bodies: Towards a corporeal feminism.* Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Halliburton, Murphy 2002 Rethinking Anthropological Studies of the Body: *Manas* and *Bōdham* in Kerala. *American Anthropologist* 104(4):1123-1134.
- Kaspin, Deborah A. 1996. Chewa Cosmology of the Body, *American Ethnologist* 23: 3.
- McCallum, Cecilia 1996. The Body That Knows: From Cashinahua Epistemology to a Medical Anthropology of Lowland South America, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 10:3.
- Martin, Emily. "The End of the Body?" *American Ethnologist* 19(1): 121-140, 1992.
- Reischer, E. and Koo, K.S. 2004. The Body Beautiful: Symbolism and Agency in the Social World. *Annual Review of Anthropology*. Vol 33, 297-317.
- Taylor, J.S. 2005. Surfacing the Body Interior, *Annual Review of Anthropology* 34: 741-756.
- Osella, F. & C. 1996. 'Articulation of Physical and Social Bodies in Kerala,' *Contributions to Indian Sociology* (n.s.) 30(1): 37-68
- Parry, J. 1989. The End of the Body, in M. Feher, R. Naddaff and N. Tazi (eds) *Fragments for a history of the human body* (Part Two). New York: Zone.

### **Week 3 Jan 27th Embodiment, the Senses and Emotions**

This week we will focus on the paradigm of embodiment, which is equally important for areas such as medical anthropology. We ask how notions such as embodiment, sensations and emotions intertwine, what challenges they provide in terms of research and representation.

#### **Background Reading**

- Csordas, T. 1994. *Embodiment and Experience: The Existential Ground of Culture and Self*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Csordas, T. J. 1990 Embodiment as a Paradigm for Anthropology. *Ethos* 18 (1):5-47.
- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy and Margaret Lock. 1987. "The Mindful Body: A Prolegomenon to Future Work in Medical Anthropology." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 1(1):6-41.

#### **Specialised/Ethnographic Reading**

- Desjarlais, R. *Body and Emotion: The Aesthetics of Illness and Healing in the Nepal Himalaya*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Geurts, K.L. 2002. *Culture and the Senses: Bodily ways of knowing in an African community*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Geurts, K. L. 2004. Consciousness as 'Feeling in the Body': A West African Theory of Embodiment, Emotion and the Making of Mind, in Howes, D. (ed) *Empire of the Senses: The Sensual Culture Reader*. Oxford: Berg.

#### **Embodiment**

- Csordas, Thomas 1993. "Somatic Modes of Attention" *Cultural Anthropology* 8(2).
- Green, M. 1996 'Medicines and the Embodiment of Substances Among Pogoro Catholics, Southern Tanzania'. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*.
- Lambek, M. 1998. Body and mind in mind, body and mind in body: some anthropological interventions in a long conversation, in M Lambek and A Strathern, *Bodies and persons: comparative perspectives from Africa and Melanesia*.
- Low, Setha M. 1994 "Embodied Metaphors: Nerves As Lived Experience" in *Embodiment and Experience: The Existential Ground of Culture and Self*, Th.Csordas (ed) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Murray, Craig D Sixsmith, Judith. 1999. The Corporeal Body in Virtual Reality, *Ethos* 27:3.
- Tapias, Maria. 2006. Emotions and the Intergenerational Embodiment of Social Suffering in Rural Bolivia, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 20(3):399-415.
- Wacquant. Loic 2006. *Body & soul: notebooks of an apprentice boxer*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Wolputte, Steven Van 2004. Hang on to your self: Of Bodies, Embodiment, and Selves. *Annual Review of Anthropology*.33: 251-269

#### **Emotions and Pain**

- Jackson, Jean 1994 "Chronic Pain and the Tension Between the Body as Subject and Object" *Embodiment and Experience: The Existential Ground of Culture and Self*, in Th.Csordas (ed) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Jackson, Jean E. 2005 Stigma, Liminality, and Chronic Pain: Mind-Body Borderlands. *American Ethnologist* 32(3):332-353.

