



BODY: A CENTRAL NOD IN SYMBOLIC AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Body, Health and Society

READING REFLECTIONS

- How were the texts for reading?

Situating the reading

- time
 - space
 - discipline
 - methodology
- What is the text about?
- What is the main argument?
- Questions/ Comments?
 - √ (what do we already know)
 - + (what information is new)
 - - (what we do not agree with)
 - ? (what are we interested in)

NANCY SCHEPER-HUGHES



- * 1944
- professor of Anthropology and director of the program in Medical Anthropology at the University of California at Berkeley
- shantytowns, organ trade
- mindful body
- 1979 *Saints, Scholars and Schizophrenics: Mental Illness in Rural Ireland*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- 1993 *Death without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

EXERCISE



- Scheper-Hughes, N. ([1989] 2006): *Mother's Love: Death without Weeping*. In: Spradley, James P. & McCurdy, David W. (Eds.): *Conformity & conflict: Readings in cultural anthropology*. 14th ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J: Pearson, 156-162
- What is an angel child?
- What factors are causing high child morbidity in the environment described?
- What is the relation between high child morbidity and mothers' love (kinship system) there?
- What meaning is ascribed to and social mechanisms relate to children's death in the study?
- In summary: what causes the phenomenon of common children's death and what this phenomenon further causes in the environment under study?

DISCUSSION



- Explain, how the power, social system, culture, and nature are entangled on the example of this case.
- Relate the paper to the Douglas', Bourdieu's and Murphy's/ Merleau-Ponty's approach to the body.
 - i.e. apply the theory of social body, habitus, and embodiment on the example analyzed by Scheper-Hughes

NEXT CLASS

Topic

- **Bodies incommensurable and menopause**

reading

- Lock, M., Kaufert, P. (2001). Menopause, local biologies, and cultures of aging. *American Journal of Human Biology*, 13(4), 494.
- Lock, M., Nguyen, V. K. (2010). *An Anthropology of Biomedicine* Oxford. **The end of menstruation: 84-89.**

guiding questions

What is menopause?

- when and how did the concept emerge?
- how is it defined by medical discourse?
- how it is experienced by people?

What is kōnenki?

- how medicalization of the transformation labeled as menopause happened?
- what has it changed in Japanese society?