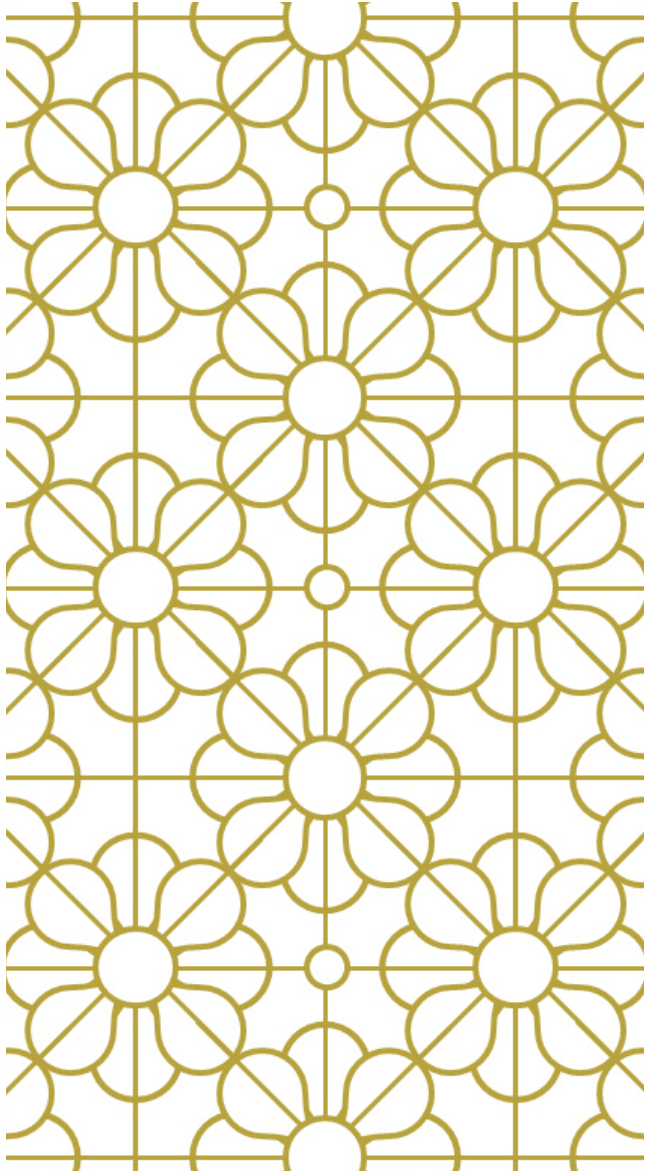


THE TWO BODIES

Anthropology of the body



- Revision
- Mary Douglas
- Reading reflections
- EXAMPLES – EXERCISE - DISCUSSION

CLASS OUTLINE

MARCEL MAUSS BODY TECHNIQUES

- How do people in every society know how should they use their bodies?
- What is the biggest contribution of Mauss' theory on body?
- What are the techniques of body?



THE TWO BODIES

MARY DOUGLAS

Situating the reading

- time
 - space
 - methodology
-
- What is the text about?
-
- What is the main argument?

THE TWO BODIES

MARY DOUGLAS

Situating the reading

- time (1970)
- space (UK, social anthropology)
- methodology (theoretical chapter; sources + secondary data analysis)

- What is the text about?
 - It introduces the theory of two bodies: physical (individual) and social as an (culturally) universal body-society relationship theory.

- What is the main argument?
 - There is an interdependency and correlation between the social body (society --- social norms) and physical body.

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).

EXERCISE

- What is symbol?
- Graphical visualization of two bodies



<http://www.fagburn.com/2013/02/daily-telegraph-crap.html>



<https://www.livescience.com/37009-human-body.html>

TEXT REFLECTION

- 1.
 - reaction to mainstream? (72-76)
- 2.
 - aim (76, 2.)
 - hypothesis (78, 1.)
- 3.
 - 4 rules (79, 2.)

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)

APPLICATIONS OF TWO BODIES THEORY

- How are these two bodies – body physical and body social (society --- social norms) connected?
- How can we understand pictures at the following slides using Mary Douglas' theory?

“The social body constrains the way the physical body is perceived. The physical experience of the body, always modified by the social categories through which it is known, sustains a particular view of society. There is a continual exchange of meanings between the two kinds of bodily experience so that each reinforces the categories of the other. As a result of this interaction the body itself is a highly restricted medium of expression. The forms it adopts in movement and repose express social pressures in manifold ways. The care that is given to it, in grooming, feeding and therapy, the theories about what it needs in the way of sleep and exercise, about the stages it should go through, the pains it can stand, its span of life, all the cultural categories in which it is perceived, must correlate closely with the categories in which it is seen in so far as these also draw upon the same culturally processed idea of the body.” (Douglas 2004 [1970]: 72)

EXERCISE 1.

- Explain examples using Mary Douglas' theory



1. DEMOLITION MAN'S SEX SCENE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jaehhttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGMa1Q-45ow&t=24s38H1_j-E



2. CHOOSE TWO PICS



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

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



<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/>



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

3. CHOOSE TWO ROAD SIGNS



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

PUSSY RIOT PUBLIC URINATION ON YANUKOVYCH PICTURES



EXERCISE 3

- 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?

BODY IN MAUSS' AND DOUGLAS ' WORK

- Douglas
 - 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
- Mauss
 - 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

KNOWLEDGE CHECK

- 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?

NEXT CLASS' TASKS

Reading:

- Goffman, E. (1963). Introductory definitions, pp. 13-30. In Goffman, E., Behaviour in public places. New York, The Free Press. (compulsory)
- Goffman, E. (2007) [1963]. Embodied information in face-to-face interaction, pp. 82-86. In Fraser, M., Greco, M., The body: A reader. Routledge, Oxon, New York.

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?*