- Lutz, Catherine and Geoffrey M. White. 1986. "The Anthropology of the Emotions." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 15:405-36.
- Milton, K. and Svasek, M. 2005. *Mixed Emotion: Anthropological Studies of Feeling*. Oxford: Berg.
- Pandolfi, M. 1990. Boundaries inside the body: women's sufferings in Southern peasant Italy. *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* 14:255-273.
- Rebhun, Linda-Anne. 1994. "Swallowing Frogs: Anger and Illness in Northeast Brazil." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 8 (4): 360-382.
- Rosaldo, Michelle. 1984. "Toward an Anthropology of Self and Feeling." In *Culture Theory: Essays on Mind, Self and Emotion*. Cambridge: Cambridge
- Scarry, Elaine 1985 *The Body in Pain: The Making and Unmaking of the World*. New York: Oxford.
- Scheper Hughes, Nancy. 1988. "The madness of hunger: Sickness, delirium, and human needs." *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* 12:429-58.
- Trnka, Susanna 2007. Languages of Labor: Negotiating the Real and the Relational in Indo-Fijian Women's Expressions of Physical Pain, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 21:4.
- Wulff, H. 2007. *The emotions: a cultural reader*. Oxford: Berg.

**Week 4 Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Body, Self, Society**

How do bodies and societies relate? Drawing on Foucault, we discuss, among other things, in what ways the body not merely reflects power struggles, but how these are enacted through bodies themselves. In the context of everyday life, social ideas and cultural values are being 'embodied', 'incorporated' or 'performed' through bodily practices, which are often taken for granted and may thus be invisible.

**Background Reading**

- Bordo, S. 1989. The body and the reproduction of femininity: A feminist appropriation of Foucault, in *Gender/body/knowledge: Feminist reconstructions of being and knowing*. Ed. Jaggar, A., and S. Bordo. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press.
- Douglas, Mary. 1970. "The Two Bodies." From *Natural Symbols*. London: Barrie and Rockliff: The Cresset Press. Pp. 65-81.
- Foucault, Michel. 1979 "Docile Bodies" and 'Discipline' 'The body of the condemned'. In *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*, New York: Vintage Books.

**Specialised/Ethnographic Reading:**

- Becker, Anne E. 1995 *Body, Self, and Society: The View from Fiji*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Elias, Norbert. 1978 (orig. 1939) *The Civilizing Process: The Development of Manners: Changes in the Code of Conduct and Feeling in Early Modern Times*. New York: Urizen. (pp. 1-56 and 138-178, *The History of Manners*)
- Fassin, D. and D'Halluin, E. 2005. The Truth from the Body: Medical Certificates as Ultimate Evidence for Asylum Seekers, *American Anthropologist* 107: 4.

**Body in Society:**

- Bourdieu, P.1998. Social Space and Symbolic Power, in *Distinction: a social critique of the judgement of taste*. (chapter 8) Cambridge: Harvard.
- Hancock, P. 2000. *The body, culture and society: an introduction*. Buckingham: OUP.
- Howson, Alexandra. 2004. *The Body in Society: an Introduction*.Oxford: Polity.
- Lambek, Michael and Andrew Strathern (eds) 1998. *Bodies and Persons: Comparative Perspectives from Africa and Melanesia*, Cambridge: CUP.
- Linke,U. 1999. *German Bodies: Race and Representation After Hitler*. London: Routledge.
- Nelson, Diane M. 1999.*A finger in the wound : body politics in quincennial Guatemala*. Berkeley ; London : University of California Press.
- Pierce, S. 2006. *Discipline and the Other Body: Correction, Corporeality, Colonialism*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Rose, Nicolas.2006. *The Politics of Life Itself: Biomedicine, Power, and Subjectivity in the Twenty-First Century*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Synnott, Anthony 1993 *The Body Social: Symbolism, Self, and Society*. London: Routledge.
- Turner, B.S. 1996. *The Body and Society:explorations in social theory*, London: Sage.
- Weiss, Meira. 2003. *The Chosen Body: The Politics of the Body in Israeli Society*. Stanford:Stanford University Press.

