

COSM Workshop: What a Body Can Do
Melbourne: Thursday December 10, 2020



COSM cluster for the study of
organisation society and markets

Workshop Theme

What a Body Can Do

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 workshop 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. Based on the submissions the workshop themes are:

1. Bodies of Organization
2. Bodies: Physical and Metaphysical
3. Bodies: Social and Political

Looking forward to seeing what any body can do.

Antonia, Graham, Kamila, Laurent, Joeri and Jon

Online Workshop

Zoom Details

To join **click on Zoom icon below:**



Alternatively, Join from PC, Mac, iOS or Android:

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/81707001701?pwd=N2x2NkZjSkUveWZMYm84Z2tJOE5UQT09>

Password: 916434

Meeting ID: 817 0700 1701

International numbers available: <https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/kbbE94qjAO>

Theme I: Bodies of Organization		
Thursday – 14:00-15:45		
	Presenter (bolded)	Paper Title
14:15-14:45	Xiaoran Ma Joeri Mol	Coding Bodies: Innovation in Art Worlds
14:45-15:15	Geoff Hondroudakis	Bodies at Scale: Levels and Abstraction in a Theory of Technics
15:15-15:45	Graham Sewell	Knowing Me, Knowing You: The Ontological and Epistemological Functions of the Gaze

Theme II: Bodies: Physical and Metaphysical		
Thursday – 16:15-17:45		
	Presenter (bolded)	Paper Title
16:15-16:45	Antonia Pont	'Eleven Years to Learn One Thing: considering the difference between 'goals' and intentionality, repeatedly'
16:45-17:15	Jon Rubin	The Power of Thought and the Power of Individuation, or: how understanding what can a body do explains the eternity of the mind
17:15-17:45	Jon Roffe	Ruyer on the reciprocal illusion of incarnation

Theme III: Bodies: Social and Political		
Thursday – 18:00-19:30		
	Presenter (bolded)	Paper Title
18:00-18:30	Laurianne Terlinden	Experiencing power in ethnography
18:30-19:00	Kamila Moulai Laurent Taskin	Getting out of that body, far away. An investigation into self-initiated expatriation journeys.
19:00-19:30	Joeri Mol Graham Sewell Laurent Taskin	Bodies in Space: Subjectivity and the Surveillant Assemblage