

Mini-Conference: What a Body Can Do
Melbourne: December 10-12, 2020



COSM cluster for the study of
organisation society and markets

Call for Virtual Presentations

With 'thus has been demonstrated' Spinoza completes his famous analysis of the capacity of the body to act, concluding 'no one yet has determined what the body can do'. 'Q.E.D.' -- or 'Quod Erat Demonstrandum'-- that definite terminus at the end of each of Spinoza's proofs that without fail instils in the committed reader a sense of helplessness and frustration: for if you haven't understood Spinoza's insights by now you are never going to. So what can a body do?

This mini-conference aims to return to this vital issue by examining the body from within and without. A predominant idea is that above all a body needs to be 'fit', i.e. fitting into or with the overarching body of which it is part. Whilst a body's fitness may provide it with its capacity to act, the relationship between overarching bodies and their constitutive parts is still an unsettled debate. Neither are overarching bodies like our societies fully determined by our individual bodies nor are our individual bodies a white canvas at the discretion of such social bodies. This mini-conference invites presentations that will explore the associated issues from a range of perspectives, including but not limited to organization theory, philosophy, political science, feminism, culture studies, critical geography, gender studies and anthropology. Some suggested themes are:

1. Bodies under Surveillance
2. Bodies: Emergent and Immanent
3. Bodies: Physical and Metaphysical
4. Bodies: Social and Political
5. Bodies in Space
6. Bodies & (Eco)feminism
7. Bodies of Organization
8. Bodies: Difference and Identity
9. Bodies of Knowledge
10. Bodies in and of Time

Timeline

ASAP:

Let us know **by return email** if you are interested to do a presentation. We have **limited capacity** and can only accommodate around 30 presentations.

November 30:

Let us know by return email the title for your presentation + author details + 150 word abstract + preferred theme (but feel free to suggest a different one).

December 4: program to be disseminated.

December 10-12:

Workshop times are TBC. Whilst a number of you have indicated that you would like to present we cannot confirm how long the workshop will run; at a minimum 1 day and maximally 3.

Format:

45 minute **Zoom** presentation. Details TBC. And yes we hope to accommodate **papers from abroad**.

Looking forward to seeing what any body can do.

Antonia, Graham, Kamila, Laurent, Joeri and Jon