

## Resources on Sociology of the Body and Disabilities From SWS listserv, November 2004

One suggestion would be to have a section on disability (not just as it affects men). Irv Zola has written some brilliant stuff, as has Anne Finger. Another book I just read (for pleasure) is Anne Patchett's *Beauty and Truth*, which chronicles her friendship with Lucy Greeley, a writer who had childhood cancer of the jaw, and struggled with her sense of self throughout her (rather short) life.

For a film, I'd suggest *Venus Boyz*, a documentary that "uses the performances of drag kings - women who perform on stage with an invented male persona - as a starting point from which we follow their different paths into transgendered worlds." Their observations re: embodiments of gender/race/class/sexuality are fascinating. The insights of Dred Gerestant, Del LaGrace Volcano, Diane Torr and Storme Webber are particularly memorable.

"Dirty Pretty Things" and "Maria Full of Grace" are two excellent films I have seen recently that both depict the body as a commodity. Both films depict how poor, disadvantaged members of society use their bodies at great risk (by selling organs, transporting drugs) in order to obtain economic or other resources (cash, a passport). I think both films are great at incorporating global dimensions of inequality, and showing how the body can be sold or used as a vessel when one has few other resources of value to offer.

Fausto-Sterling, Anne (2000). *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics & the Construction of Sexuality*

Bordo, Susan (1999). *The Male Body: A New Look at Men in Public and Private*

Weitz, Rose (2003) *The Politics of Women's Bodies*, 2e

Sarah Banet-Weiser: *The Most Beautiful Girl in the World: Beauty Pageants and National Identity*

Ingrid Banks, *Hair Matters: Beauty, Power, and Black Women's Consciousness*

Joan Jacobs Brumberg, *The Body Project: An Intimate History of American Girls*

Elizabeth Haiken, *Venus Envy: A History of Cosmetic Surgery*

Sharlene Hesse-Biber, *Am I Thin Enough Yet? The Cult of Thinness and the Commercialization of Identity*

Philip Scranton, Ed. *Beauty and Business: Commerce, Gender, and Culture in Modern America*

On disabilities, Nancy Mairs' *Waist-High In the World* is a memoir of the author's experiences as a person w/multiple sclerosis

On men: *The Adonis Complex* by Harrison G. Pope, et al. Kasson, John . *Houdini, Tarzan, and the Perfect Man: The White Male Body and the Challenge of Modernity in America*. New York: Hill and Wang, 2001. Klein, Alan M. *Little Big Men: Bodybuilding Subculture and Gender Construction*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1993. Luciano, Lynne. *Looking Good: Male Body Image in Modern America*. NY: Hill and Wang, 2001. Messner, Michael. *Power at Play: Sports and the Problem of Masculinity*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1992.

Cahn, Susan K. *Coming on Strong: Gender and Sexuality in Twentieth-Century Women's Sport*. New York: Free Press, 1994.

Caplan, Jane. *Written on the Body: The Tattoo in European and American History*. Princeton University Press, 2000.

DeMello, Margo. *Bodies of Inscription: A Cultural History of the Modern Tattoo Community*. Duke University Press, 2000.

Edut, Ophira, Ed. *Body Outlaws: Young Women Write About Body Image and Identity*. New York: Seal Press, 2000. (personal accounts)

Etcoff, Nancy. *Survival of the Prettiest: The Science of Beauty*. Anchor Books, 1999.

Gilman, Sander L. *Making the Body Beautiful: A Cultural History of Aesthetic Surgery*. Princeton, 1999.

Debra L. Gimlin. *Body Work: Beauty and Self-Image In American Culture*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2002.

Heywood, Leslie. *Bodymakers: A Cultural Anatomy of Women's Body Building*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1998.

Victoria Pitts, *In the Flesh: The Cultural Politics of Body Modification*. NY: Palgrave, 2003.

Stinson, Kandi M. *Women and Dieting Culture*. Rutgers, 2001. (this book is a case study of a Weight Watchers-type group)

Silliman, Jael and Anannya Bhattacharjee, eds. 2002. *Policing the National Body: Race, Gender and Criminalization*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press. ISBN 0-89608-661-7.

*Skin Deep*, by Herring, Keith, and Horton (colorism)

*A mind of its own: a cultural history of the penis*

*Rapunzel's Daughters: What Women's Hair Tells Us About Women's Lives*.

Sport:

Messner, Michael A. 1992. *Power at Play*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Messner, Michael A. 2002. *Taking the Field*. Minneapolis, MN: Univ of Minnesota.

Dowling, Collette. 2000. *The Frailty Myth*. New York: Random House.

Heywood, Leslie and Shari Dworkin. 2003. *Built to Win: The Female Athlete as Cultural Icon*. Minneapolis, MN: Univ of Minnesota.

Maxine Leeds Craig. 2002. *Ain't I a Beauty Queen?: Black Women, Beauty, and the Politics of Race*. Oxford University Press.

McCaughey, Martha. 1997. *Real Knockouts: The Physical Feminism of Women's Self Defense*. New York University Press.

Burton, John, W. (2001). *Culture and the human body – an anthropological perspective*. Connecticut College: Waveland Press, Inc.