

## Folger Seminar: Early Modern Embodiment

January 29 – April 1, 2004, 1:00-3:00 pm

Valerie Traub, University of Michigan

Over the past twenty years, scholars have investigated a wide range of issues regarding early modern representations of gender, status, race, and sexuality. As was appropriate for new fields of study, much of this work tended to focus on one or two discrete axes of identity—homoeroticism, for instance, or gender and nationhood—or to treat several modes of embodiment sequentially and independently. In this seminar, we will continue to explore the ways in which embodiment was experienced, represented, and imagined through ideologies and practices of gender, marriage, reproduction, and kinship; labor, rank, status, and violence; religious, political, ethnic, and national affiliation; health and sickness, pleasure and desire. Rather than respecting established conceptual parameters, however, our guiding question throughout will be: how do these various modes of embodiment *interact*, both in representation and lived experience? To what extent, for instance, do gender, status, and race together affect the expression of erotic desire? Can we speak simultaneously of classed and racialized sexualities? How did the labor one performed, along with the threat of sickness or violence, affect one's pursuit of bodily pleasure? In addition to analyzing literary, medical, and/or visual representations—chosen by seminar participants from their own research projects—we will engage with historiographic and methodological questions: How do we know eroticism when we see it? To what extent is it possible to gain access to the material practices of sex? What kind of “evidence” of social practices are medical books, political satire, pastoral painting, or the language of bawdy?

### 1/29 Introduction

#### 2/5 The Theories and Stakes of Intersectionality

Kimberle Crenshaw, “Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics” (1989), *Feminist Legal Theory: Foundations*, ed. D. Kelly Weisberg (Temple U P, 1993).

Kim F. Hall, “Epilogue: On ‘Race,’ Black Feminism, and White Supremacy,” *Things of Darkness: Economies of Race and Gender in Early Modern England* (Cornell U P, 1995).

Margaret W. Ferguson, “Juggling the Categories of Race, Class, and Gender: Aphra Behn’s *Oroonoko*,” *Women, ‘Race,’ and Writing in the Early Modern Period*, eds. Margo Hendricks and Patricia Parker (Routledge, 1994). [Note: a reading of *Oroonoko*]

Wendy Brown, “The Impossibility of Women’s Studies,” *differences* 9 (Fall 1997).

#### 2/12 Figures of Difference and the Body Politic: Lindsay

Wendy Wall, “Introduction: In the Nation’s Kitchen,” *Staging Domesticity: Household Work and English Identity in Early Modern Drama* (Cambridge U P, 2002)

Frances E. Dolan, Introduction & “Searching the Bed: Jacobean Anti-Catholicism and the Scandal of Heterosociality,” *Whores of Babylon: Catholicism, Gender, and Seventeenth-Century Print Culture* (Cornell U P, 1999).

Jonathan Gil Harris, “Public Enemas: The Disjunctions of the Excremental Jewish Pharmakon,” *Foreign Bodies and the Body Politic: Discourses of Social Pathology in Early Modern England* (Cambridge U P, 1998). [Note: On *The Jew of Malta*]

Cynthia Herrup, “Introduction” & Chapters 1, 2, 3, *A House in Gross Disorder: Sex, Law, and the Second Earl of Castlehaven* (Oxford U P, 1999).

#### 2/19 Anatomical, Wounded, and Disabled Bodies: Elizabeth

Jonathan Sawday, “The Fate of Marsyas: Dissecting the Renaissance Body,” *Renaissance Bodies: The Human Figure in English Culture, 1540-1660*, eds. Lucy Gent and Nigel Llewellyn (Reaktion, 1990).

- Katharine Park, "The Criminal and the Sainly Body: Autopsy and Dissection in Renaissance Italy," *Renaissance Quarterly* \*\*\*, 1-33.
- David Hillman, "Visceral Knowledge: Shakespeare, Skepticism, and the Interior of the Early Modern Body," *The Body in Parts: Fantasies of Corporeality in Early Modern Europe* (Routledge, 1997).
- David T. Mitchell and Sharon L. Snyder, Preface and Introduction, *Narrative Prosthesis: Disability and the Dependencies of Discourse* (U of Michigan Press, 2000).
- Patricia Cahill, "Wound-Man Walking: Mutilation and the Martial Body," MLA Conference Paper.