### **Further Readings**

- Foucault, Michel. 1978. *The History of Sexuality: Volume 1*. New York: Vintage.
- Mennell, Stephen 1991 On the Civilizing of Appetite. *In The Body: Social Process and Cultural Theory*. Mike Featherstone, Mike Hepworth, and Bryan S. Turner, eds., pp. 126-156. London: Sage.
- Paulson, S. 2006. Body, nation, and consubstantiation in Bolivian ritual meals *American Ethnologist* 33: 4.
- Zito, Angela and Tani E. Barlow. 1994. *Body, Subject and Power in China*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Ohnuki-Tierney, E. 1999. We Eat Each Other's Food to Nourish Our Body: The Global and the Local as Mutually Constituent Forces. Chapter 13 in *Food in Global History*, ed by Raymond Grew. Boulder: Westview Press, pp 240-272.
- Sasson-Levy, Orna and Tamar Rapoport 2003. Body, Gender, and Knowledge in Protest Movements: The Israeli Case. *Gender and Society* 17(3):379-403.
- Elias, N. 1983 The way to a man's heart: food in the violent home, In A. Murcott (eds). *The Sociology of Food and Eating: essays on the sociological significance of food*, Swansea: Gower Press.

**Film:** *Hunger* by Steve McQueen (released Feb 09)

**Video:** *Taboo* /presented by Joan Bakewell. Pt.1, Shock of the nude. Joan Bakewell traces the dramatic changes in public attitudes to the naked body that have taken place over the last 50 years.

## **Week 5 Feb 10<sup>th</sup> Techniques of the Body**

How we 'hold' our bodies – even and especially during mundane activities such as sitting, walking, sleeping or eating – and how we move them through space can be highly significant. Following on from Mauss' classical essay, we consider what 'body techniques' may include, from Maori women's daily practices to the performance of martial arts or yoga. We will discuss aspects of body comportment and their meanings, such as postures, poise, movement, walk, and body language.

### **Background Reading**

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1992. Structures, Habitus, Practices [From the Logic of Practice, Stanford University Press, pp. 52-65.]

Mauss, M. 1973. 'Techniques of the Body,' *Economy and Society* 2(1): 70-88.

### **Specialised/Ethnographic Reading**

Bateson, G. and M. Mead, 1942, *Balinese Character: A Photographic Analysis*, New York Academy of Sciences, Special Publications 2, New York.

Bourdieu; Pierre. 2004. The peasant and his body, *Ethnography*, Vol. 5, No. 4.

Downey, G. 2008. Scaffolding imitation in capoeira: physical education and enculturation in an Afro-Brazilian art, *American Anthropologist* (6)110 (2).

Smith, Benjamin Richard 2007. Body, Mind and Spirit? Towards an Analysis of the Practice of Yoga , *Body & Society* 13: 25-46.

### **Further Readings**

Baeke, V. 2008. Performance, transformation, and altered states of consciousness, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* (3) 14 (1).

Buckland, Fiona. 2002. *Impossible dance: club culture and queer world-making* Hanover, N.H. : Wesleyan University Press.

Crossley, Nick 2004. The Circuit Trainer's Habitus: Reflexive Body Techniques and the Sociality of the Workout, *Body & Society* 10: 37-69.

Edensor, T. 2000. Walking in the British Countryside: Reflexivity, Embodied Practices and Ways to Escape, *Body & Society* 6: 81-106.

Farnell, B. 1999. Moving Bodies, Acting Selves, *Annual Review of Anthropology* 28: 341-373.

Hargreaves, Jennifer and Patricia Vertinsky (eds) 2007. *Physical culture, power, and the body*, New York:Routledge.

Hauschild, Thomas. 2007. Yoga between Indo-Aryan Nationalism and Multisited Fieldwork, *Current Anthropology*, 48 (2007), pages 463–465.

Kohn, T. 2003. The Aikido Body, in *Sport, Dance and Embodied Identities*. N. Dyck & E.P. Archetti, Oxford: Berg.

Lewis, N. 2000. The Climbing Body, Nature and the Experience of Modernity, *Body & Society* 6: 58-80.

Molz, J.G.2006. Cosmopolitan Bodies: Fit to Travel and Travelling to Fit, *Body & Society* 12: 1-21.

Olszewski, Brandon. 2008. El Cuerpo del Baile: The Kinetic and Social Fundaments of Tango, *Body & Society* 2008 14: 63-81.

Persson, Asha 2007. Intimate immensity: Phenomenology of place and space in an Australian yoga community *American Ethnologist* 34(1):44-56.

