



BODIES INCOMENSURABLE AND MENOPAUSE

Body, Health and Society



OUTLINE

- Organization of assignments
- Margaret Lock
- Reading reflections
- Discussion

ORGANIZATION

- synopses
- 2 people still have not submitted the topic and bibliography of the final essay!
 - no minus points, but feedback delay
 - ideally list: title, how you will approach it; bibliography
- **REMEMBER:**
 - you need to base it on at least **3 titles from the field of social sciences** (at least one from the course mandatory literature)
 - all of the sources (for the topic analysis) needs to be: A) anthropological; B) sociological
 - **literature from other fields and personal experience is acceptable in limited extent – and could serve only as an example = application of the theory**
 - How do you understand it?

MARGARET LOCK

[HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/MARGARET_LOCK](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_Lock)

- * 1936
- Canadian anthropologist of a british
- McGill University (Canada)
- body, embodiment, comparative epistemologies of medical knowledge and practices, global implication of biomedical technologies developments
- ...all medical knowledge, including that of biomedicine, is embedded in specific historical, social, cultural, political, and economic contexts ...
- with Ngyuen: *An Anthropology of Biomedicine* (2010)
- with Farquhar: *Beyond the Body Proper* (2007)
- *Encounters with Aging: Mythologies of Menopause in Japan and North America* (1993)



LOCK: ON THE MENOPAUSE

- How was the texts for reading?

Situating the reading

- genre
 - time
 - space
 - field
 - methodology
- What is the text about? (where to search for it?)
 - Summary vs. Story
 - What is the main argument? (where to search for it?)
 - Questions (smth. not clear)/ Comments (smth. not agreed with)?
 - √
 - +
 - -
 - ?

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXTS:

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.**

- 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 *kônenki*?
 - how is the concept defined? (etymologically, experientially)
 - how medicalization of the transformation labeled as menopause happened?
 - what has it changed in Japanese society?

TABLE 1. Comparison of the rates of core symptom reporting by study^a

Symptom	Study			(2 df)
	Japan	Canada	USA	
Diarrhea/constipation	24.5	12.8	21.4	62.8*
Persistent cough	4.2	5.2	10.1	68.4*
Upset stomach	6.3	12.9	16.1	85.1*
Shortness of breath	3.1	8.2	15.6	177.6*
Sore throat	10.5	9.1	10.7	2.9
Backaches	24.2	26.8	29.6	17.7*
Headaches	27.5	33.8	37.2	45.2*
Aches/stiffness in joints	14.5	31.4	38.6	279.1*
Dizzy spells	7.1	12.3	11.1	21.4*
Lack of energy	6.0	39.8	38.1	503.3*
Irritability	11.5	17.1	29.9	246.6*
Feeling blue/depressed	10.3	23.4	35.9	365.1*
Trouble sleeping	11.7	30.4	30.6	189.8*
Lack of appetite	4.6	4.0	5.4	5.8
Hot flushes	12.3	31.0	34.8	246.6*
Cold or night sweats	3.8	19.8	11.4	158.2*
Hot flushes/sweats (combd)	14.7	36.1	38.0	252.5*
Total (100%)	1,225	1,307	7,802	

^aFrom Avis et al. (1993).

*Indicates $P < 0.01$.

LOCAL BIOLOGIES

- compare
- biomedical assumption of universal body
and
- local biologies
- How would you approach nature-culture relation within each body ontology?

DISCUSSION: CONNESTING TO OTHER READINGS

- Relate the paper to the Mauss' (body techniques), Douglas' (social b.), Bourdieu's (habitus), Foucault's (self-regulation), Murphy's/ Merleau-Ponty's and Martin's (gender politics) approach to the body.
- i.e. apply the theory on the example analyzed by Lock – how the menopause could be approached in the light of these concepts?

QUESTIONS?

- Considering assignment?
 - Essay topics + bibliographies examples
- FAQ:
 - You can miss 4 classes without an apology and confirmation, that it was for a serious reason (illness)
 - The deadline for the essay is January 31st, but sooner you will submit, the more time you will have for its corrections
 - 1250 - 1750 words (60 % of the final grade)
 - Essay design:
 - based on at least 3 titles from the field of social sciences (at least one from the course mandatory literature)
 - building upon literature - to discuss a selected topic, comparing different theoretical approaches to it (apply a theory/ concept on some phenomenon). The arguments has to be rooted in literature!!!!

NEXT CLASS

- Summarizing topics; connecting concepts
- Homework
 - Choose one of the following topics:
 - Gender
 - Beauty
 - Illness
 - Eating
 - Health
 - Sexual behavior
 - Death
 - Explain (/ give an example) them using all of the discussed concepts
 - Body techniques
 - Social body
 - Body interaction
 - Habitus
 - Docile bodies
 - Embodiment