

Folklore 725
BODYLORE

Prof. Mary Hufford
Graduate Program in Folklore and Folklife
Center for Folklore and Ethnography

Fall 2006
Wed 1-3
3619 Locust Walk
Room 404

mhufford@sas.upenn.edu

Office hours: Wed. 3-4 and by appointment

Introduction

“Bodylore,” a term coined by folklorist Katharine Young, names a subfield of inquiry focused on the body’s role in social communication and the making of social meanings. Central to this inquiry is the philosophical puzzle of the “mind-body” split, and the ways in which bodylore rethinks or re-imagines the interrelations of matter and presence. How might ethnographic and historical study of modes of embodiment help to dismantle the dualisms of subject/object, abstract/material, male/female, culture/nature, classical/grotesque. We will examine some of the Western philosophical foundations for this split in the writings of Plato and Descartes, and efforts of 20th century philosophers and social scientists (Merleau-Ponty, John Dewey, Gregory Bateson, Katharine Young) to undo dualism. At the same time, heeding Caroline Bynum’s criticism that proliferating studies of the body do not adequately register the broad range of issues taken up in popular and vernacular discourses, we will pay special attention to ethnographic case studies. How is the body inscribed into multiple discourses, and how does it perform them? What is the relationship between bodies and social bodies (Mary Douglas’s “two bodies”) and what politics arise in relation to various models? How are the body’s paradoxes cross-culturally elaborated? How is the body a historically unfinished project? What can bodylore contribute to the understanding of Dewey’s “public intelligence,” or Bateson’s “ecology of mind”? And how is Merleau-Ponty’s proposal to base our engagement with the world in our embodiment an “invitation to ethnography?” (Del Negro and Berger)

Required texts:

Young, *Presence in the Flesh*

Young, *Bodylore*

Grosz, *Volatile Bodies*

Hufford, *The Terror that Comes in the Night*

Recommended:

Charon, Rita, *Narrative Medicine: Honoring the Stories of Illness*

(All required and recommended articles will be posted on Blackboard, and placed on reserve, with required and recommended texts, both in Rosengarten of Van Pelt, and in

the Folklore Archive and Seminar Room, Room 404, 3619 Locust Walk)

Work for the Course: 1) Each week post to the course blackboard a comment and question posed for you by the readings. Your comment, which can be of any length, can take the form of a response to the comment of another or initiate a new thread; I will post a prompt to get you started. 2) Bring to each class a bodylore "sighting" for that week – a newspaper clipping, an advertisement, a summary of a movie, news report, novel, conversation, policy, custom, artifact, concept, scholarly reading from another course or anything else that comes to your attention. Be prepared to relate it to themes emerging in our discussions and to document it for our course archive; 3) Observe a recurrent form of social communication in an institutionalized setting of your choice and write about its implications for understanding a problem of interest to you raised in the course readings: the mind/body dualism, embodiment, body image, participation in the social body, the body's role in modeling, sustaining, challenging structures of power and authority, or other aspects of interest to you. Speak with me by the end of the day on November 1 to confirm your choice of topic, and submit a proposal (2-3 pages) by November 8. Be prepared to present on your research on December 13 to the class. You may incorporate feedback from the class into your final papers (20 pages, double-spaced, including endnotes and bibliography), which are due on December 20.

September 6: Introduction to the course and its topics

September 13: Why Bodylore?

Young, Katharine. "Bodylore," *American Folklore: An Encyclopedia*; Introductions to Bodylore and JAF Special Issue, Winter 1994.

Bynum, Caroline, "Why all the Fuss About the Body?: A Medievalist's Perspective" in *Beyond the Cultural Turn*, pp. 241-80.

Grosz, Elizabeth. "Refiguring Bodies," *Volatile Bodies*, pp. 3-24,

Rec: Leder, Drew. "Introduction," *The Absent Body*, pp. 1-10.

THE BODY IN HISTORY

September 20: The Body in History

Duden, Barbara. "Toward a History of the Body," *The Woman Beneath the Skin*, pp. 1-49.

St. George, Robert, "Embodied Spaces," *Conversing by Signs: Poetics of Implication in Colonial New England Culture*, pp.