Reed, Susan A. The politics and poetics of dance, *Annual Review of Anthropology*. Volume 27, Page 503-532, Oct 1998

- Strauss, Sarah 2005. *Balancing Yoga*, Oxford: Berg.
- Taeyon, Kim. 2003. Neo-Confucian Body Techniques: Women's Bodies in Korea's Consumer Society, *Body & Society* 9: 97-113.
- Toepfer, K. 1997. *Empire of ecstasy : nudity and movement in German body culture, 1910-1935*. Berkeley : U. of California P.
- Wulff, H. 2005. Memories in Motion: The Irish Dancing Body. *Body & Society* 11.

Films/Videos: **Body talk** Pt.1, Power.

**The human animal, Part 1:** The language of the body.

## **Week 6 Feb 17<sup>th</sup> Race, Gender, Bodies**

In narratives of transsexuals (and others), a recurring expression is that of ‘being a woman trapped in a man’s body’ or vice versa. Physical bodies can thus be felt to be central to one’s identity. Yet, even after a complete transformation as possible, its success can remain elusive. In this session, we therefore want to explore the interconnections between physical bodies, gendered as well as racialised identities and the strategies that individuals adopt to reconcile them.

### **Background Reading**

- Bordo, S. 1989 “The Body and the Reproduction of Femininity: A Feminist Appropriation of Foucault”, in *Gender/Body/Knowledge: Feminist Reconstructions of Being and Knowing*, A Jagger and S.Bordo, eds.
- Comaroff, Jean. 1993. “The Diseased Heart of Africa: Medicine, Colonialism, and the Black Body. In: S. Lindenbaum and M. Lock, eds. *Knowledge, Power and Practice: The Anthropology of Medicine and Everyday Life*. Berkeley:UCP.
- Prosser, Jay. 1998. *Second skins : the body narratives of transsexuality* . New York, N.Y. : Columbia University Press.

### **Specialised/Ethnographic Reading**

- Allison, Anne. 1994. *Nightwork: Sexuality, Pleasure, and Corporate Masculinity in a Tokyo Hostess Club*. Chicago and London: University of Chicago.
- Gay-y-Blasco, P. 1997. A ‘different body’? Desire and virginity among gitanos, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, Vol. 3.
- Kulick, Don, 1997 The Gender of Brazilian Transgendered Prostitutes. *American Anthropologist* 99(3):574- 585.
- McCallum, Cecilia 2005 Racialized Bodies, Naturalized Classes: Moving through the city of Salvador da Bahia. *American Ethnologist* 32(1):100-117.

### **Further Readings**

- Hanson, Julie 2007 Drag Kinging: Embodied Acts and Acts of Embodiment *Body & Society* 13: 61-106.
- Bordo, Susan 1999 *The Male Body: A New Look at Men in Public and Private*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux.
- Bornstein, Kate. 1995. *Gender Outlaw: On Men, Women and the Rest of Us*. New York: Vintage Books.
- Ekins, Richard and Dave King, eds. 1996, *Blending Genders: Social Aspects of Cross-Dressing and Sex-Changing*. London: Routledge.
- Feinberg, Leslie. 1997. *Transgender Warriors: Making History from Joan of Arc To Dennis Rodman*. Boston: Beacon Press.
- Frembgen, J. 2008. Wasim Marginality, sexuality and the body: professional masseurs in urban Muslim Punjab, *Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology* (3)9:1.
- Kasson, John F. 2001. *Houdini, Tarzan, and the perfect man : the white male body and the challenge of modernity in America*, New York, N.Y. : Hill and Wang.
- Leonard, Lori 1996 Female Circumcision in Southern Chad: Origins, Meaning, and Current Practice. *Social Science and Medicine* 45(2):255-263.
- Martin, Emily. 1992. *The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction*. Boston: Beacon.

- Miller, Laura, 2008. Beauty up: exploring contemporary Japanese body aesthetics  
*Journal of Japanese studies* 34:(1).
- Oetomo, Dédé 2000. Masculinity in Indonesia: genders, sexualities, and identities in a changing society. In *Framing the sexual subject : the politics of gender, sexuality, and power*. Richard Parker, Regina Maria Barbosa, and Peter Aggleton (eds.) Pp. 46-59. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Theweleit, Klaus 1987 "Male Bodies and the 'White Terror'" in *Male Fantasies; Volume 2: Male Bodies: Psychoanalyzing the White Terror*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press pp. 142-225.