2/26 **Prosthetic and Partial Bodies: Vin**

- Carla Mazzio and David Hillman, eds., "Introduction: Individual Parts," *The Body in Parts: Fantasies of Corporeality in Early Modern Europe* (Routledge, 1997).
- Peter Stallybrass and Ann Rosalind Jones, "The Circulation of Clothes and the Making of the English Theater," *Renaissance Clothing and the Materials of Memory* (Cambridge U P, 2000).
- Juliet Fleming, "Tattoo," *Graffiti and the Writing Arts of Early Modern England* (U of Pennsylvania/Reaktion, 2001).
- Natasha Korda, "The Tragedy of the Handkerchief: Female Paraphernalia and the Properties of Jealousy in *Othello*," *Shakespeare's Domestic Economies: Gender and Property in Early Modern England* (U of Pennsylvania P, 2002).

3/4 **Case Study: Othello: Race-Religion-Gender-Sexuality: Ana**

- Michael Neill, "'Mulattos,' 'Blacks,' and 'Indian Moors': *Othello* and Early Modern Constructions of Human Difference," *Shakespeare Quarterly* 49:4 (1998).
- Ania Loomba, "Introduction: Race and Colonialism in the Study of Shakespeare," "The Vocabularies of Race," "Othello and the Racial Question," in *Shakespeare, Race, and Colonialism* (Oxford U P, 2002).
- Daniel Vitkus, "Othello Turns Turk," *Turning Turk: English Theater and the Multicultural Mediterranean, 1570-1630* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2003).
- Mary Floyd Wilson, "Introduction: The Marginal English," and "Othello's Jealousy," *English Ethnicity and Race in Early Modern Drama* (Cambridge U P, 2003).

3/11 **Humoral Minds and Bodies: Early Modern Psychophysiology: Zack, Jennifer**

- Michael Schoenfeldt, "Bodies of Rule: Embodiment and Interiority in Early Modern England," *Bodies and Selves in Early Modern England: Physiology and Inwardness in Spenser, Shakespeare, Herbert, and Milton* (Cambridge U P, 1999).
- Gail Kern Paster, "The Unbearable Coldness of Female Being: Women's Imperfection and the Humoral Economy," *ELR: English Literary Renaissance* 28:3 (1998).
- John Sutton, Introduction & Chapters 1, 2, & 3, *Philosophy and Memory Traces: Descartes to Connectionism* (Cambridge U P, 1998).

3/18 **Material Bodies in a Sexual World: Sally, Cassie**

- Laura Gowing, "The Politics of Touch" and "Consent and Desire," *Common Bodies: Women, Touch and Power in Seventeenth-Century England* (Yale, 2003).
- Alan Bray, "The Body of the Friend," *The Friend* (U of Chicago P, 2003).
- Cynthia Herrup, "Finding the Bodies," *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 5:3 (1999).
- David Halperin, "How to do the History of Male Homosexuality," *How to do the History of Homosexuality* (U of Chicago P, 2002).

3/25 **Pornography and the Pedagogy of Sex: Will, Tip**

- James Turner, \*\*\*, *Schooling Sex: Libertine Literature and Erotic Education in Italy, France, and England, 1534-1685* (Oxford: 2003).
- Betty Talvacchia, \*\*\*, *Taking Positions: On the Erotic in Renaissance Culture* (Princeton: 1999).

Bryant Ragan and Jeffrey Merrick, eds., pamphlet from *Homosexuality in Early Modern France: A Documentary Collection* (New York: Oxford U P, 2001).

Thomas Nashe, "The Choice of Valentines."

Aretino? Jacob Giles?

4/1 **Medicine, Midwifery, Monsters: Kate, Patricia, Allison**

Kathryn M. Moncrief and Kathryn McPherson, eds., \*\*\*, *Performing Maternity in Early Modern England* (forthcoming).

Naomi Miller and Naomi Yavneh, eds., \*\*\*, *Maternal Measures: Figuring Caregiving in the Early Modern Period* (Ashgate, 2000).

Jonathan Gil Harris, \*\*\*, *Sick Economies: Drama, Mercantilism, and Disease in Shakespeare's England* (U Pennsylvania P, 2004).

Something on monsters?