Stallybrass and White, "Bourgeois Hysteria and the Carnavalesque," *The Politics and Poetics of Transgression*, pp. 171-190.

Featherstone, Mike. "The Body in Consumer Culture," *Theory, Culture, and Society*, 1:18-33.

Rec: Bakhtin, Mikhail, "The Grotesque Image of the Body and its Sources," *Rabelais and His World*, 303-474.

Harvey, David. "The Body as an Accumulation Strategy." *Spaces of Hope*. Pp. 97-

September 27: Managing the Grotesque

Stewart, Susan, "The Imaginary Body." *On Longing*, pp. 104-131.

Young, Katharine, "Still Life with Corpse: Management of the Grotesque Body in Medicine," *Bodylore*, pp. 111-133.

Roemer, Danielle, "Photocopy Lore and the Naturalization of the Corporate Body," *JAF* 107:121-138.

Przybysz, Jane. "Quilts and Women's Bodies: Dis-eased and Desiring." *Bodylore*, 165-184.

Rec: Slyomovics, Susan. "The Body in Water: Women in American Spa Culture," *Bodylore*, pp. 35-56.

Merchant, Caroline. "Dominion Over Nature," *The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology, and the Scientific Revolution* pp. 164-91.

October 4: Discourses of Medicine, Pathology, and Healing

Young, Katharine, "The Phenomenology of the Body in Medicine," *Presence in the Flesh*, pp. 1-6.

Martin, Emily. "Medical Metaphors of Women's Bodies," *The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction*, pp. 27-67.

Briggs, Charles. "The Sting of the Ray: Bodies, Agency, and Grammar in Warao Curing," *JAF* 107:139-166.

Rec: Rebhun, L.A. "A Heart Too Full: The Weight of Love in Northeast Brazil." *JAF* 107:167-180.

Ritchie, Susan. "A Body of Texts: The Fiction of Humanization in Medical Discourse," *Bodylore*, pp. 205-224.

October 11: The Mind/Body Puzzle

Grosz, Elizabeth, "Lived Bodies: Phenomenology and the Flesh," *Volatile Bodies*, pp. 86-111.

Descartes, Rene. "Of the Existence of Material Things, and of the Real Distinction Between the Mind and the Body of Man." (Especially Meditation VI) *Philosophic Classics*, pp. 53-63.

Young, Katharine, "The Making of the Medical Body," *Presence in the Flesh*, pp. 130-38.

Rec: Merleau-Ponty, "The Body as Object and Mechanistic Physiology," *The Phenomenology of Perception*, pp. 73-89.

Johnston, Jessica, "Minds and Bodies," *The American Body in Context*, pp. 1-10.

Sheets-Johnstone, Maxine. *The Roots of Thinking*, pp. 277-313.

TWO BODIES

October 18: Two Bodies

Douglas, Mary, "The Two Bodies," *Natural Symbols: Explorations in Cosmology*, pp. 69-87.

Poovey, Mary, "Making a Social Body," *Making a Social Body: British Cultural Formation 1830-1864*

Gilbert, Scott, "Resurrecting the Body: Has Postmodernism Had Any Effect on Biology?" *Science in Context*. 8: 563-578.

Martin, Emily, "Toward an Anthropology of Immunology: The Body as Nation-State," *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 410-26.

Rec: Plato, selections from *The Republic*: "Justice in State and Individual," and "The Philosopher Ruler"

Paul, 1 Corinthians, 13:12-31

October 21: Performing the Social Body

Douglas, Mary. 1966. "External Boundaries." *In Purity and Danger: An Analysis of the Concepts of Pollution and Taboo*, pp. 114-128.

Foucault, Michel. "Body/Power," *In Power/Knowledge*, pp. 55-62.

Case Studies:

Del Negro, Giovanna P. and Harris M. Berger. "Character Divination and Kinetic Sculpture in the Central Italian Passegiata (Ritual Promenade): Interpretative Frameworks and Expressive Practices from a Body-Centered Perspective." *JAF* 114: 5-19.

Kapchan, Deborah. "Moroccan Female Performers: Defining the Social Body." *JAF* 107:82-105.