**Race and Power:**

- Ahmed, S. 2002. 'Racialized bodies' in *Real bodies: a sociological introduction*, Basingstoke: Palgrave.
- Arteaga, Alfred and Arturo J. Aldama, 2003. *Violence and the Body: Race, Gender and the State*.
- Inda, Jonathan Xavier. "Biopower, Reproduction, and the Migrant Woman's Body." In A. Aldama and N. Quiñones (Eds.) *Decolonial Voices*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2002.
- Sobo, E 1993. *One Blood: The Jamaican Body*. State University of New York Press,
- Stoler, Ann. 1989. "Making Empire Respectable: The Politics of Race and Sexual Morality in 20th-Century Colonial Cultures." *American Ethnologist* 16(4).
- Wallace-Sanders, Kimberly, ed. 2002 *Skin Deep, Spirit Strong: The Black Female Body in American Culture*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

## Week 7 Feb 24<sup>th</sup>

### 'Fat' and 'Thin': The Politics of Body Shapes

The title of Susie Orbach's book famously declared, 'Fat is a feminist issue' - but as Kulick's recent collection demonstrates, it is about more than that. Our corporeality - in the form of shape, size, and weight - is in many ways central to our experience of the world. Yet, too often Western debates reduce these complex issues to 'size zero' debates. The aim of this session is to take a broader view: does 'obese' mean the same everywhere? How do issues of 'fatness' relate to ethnicity, gender and identity?

#### Background Reading

Bordo, Susan 1993 *Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture and the Body*. Berkeley: UC Press.

Gremillion, Helen 2005. The cultural politics of body size, *Annual Review of Anthropology* Vol. 34: 13-32.

#### Specialised/Ethnographic Reading

Gooldin, Sigal. Being Anorexic: Hunger, Subjectivity, and Embodied Morality *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, Volume 22, Number 3.

Kulick, D. and A. Meneley 2005. *Fat: The Anthropology of an Obsession*, Tarcher.

Linder, F. 2007. Life as art, and seeing the promise of big bodies, *American Ethnologist* 34:33, 451-472.

Popenoe, R. 2003. *Feeding Desire: Fatness and Beauty in the Sahara*: Routledge.

#### Further Readings

Becker, A. 1994. Nurturing and Negligence: Working on Others' Bodies in Fiji, in Csordas, T. (ed) *Embodiment and Experience: the Existential Ground of Culture and Self*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Bell, R. 1985. *Holy Anorexia*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Bell Kirsten and Darlene McNaughton 2007. Feminism and the Invisible Fat Man, *Body & Society* 13: 107-131

Counihan, C. 1999. *The Anthropology of Food and body: Gender, Meaning and Power*. [Chapter on: What does it mean to be fat, thin and female?]

Garine, Igor de 1995. Sociocultural Aspects of the Male Fattening Sessions Among the Massa of Northern Cameroon. Chapter 3 in *Social Aspects of Obesity*, Igor de Garine and Nancy J. Pollock (eds.)

Garrett, Catherine J. 1996 Recovery from Anorexia Nervosa: A Durkheimian Interpretation. *Social Science and Medicine* 43(10):1489-1506.

Klein, A. (1994) 'The Cultural Anatomy of Competitive Women's Bodybuilding', in N. Sault (ed.) *Many Mirrors: Body Image and Social Relations*, pp. 76—104.

Lester, R. 1997 The (Dis)embodied Self in Anorexia Nervosa. *Social Science and Medicine* 44(4):479- 489.

Nichter and Vuckovic "Fat Talk: Body Image Among Adolescent Girls", in N. Sault (ed), *Many Mirrors: Body Image and Social Relations*.

Obel, Camilla 1996. Collapsing Gender in Competitive Bodybuilding: Researching Contradictions and Ambiguity in Sport, *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 31: 2, 185-202.

