



Embodiment and gendered subjectivities

Kroppslighet och könade subjektiviteter

Credit points: 7,5

Responsible department: Umeå Centre for Gender Studies

Main field of study: Gender Studies

Level: PhD Studies

Grading Scale: Fail, Pass

Language: English

Confirmation

The Director of Umeå Centre for Gender Studies has confirmed this course syllabus on January 30th, 2017.

Course description

This course gives an advanced introduction to conceptual and theoretical approaches to analyse the body, embodiment, and gendered subjectivity. The participants will explore and interpret embodiment through the lenses of cisnormativity, able-bodiedness, fitness and thin privilege. With this focus, the course will be especially attuned to problematize and destabilize concepts of normality in neoliberal and conservative times. In approaching these thematics, the course will engage with the meanings of the body in a variety of different theories and from intersectional perspectives. Throughout the course, emphasis will also be placed on methodological considerations. The aim of the course is to discuss and problematize ways in which research on embodiment, normativity and gender can be carried out. What ethical issues arise when embodiment is explored, and how can these dilemmas be dealt with?

Learning outcomes

After the course the Doctoral Candidate will:

- have a familiarity with different approaches to embodiment and gendered subjectivities, with special attention to the intersection of feminism with four research areas: Transgender Studies, (Dis)ability Studies, Fat Studies and Fitness culture.



Kursplan

- be able to independently in written and oral form reflect upon the relationship between embodiment, gender and normativity.
- Be able to reflect upon and problematise how gender and embodiment are related to normativities regarding sexuality, functionality, fatness/thin-ness, and how these interact with each other.
- - be able to critically reflect (based in the course literature) on how aspects of the theories of embodiment relate to particular concrete examples or theoretical/methodological dilemmas within his/her own research.

Forms of instruction

The course is organised into four meetings (full-days) with lectures, seminars and group discussions. The course is examined through active participation, and individual writings. In relation to every full-day seminar, the doctoral student shall have read the suggested readings, and present a short paper (two pages) with reflections upon the theme in relation to his/her own research problems. Finally, the course is examined with an individual paper (8-10 pages) in which one or two of the course themes are selected, and problematised in relation to the doctoral candidates own research project, dilemmas or theoretical issues, as well as related to the other course themes.

Literature (Divided into the four themes)

Neoliberalism and the gendered fat body:

Harjunen, H. (2016), *Neoliberal bodies and the Gendered Fat Body*. London: Routledge.

Heywood, L. (2007), Producing girls: empire, sport, and the neoliberal body. In, Hargreaves, J., and Vertinsky, P. eds. *Physical culture, power, and the body*. New York: Routledge. pp. 101-120.

Guthman, J. (2009), Teaching the politics of obesity: insights into neoliberal embodiment and contemporary biopolitics. *Antipode* 41 (5), pp. 1110-1133.

Kauppinen, K. (2012), At an intersection of postfeminism and neoliberalism: a discourse analytical view of an international women's magazine. *Critical Approaches to Discourse Analysis across Disciplines*. 7 (1), pp. 82- 99.

Oksala, J. (2013), Feminism and neoliberal governmentality. *Foucault Studies*, No. 16, pp. 32-53.

Cisnormativity and transgender bodies

Enke, A. F. (2013), "The Education of the Little Cis: Cisgender and the Discipline of Opposing Bodies", *The transgender studies reader 2* Stryker, S. & Aizura, A.Z. (eds.), London: Routledge, pp.

234-247.

Kennedy, N. (2013), "Cultural Cisgenderism: Consequences of the Imperceptible" *Psychology of Women Section Review* 15(2) – will be provided as PDF

Noble, B.J. (2013), "Our Bodies Are Not Ourselves: Tranny Guys and the Racialized Class Politics of Incoherence", *The transgender studies reader 2*. Stryker, S. & Aizura, A.Z. (eds.), London: Routledge, pp. 248-258.

O'Brien, M. (2013), "Tracing This Body: Transsexuality, Pharmaceuticals, and Capitalism" *The transgender studies reader 2*. Stryker, S. & Aizura, A.Z. (eds.), London: Routledge, pp. 56-65.