Noyes, Dorry. "Contesting the Body Politic: The Patum of Berga," *Bodylore*, pp. 134-164.

Williams, Clover, "The Bachelor's Transgression: Identity and Difference in the Bachelor Party," *JAF* 107:106-120

November 1 (Paper proposals due): Self and Body Image

Grosz, Elizabeth. "Body Images: Neurophysiology and Corporeal Mappings," *Volatile Bodies*, pp. 63-85

Martin, Emily, "Self and Body Image," *The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction*, pp. 71-91.

Young, Katharine. "Disembodiment: Internal Medicine," *Presence in the Flesh*, 7-45.

Rec: Merleau-Ponty, "The Synthesis of One's Own Body," *Phenomenology of Perception*, pp. 148-153.

November 8: Studying Traditions of the Soul and Supernatural Experience Guest Lecturer David Hufford

Hufford, David J. 1982. *The Terror That Comes in the Night: An Experience-Centered Study of Supernatural Assault Traditions*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

----- . Nd. "The Separable Soul vs. Depersonalization Syndrome," unpublished paper.

Charon, Rita. *Narrative Medicine*, excerpts.

Wickett, Elizabeth. "The Spirit in the Body," *Bodylore*, pp. 185-202.

ECOLOGIES

November 15: Landscape and Narrative Ecology

Stewart, Susan, "The Gigantic," "Litotes", *On Longing*, pp. 37-103; 132-173.

Basso, Keith. "Wisdom Sits in Places." *Senses of Place*, ed. Steven Feld and Keith Basso, pp. 53-90.

Hufford, Mary. "Knowing Ginseng: The Social Life of an Appalachian Root." *Cahiers de Litterature Orale* 53-54: 265-291.

November 22: Aesthetic Ecologies

McDermott, John J. "Deprivation and Celebration: Suggestions for an Aesthetic Ecology." *The Culture of Experience*, pp. 82-98.

Reid, Herbert G. and Betsy Taylor. 2003. "John Dewey's Aesthetic Ecology of Public Intelligence and the Grounding of Civic Environmentalism," in *Ethics and the Environment*. 8:74-92.

Hufford, Mary. "Carnival Time in the Kingdom of Coal," in Crichlow, forthcoming.

November 29: Rumor, Science, and Crisis in the Ecology of Mind

Bateson, "Form, Substance, and Difference," and "Crisis in the Ecology of Mind," *Steps to an Ecology of Mind*, 454-514.

Shibutani, "Suggestibility and Behavioral Contagion," *Improvised News: A Sociological Study of Rumor*, pp. 95-128.

Two Case Studies in Environmental Justice

December : Voice, Gesture, and Mirror Neurons

Guest Speaker: Katharine Young

Bateson, Gregory. "Redundancy in Coding," *Steps to an Ecology of Mind*, pp. 416-431.

Young, Katharine. "The Dream Body in Somatic Psychology: the Kinaesthetics of Gesture," *Gestures* 1:45-70.

----- . "The Aesthetic Ecology of a Gesture."

----- . "Perspectives on Embodiment," *Presence in the Flesh*, pp. 137-172.

Gallese, Vittorio. "From Grasping to Language: Mirror and the Origin of Social Communication." *Towards a Science of Consciousness* Cognet Proceedings:

<http://cognet.mit.edu/posters/TUCSON3/Gallese.html>.

December 13: Mini-conference: Working Papers in Bodylore

December 20: Final papers due

Folklore 725

BODYLORE

Course Bibliography

Abrahams, Roger. 2003. "Identity." In *Eight Words for the Study of Expressive Culture*. Ed. Burt Feintuch. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, pp. 198-122.

Bakhtin, Mikhail. 1984. *Rabelais and His World*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Barker, Francis. 1995. *The Tremulous Private Body: Essays on Subjection*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Bateson, Gregory. 1972. *Steps to an Ecology of Mind*. New York: Ballantine.

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1977 [1972] *Outline of a Theory of Practice*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Briggs, Charles. 1994. "The Sting of the Ray: Bodies, Agency, and Grammar in Warao Curing." *Journal of American Folklore*. 107:139-166.