Sobo, Elisa J. 1994 "The Sweetness of Fat: Health, Procreation and Sociability in Rural Jamaica", in *Many Mirrors: Body Image and Social Relations*, ed. Nicole Sault, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

Urla, Jacqueline and Alan C. Swedlund 1995. The Anthropometry of Barbie: Unsettling Ideals of the Feminine Body in Popular Culture. *In Deviant Bodies: Critical Perspectives on Difference in Science and Popular Culture*. J. Terry and J. Urla, eds., pp. 277-313. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Warin, Megan J. 2006. Reconfiguring Relatedness in Anorexia, *Anthropology & Medicine*, 13:1, pages 41-54.

**Skinny kids** [video recording]. A documentary that examines the extent to which society's preoccupation with the ideal body is affecting the self-image of children.

## **Week 8 Mar 3rd Body Modification**

This week, we focus on a range of practices that could be described as 'body modification'. These may include make-up and grooming, tattooing, piercing, scarring, branding and cosmetic surgery. Are these practices employed to produce 'docile bodies'? Taking a broader perspective, we explore the social contexts from which these practices arise, and we consider their contemporary Western as well as their cross-cultural and historical dimensions.

### **Background Reading**

De Mello, M. 2000. *Bodies of inscription : a cultural history of the modern tattoo community*, London ; Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press.

Featherstone, M. 2000. *Body Modification*, London: Sage.

Hogle, Linda F. 2005. Enhancement Technologies and the body, *Annual Review of Anthropology* 34: 695-716.

Schildkrout, Enid 2004. Inscribing the Body, *Annual Review of Anthropology* 33.

### **Specialised/Ethnographic Reading**

Kaw, E. 1994 "Opening Faces" The Politics of Cosmetic Surgery and Asian American Women", in *Many Mirrors: Body Image and Social Relations*, ed. Nicole Sault, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

Negrin, L. 2002. *Cosmetic surgery and the eclipse of identity*, *Body & society*, Vol.8 No.4, 2002 (pp.21-42)

Pitts, V. 2003. *In the flesh: the cultural politics of body modification*, New York ; Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

### **General Modification**

Black, P. 2004. *The beauty industry : gender, culture, pleasure*, London: Routledge.

Blake, C. F. 1994. Foot Binding and the Appropriation of Female Labor. *Signs* 19(3):676-712.

Brickman, Barbara Jane, 2004. 'Delicate' Cutters: Gendered Self-mutilation and Attractive Flesh in Medical Discourse *Body & Society* 10: 87-111.

Crossley, Nick 2005. Mapping Reflexive Body Techniques: On Body Modification and Maintenance *Body & Society* 11: 1-35.

Gimlin, Debra L. 2002. *Body work: beauty and self-image in American culture*, Berkeley, Calif. University of California Press..

Myers, J. 1992 "Non-mainstream Body Modification: Genital Piercing, Branding, Burning, and Cutting" *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 21(3):267-306

Silverman, Eric K. 2004. Anthropology and Circumcision, *Annual Review of Anthropology*. 33: 419-445.

Summers, L. 2001. *Bound to please: a history of the Victorian corset*. Oxford: Berg.

### **Cosmetic Surgery**

Atkinson, Michael. 2008. Exploring Male Femininity in the 'Crisis': Men and Cosmetic Surgery, *Body & Society*.

Davis, Kathy 2002. 'A Dubious Equality': Men, Women and Cosmetic Surgery *Body & Society* 2002 8: 49-65.

Davis, K. 2003. *Dubious equalities and embodied differences : cultural studies on cosmetic surgery*. Oxford ; Lanham, Md. : Rowman & Littlefield.

- Davis, K. 1995. *Reshaping the Female Body: The Dilemma of Cosmetic Surgery*. NY: Routledge.
- Gilman, Sander L. 2000. *Making the Body Beautiful: A Cultural History of Aesthetic Surgery*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Haiken, Elizabeth 1997. *Venus Envy: A History of Cosmetic Surgery*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Rothman, Sheila M. and David J. Rothman, 2003. *The Pursuit of Perfection: The Promise and Perils of Medical Enhancement*. New York: Pantheon.

