

# **The Social Under our skin. Who Else is in our Body?**

## **Tentative Flow of the course**

### **Week 1: Introduction; Does our body know our culture?**

Understanding embodiment in anthropology and as anthropologists.

*Recommended Readings: A. Strathern. 1996. The Social Body: Mauss to Douglas*

### **Week 2: Our Class is under our skin. On Em(bodi)ement of Social Class**

*Recommended Readings: Pierre Bourdieu - Selected Readings*

### **Week 3: On Punishment, Discipline, and Pain**

*Recommended Readings: Foucault - Selected Readings*

The Body in Pain: The Making and Unmaking of the World

### **Week 4: The body as a mean to an end: Hunger Strikes, Self-sterilization, and Self-imulation.**

*Recommended Readings: Matters of Life and Longing: Female Sterilisation*

Discuss relevant cases circulating (Hunger Strikes in Egypt & Palestine)

## **Networks of Exchange and Resistance**

### **Week 5: Semen as a Gift & Smuggling Babies out of Prison in Palestine**

### **Week 6: Our Bodies Belong to God**

It is not all about Sharawii; Religion, Nationalism, Othering and Organ Transplant.

*Recommended Readings: Sherine Hamdy, "Our Bodies Belong to God"*

### ***Break***

### **Week 7: The Male Body, Vulnerability and Care**

*Recommended Readings: Farha Ghanam, Live & Die Like a Man*

\*\* Chapter in Identity and Health - on male military service ethnography

Karin's work on something on Labour\*\* and the male body

### **Week 8: Beyond the Human Body: On technology, animals and embodiment**

## **The Body in different Space(s)**

### **Week 9: The Body as Infrastructure; Understanding the body in the City.**

Our bodies as part of the urban metabolism, and are they spaces on/of its own?

In-class activity: This session we will go out into the city and reflect on our embodiment.

**Week 10: Death - Role of Death in our Lives & our Bodies.**

*Recommended Readings:* Nancy Scheper-Hughes's work - *Selected Readings*

In transition to the next session, we will reflect on what does 'Dying While Being Borrowed' mean.

**Week 11: The Body 'out' of place; the Migrant Body**

*Recommended Readings:* Sarah Ahmed's "Cultural Politics of Emotions"

Samuli Shielke's work - *Selected Readings*

**Week 12:** Space with no memory and a body. The body as an archive to the cultural and the personal.  
Personhood

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On-going Reading List (for potential readings)

- Chapter 1 in Health and Identity in Egypt Book: "Spirit Possession among Women in Low-income Cairo"
- Sarah Ahmed "Cultural Politics of Emotions"
- For the Living and The Dead, Elizabeth Wickett
- Sherin Hamdy's "[Bodies Belong to God](#)"
- Carl Rommel, Chapter 6 Football Revolution Ch 6: "When the Game Feels Like Politics, It Doesn't Feel Like Much at All"
- Extra: Noha Fikry "Of Pigeons and Men: Gender in/of relating, more-than-human in the making"
- Live and Die like a Man , Farha Ghannam

- Chapter 5 in Health and Identity in Egypt Book: “Mushahra: The Justice and Injustice of Infertility”, Hania Sholkamy .
- Berlant, Lauren Gail. 2012. Cruel optimism. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Masculinities in Egypt and the Arab World
- Bruno Latour, “How to Talk about the Body” 2004
- Foucault - Docile Bodies
- Bourdieu - [Issues of Embodiment and Authenticity](#)
- The Body in Pain: The Making and Unmaking of the World
- Marcel Mauss. “Techniques of the Body,” translated by Ben Brewster, *Economy and Society* 2:70-88. 1973 [1936]
- “The Mindful Body: A Prolegomenon to Future Work in Medical Anthropology”, Nancy Scheper-Hughes and Margaret M. Lock, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, Volume 1. No 1, 2009
- “Bodies that Don’t Matter: Death and Dereliction in Chicago”, Eric Klinenberg, *Commodifying Bodies*, Nancy Scheper-Hughes & Loic Wacquant, Sage Publications, 2002, (pg.: 121-135)
- A. Strathern. 1996. The Social Body: Mauss to Douglas