Bynum, Caroline. "Why All the Fuss About the Body: A Medievalist's Perspective." In *Beyond the Cultural Turn*, eds. Victoria E. Bonnell and Lynn Hunt. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 241-279.

Cantwell, Robert. 2001. "Folklore's Pathetic Fallacy." *Journal of American Folklore*. 114:56-67.

-----, 1999. "Habitus, Ethnomimesis: A Note on *The Logic of Practice*." *Journal of Folklore Research*. 36:210-34.

Chappell, Hilary, and William McGregor, eds. 1996. *The Grammar of Inalienability: A Typological Perspective on Body Part Terms and the Part-Whole Relation*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Charon, Rita. 2006. *Narrative Medicine: Honoring the Stories of Illness*. New York: Oxford University Press.

De Certeau, Michel. 1984. *The Practice of Everyday Life*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Del Negro, Giovanna P. and Harris M. Berger. 2001. "Character Divination and Kinetic

Sculpture in the Central Italian Passeggiata (Ritual Promenade): Interpretative Frameworks and Expressive Practices from a Body-Centered Perspective.” *Journal of American Folklore* 114:5-19.

Descartes, Rene. [1641] 1962. *Meditations*. In Walter Kaufmann, ed. *Philosophic Classics: From Bacon to Kant*, 28-96. Englewood Cliffs, NJ. Prentice-Hall.

Douglas, Mary. 1996 [1970]. *Natural Symbols: Explorations in Cosmology*. New York: Routledge.

-----, 1966. *Purity and Danger: An Analysis of the Concepts of Pollution and Taboo*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Duden, Barbara. 1991. *The Woman Beneath the Skin: A Doctor's Patients in Eighteenth-Century Germany*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Eagleton, Terry. 1990. *The Ideology of the Aesthetic*. Cambridge: Basil Blackwell.

Feher, Michel, et al. 1989. *Fragments for a History of the Human Body*. New York: Zone Books.

Foucault, Michel. 1980. “Body/Power.” *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings 1972-1977*. Edited by Colin Gordon. New York: Pantheon Books. Pp. 55-62.

Gallese, Vittorio. “From Grasping to Language: Mirror Neurons and the Origin of Social Communication.” from *Towards a Science of Consciousness*
<http://cognet.mit.edu/posters/TUCSON3/Gallese.html>

Gil, Jose. 1998. *Metamorphoses of the Body: Theory Out of Bounds*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Gilbert, Scott. 1995. “Resurrecting the Body: Has Postmodernism Had Any Effect on Biology?” *Science in Context*. 8: 563-78.

Goffman, Erving. 1959. *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. New York: Anchor.

Grosz, Elizabeth. 1994. *Volatile Bodies: Toward a Corporeal Feminism*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Hall, Edward T. 1977. *Beyond Culture*. New York: Anchor.

Haraway, Donna J. 1991. *Simians, Cyborgs, and Women: The Reinvention of Nature*. New York: Routledge.

Harvey, David. 2000. *Spaces of Hope*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Hufford, David. 1982. *The Terror That Comes in the Night*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Hufford, Mary. 1992. *Chaseworld: Foxhunting and Storytelling in New Jersey's Pine Barrens*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

----- . 1995. "Context." *Journal of American Folklore* 108: 528-49.

Johnson, Mark. 1987. *The Body in the Mind: The Bodily Basis of Meaning, Imagination, and Reason*. Chicago, University of Chicago Press.

Johnston, Jessica R., ed. 2001. *The American Body in Context: An Anthology*. Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, Inc.

Kapchan, Deborah. 1995. "Performance." *Journal of American Folklore*. 108:479-508.

----- . 1994. "Moroccan Female Performers: Defining the Social Body." *Journal of American Folklore*. 107:82-105.

----- . 1993. "Moroccan Women's Body Signs." *Bodylore*. Ed. Katharine Young. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, pp. 3-34.

Kendon, Adam, ed. 1981. *Nonverbal Communication, Interaction, and Gesture*. The Hague: Mouton.

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara. 1996. "The Electronic Vernacular." In *Connected: Engagements with Media*, ed. George E. Marcus. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Lawless, Elaine. 1994. "Writing the Body in the Pulpit: Female-sexed Texts," *Journal of American Folklore* 107:55-81.