Shakhsari, S. (2013), "Shuttling Between Bodies and Borders: Iranian Transsexual Refugees and the Politics of Rightful Killing", *The transgender studies reader 2*. Stryker, S. & Aizura, A.Z. (eds.), London: Routledge, pp. 565-579 (14 pages)

Snorton, C.R. & Haritaworn, J. (2013), "Trans Necropolitics: A Transnational Reflection on Violence, Death, and the Trans of Color Afterlife", *The transgender studies reader 2* Stryker, S. & Aizura, A.Z. (eds.), London: Routledge, pp. 66-75 (9 pages)

Spade, D. (2006), "Mutilating Gender", *The transgender studies reader*. Stryker, S. & Whittle, S. (eds.), London: Routledge, pp. 315-332 (17 pages)

Stone, S. (2006), "The Empire Strikes Back: A Posttranssexual Manifesto", *The transgender studies reader*, Stryker, S. & Whittle, S. (eds.), London: Routledge, pp. 221-235.

Stryker, S. (1994), "My Words to Victor Frankenstein above the Village of Chamounix: Performing Transgender Rage" *GLQ* Vol. 1, Num. 3, pp. 237-254. Will be provided as PDF

Crip theory and dis(abled) bodies

Bumiller, K. (2008). Quirky Citizens: Autism, Gender, and Reimagining Disability. *Signs*, Vol. 33, No. 4 (Summer 2008), pp. 967-991

CARLSON, L (2001). Cognitive Ableism and Disability Studies: Feminist Reflections on the History of Mental Retardation, Pages 124–146, *Hypatia*, special issue Volume 16, Issue 4

Galvin, Rose (2006) 'A genealogy of the disabled identity in relation to work and sexuality', *Disability & Society*, 21:5, pp. 499 — 512.

Garland-Thomson, R-M (1997), Introduction. Extraordinary bodies: Figuring physical disability in American culture and literature



Kursplan

Garland-Thomson, R. (2005). "Feminist disability studies", *Signs*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (Winter 2005), pp. 1557-1587

Goodley, D. (2013). Dis/entangling critical disability studies. *Disability & Society*. Volume 28, 2013 - Issue 5. Pages 631-644.

Imrie, R. (1996). Ableist geographies, disablist spaces: towards a reconstruction of Gollledge's' Geography and the disabled. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, Vol. 21, No. 2, pp. 397-403.

Kitchin, R. 1998. 'Out of place', 'knowing one's place': Space, power and the exclusion of disabled people. *Disability & Society* 13: 343-56.

Kumari Campbell, Fiona A. (2008). Exploring internalized ableism using critical race theory. *Disability & Society*, Volume 23, 2008 - Issue 2, Pages 151-162.

McRuer, R. (2011). DISABLING SEX. Notes for a Crip Theory of Sexuality. *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, Volume 17, Number 1: 107-117.

Slater, J (2012). Youth for Sale: Using Critical Disability Perspectives to Examine the Embodiment of 'Youth', *Societies*, 2(3), 195-209.

Globalisation, gender and fitness culture

Andreasson, J (2013): 'Shut up and squat!' Learning body knowledge within the gym, *Ethnography and Education*, pp. 1-15.

Andreasson, J & T. Johansson , (2014): 'Doing for group exercise what McDonald's did for hamburgers': Les Mills, and the fitness professional as global traveller', *Sport, Education and Society*. pp.1-18.

Andreasson, J & T Johansson (2016) Gender, Fitness Doping and the Genetic Max. The Ambivalent Construction of Muscular Masculinities in an Online Community, *Soc. Sciences*. 2016, 5, 11. (13 pages).

Evans, J., Davies, B. & Rich, E. (2009). The body made flesh. Embodied learning and the corporeal device. *British Journal of Sociology of Education* 30(4).

George, M (2008) Interactions in expert service work. Demonstrating professionalism in personal training. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 37.

McGrath, S & Chananie-Hill (2009) "Big freaky-looking women". Normalizing gender transgression through bodybuilding. *Sociology of sport journal* 26, pp 235-254

Nilan, P (2002) 'Dangerous fieldwork' re-examined: the question of researcher subject position, *Qualitative Research* 2(3): pp. 363-386



Kursplan



Kursplan

Extended list of literature: For reference

Campbell, F. (2009), *Contours of Ableism. The Production of Disability and Abledness*. Palgrave. MacMillan.

Garland-Thomson, R-M (1997), *Extraordinary bodies: Figuring physical disability in American culture and literature*. Columbia University Press.

Goodley, D. (2010), *Disability Studies: An Interdisciplinary Introduction*. 1st Edition. London: Sage.

Nord, I, Bremer, S, Alm, E. (2016), "CISNORMATIVITET OCH FEMINISM" in *Tidskrift för genusvetenskap* 37(4) – will be provided as PDF

McRuer, R. (2006), *Crip Theory: Cultural Signs of Queerness and Disability*. New York University Press.

Gleeson, B. (1999), *Geographies of disability*. London: Routledge.