### **Tattooing**

- Atkinson, M. 2003. *Tattooed: the sociogenesis of a body art*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Gell, A. 1996. *Wrapping in images: tattooing in Polynesia*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Thomas, N., Cole, A. and Douglas, B. (eds) *Tattoo: bodies, art, and exchange in the Pacific and the West*, Durham: Duke University Press.
- Mascia-Lees, Frances E. and Patricia Sharpe, eds. 1992. *Tattoo, Torture, Mutilation, and Adornment: The Denaturalization of the Body in Culture and Text*. Albany: SUNY Press.
- Putzi, J. 2006. *Identifying marks : race, gender, and the marked body in nineteenth-century America*. Athens, Ga.:London: University of Georgia Press.
- White, J. 2005. 'Marks of Transgression: The Tattooing of Europeans in the Pacific Islands' in Thomas, N., Cole, A. and Douglas, B. (eds) *Tattoo: bodies, art, and exchange in the Pacific and the West*, Durham: Duke University Press.
- Young, W. C. 1994 "The Body Tamed: Tying and Tattooing Among the *Rashaayda Bedouin*" *Many Mirrors: Body Image and Social Relations*, ed. N. Sault, New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press. pp. 58-75

### **Bodysnippers** [videorecording]. Pt.1, *The body*.

The subject of race and identity is discussed in the first of two documentaries examining the rise in cosmetic surgery among the Black and Asian communities. Pt 2, *The face*. Documentary following four people as they undergo surgery to transform their facial features.

## **Week 9 Mar 10<sup>th</sup>**

### **Bodies as Commodities**

'While in the academy... 'the body' is generally treated as a text or a trope or as a metaphor that is 'good to think' with, in the larger society and in the global economy 'the body' is generally viewed and treated as an object, albeit a highly fetishized one, and as a 'commodity' that can be bartered, sold or stolen in divisible and alienable parts.' (Scheper-Hughes 2002:1). This week, we will discuss the work of Scheper-Hughes and others who have analysed how bodies are made into commodities, and what effects this has on the social fabric, as well as on understandings of the body.

### **Background Reading**

Featherstone, Mike. 1982. The Body in Consumer Culture. Theory, Culture and Society 1:18-33. [reprinted in Featherstone and B. Turner (eds.) The Body: Social Processes and Cultural Theory 1991: Sage: pp. 170-196.]

Scheper-Hughes, N. and L. Wacquant (eds), 2002 *Commodifying bodies*. London: Sage.

### **Specialised/Ethnographic Reading**

Linke, Uli 2005. Touching the corpse: The unmaking of memory in the body Museum, *Anthropology Today*, 21:5.

Ong, Aihwa. 1988. "The Production of Possession: Spirits and the Multinational Corporation in Malaysia." *American Ethnologist* 15:1 (3).

Sharp, L. 2001. Commodified Kin: Death, Mourning, and Competing Claims on the Bodies of Organ Donors in the United States, *American Anthropologist* 103:1.

Scheper-Hughes Nancy 2001. Commodity Fetishism in Organs Trafficking, *Body & Society* 7: 31-62.

### **Further Readings**

Kampadoo, Kamala. 1998. *Global Sex Workers: Rights, Resistance, and Redefinition*. New York and London: Routledge.

Kelly, J. 1992. "'Coolie' as a Labour Commodity: Race, Sex, and European Dignity in Colonial Fiji." *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 19:3-4 (1992), 246-67.

Scheper-Hughes, N. 2006. "Alistair Cooke's Bones: a Morality Tale. *Anthropology Today* 22(6):3-8.

Seale Clive, Debbie Cavers, and Mary Dixon-Woods 2006. Commodification of Body Parts: By Medicine or by Media? *Body & Society* 12: 25-42

Sharp Lesley A. 2000, The Commodification of the body and its parts, *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Vol. 29: 287-328.

Sharp, Lesley A. 1995 Organ Transplantation as a Transformative Experience: Anthropological Insights into the Restructuring of the Self, *Medical Anthropology*

Radin, Margaret 2001. *Contested commodities : the trouble with trade in sex, children, body parts and other things* . London: Harvard University Press.

## **Week 10 March 17<sup>th</sup> Dissertation Tutorials**

There will be no seminar in week 10. Instead, there will be individual sessions for students to discuss their dissertation project on the basis of their 2000-word outline.