




BODY, HEALTH AND SOCIETY

The Two Bodies



CLASS OUTLINE

- Revision
- Reading reflections
- Examples
- Mary Douglas
- Discussion



MARCEL MAUSS BODY TECHNIQUES

- How do people in every society know how should they use their bodies?
- Contribution?
- Body techniques
- Habitus



DEMOLITION MAN AND THE TWO BODIES?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jae38H1_j-E

SYNOPSIS

INSTRUCTION

- Your name should be placed
 - In the name of the document
 - Included in the document
- Structure
 - Introduce (and explain) the main argument
 - Contextualize it a bit
 - Ask question
- 1-2 paragraphs long

THE TWO BODIES

MARY DOUGLAS

- How was the text for reading?

Situating the reading

- time
 - space
 - methodology
- What is the text about?
- What is the main argument?
- Questions/ Comments?
 - √
 - +
 - -
 - ?

EXERCISE

- What is symbol?
- Graphical visualization of two bodies

TEXT REFLECTION

- reaction to mainstream? (72-76)
- aim (76, 2.)
- hypothesis (78, 1.)
- 4 rules (79, 2.)

GUIDING QUESTIONS

DOUGLAS, M. (2007) [1970]. THE TWO BODIES, PP. 78-81. *IN FRASER, M., GRECO, M., THE BODY: A READER*. ROUTLEDGE, OXON, NEW YORK.
DOUGLAS, M. (2004) [1970]. THE TWO BODIES. *IN DOUGLAS, M., NATURAL SYMBOLS*, PP. 72-91. TAYLOR & FRANCIS E-LIBRARY.

- Which two bodies are at stake?
- What is the relationship between them?
- What kind of role plays symbols in this relationship?
- What kind of role plays control in it?
- What is the role of understanding and experience in this process?
- What is the purity rule?

BODY

- Metaphor of society
- The society is exteriorized on the bodies of its members
- Naturalization of social order (e.g. Man vs. Woman; Left vs. Right; Healthy vs. Ill; We vs. Them)
- Mean of cultural expression

- → body symbolism serves social aims – organic system is an analogy to the social one
- → individual experience is culturally determined (cultural imperative of a care of own body, conceptions of sleep and motion regimes...)
- → to make social norms correspond with individual ones – the need of normative of body regulation

- **Micrcosm mirroring the society as whole**
 - **Social distance – the distance from physiological origin**
 - **The more strict the social order, the more strict the physical order**

SOCIAL BODY

UNDERSTANDING AND EXPERIENCE

- = society as an collective phenomenon, which with its system of meanings determinates, how the physical body will be experienced (Soukup 2014)
 - „Social body limits the ways the physical body is perceived.“
 - „Physical experiences of body are always modified by social categories, through which the body is understood, support certain understanding of society.“ (Douglas 2003: 66 in Soukup 2014)

GUIDING QUESTIONS

DOUGLAS, M. (2007) [1970]. THE TWO BODIES, PP. 78-81. *IN FRASER, M., GRECO, M., THE BODY: A READER*. ROUTLEDGE, OXON, NEW YORK.
DOUGLAS, M. (2004) [1970]. THE TWO BODIES. *IN DOUGLAS, M., NATURAL SYMBOLS*, PP. 72-91. TAYLOR & FRANCIS E-LIBRARY.

- Which two bodies are at stake?
- What is the relationship between them?
- What kind of role plays symbols in this relationship? (symbols?)
- What kind of role plays control in it?
- What is the role of understanding and experience in this process?
- What is the purity rule? (disembodiment?)



<https://health.howstuffworks.com/skin-care/beauty/hair-removal/how-often-shave-legs.htm>

SOCIAL ORDER AND BODY DISCIPLINE



<https://image.glamourdaze.com/2015/08/Fashion-Freedom-in-Pre-War-Afghanistan2.jpg>



<https://theidleman.com/manual/mens-hair/5-traditional-mens-military-haircuts-hairstyles/>



<https://www.quora.com/What-type-of-formals-should-a-girl-wear-to-the-office>



<http://portfolio.colinsweetman.net/2009/09/29/comedy-public-toilets/>

CHAOS? BREAKING THE RULES?



CHALLENGING SOCIAL ORDER BY PUTTING THE BODY BACK TO THE PUBLIC SPHERE



MARY DOUGLAS



- *1921 – 2007
- British anthropologist, Africanist, professor of social anthropology
 - UCL (GB); Princeton (USA)
- **fusing structural-functionalism with symbolic anthropology**
 - **How do symbols create and represent social order as a system of mental classification?** (Soukup 2014)
- anthropology of religion → comparative theory of religion
- background: follower of Émile Durkheim

- Work:
 - Concepts of: Social body; Purity; Group-Grid
 - *Purity and Danger: An Analysis of Concepts of Pollution and Taboo* (1966)
 - *Natural Symbols: Explorations in Cosmology* (1970)
 - *Risk and Blame: Essays in Cultural Theory* (London: Routledge, 1992).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Can you think about more examples of these two bodies relationship expression?
 - In relation to:
 - Gender
 - Beauty
 - Eating
 - Illness
 - Health
 - sexual behaviour
 - Death
- What is the difference between the approaches to body-society relationships of Mauss and Douglas?

SYNOPSIS QUESTIONS

- What does *Mary Douglas* mean that informality is appropriated to the role of confusion?
- How would Douglas explain the smacking of the lips in other cultures, where less smacking is not associated with refinement but taken as an insult?

BODY IN MAUSS' AND DOUGLAS ' WORK

- body as a representation of a society (i.e. healthy body – social unity vs. sick body – social disharmony)
- unconscious correspondence between body understanding/experience and society

- individual body – a tool for an imitation of socially effective actions

- common things
 - continuous exchange of meanings among social and natural world
 - Mind vs. Body

CONTRIBUTION OF MARY DOUGLAS' WORK

IN ANTHROPOLOGY OF BODY (HEŘMANSKÝ 2014)

- BODY
 - Universal symbol
 - Basic scheme for all the symbolics
 - Socially constructed in terms of a form into which the crucial values, norms and hierarchies are imprinted → body is a symbolic medium of a society
 - In rituals through the physical body the form of the social body is strengthened

NEXT CLASS

Embodied information in face-to-face interaction

Reading: your choice – but you need to be able to answer guiding questions

•Goffman, E. (1963). Introductory definitions, pp. 13-30. In Goffman, E., Behaviour in public places. New York, The Free Press.

Guiding questions

- •What kind of interactions are at stake?
- •What are crucial communication conditions for face-to-face interaction?
- •What is the difference between embodied and disembodied message?
- •In what ways is the communication under study mutual?
- •What makes people accessible?
- •What is the normative public regulation?
- •How and why are people disciplining their bodies?

Discussion questions

- •What is the relationship between the individual (body) and society according to Goffman?
- •How is Goffman' s approach different from the approach of Douglas and Mauss?
- •*How and why is the body disciplined? What does the absence of this discipline mean?*
- •Can you think about more examples of this theory application?
- •*In relation to gender, beauty, eating, illness, health, sexual behavior, death?*