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

Martin, Emily. 1992 [1987]. *The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction*. Boston: Beacon Press.

----- . "Toward an Anthropology of Immunology: The Body as Nation-State," *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, :410-26.

Mauss, Marcel. "Techniques of the Body." *Incorporations*, eds. Jonathan Crary and Sanford Kwinter. New York: Zone Books.

Merchant, Caroline. 1980. *The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology, and the Scientific Revolution*. San Francisco: Harper and Row.

Merleau-Ponty, Maurice. 1996 [1962]. "The Body." *Phenomenology of Perception*. New York: Routledge, pp. 67-199.

Needham, Rodney, ed. *Right and Left: Essays on Dual Symbolic Classification*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Neustadt, Kathy. 1994. "The Folkloristics of Licking." *Journal of American Folklore*. 107:181-196.

Noyes, Dorothy. 1993. "Contesting the Body Politic: The Patum of Berga." *Bodylore*, ed. Katharine Young. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, pp. 134-164.

-----, 2003. *Fire in the Placa*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

O'Neill, John. *Five Bodies: The Human Shape of Modern Society*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Poovey, Mary. 1995. *Making a Social Body: British Cultural Formation 1830-1864*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Przybysz, Jane. 1993. "Quilts and Women's Bodies: Dis-eased and Desiring." *Bodylore*. Ed. Katharine Young. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, pp. 165-184.

Rebhun, L. A. 1994. "A Heart Too Full: The Weight of Love in Northeast Brazil." *Journal of American Folklore*. 107:167-180.

Ritchie, Susan. 1993. "A Body of Texts: The Fiction of Humanization in Medical Discourse." *Bodylore*. Ed. Katharine Young. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, pp. 205-224.

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara. 1996. "The Electronic Vernacular." In *Connected: Engagements with Media*. Ed. George E. Marcus. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 21-66.

Roemer, Danielle M. 1994. "Photocopy Lore and the Naturalization of the Corporate Body." *Journal of American Folklore*. 107:121-138.

St. George, Robert Blair. *Conversing by Signs: Poetics of Implication in Colonial New England Culture*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

Shibutani, Tamatsu. 1966. *Improvised News: A Sociological Study of Rumor*. New York: Bobbs-Merrill.

Shuman, Amy. 2006. *Other Peoples' Stories: A Critique of Empathy*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

Sklar, Dierdre. 1994. "Can Bodylore Be Brought to Its Senses?" *Journal of American Folklore* 107:9-22.

Slyomovics, Susan. 1993. "The Body in Water: Women in American Spa Culture." *Bodylore*. Ed. Katharine Young. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, pp. 35-58.

Sommer, Robert. 1969. *Personal Space: The Behavioral Basis of Design*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall.

Stallybrass, Peter and Allon White. 1986. *The Politics and Poetics of Transgression*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Stewart, Kathleen. 1996. *A Space on the Side of the Road: Cultural Politics and Poetics in Another America*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Stewart, Susan. 1984. *On Longing: Narratives of the Miniature, the Gigantic, the Souvenir, the Collection*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Sudnow, David. 1980. *Talk's Body: A Meditation Between Two Keyboards*. Middlesex, England: Penguin.

Williams, Clover. 1994. "The Bachelor's Transgression: Identity and Difference in the Bachelor Party." *Journal of American Folklore*. 107:106-120.

Young, Katharine. 1993. "Still Life with Corpse: Management of the Grotesque Body in Medicine." *Bodylore*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, pp. 111-133.

Young, Katharine. 1997. *Presence in the Flesh: The Body in Medical Discourse*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

----- . "The Dream Body in Somatic Psychology: the Kinaesthetics of Gesture," *Gestures* 1:45-70.

----- . "The Aesthetic Ecology of a Gesture."

<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/folklore/center/gatheringplace/index.html> and click on the title for Katharine Young's presentation).

----- Ed. 1993. *Bodylore*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press.

----- and Barbara Babcock. Eds. 1994. *Bodylore*. Theme issue. *Journal of American Folklore*. Vol. 107, no. 423.