

HIV budding

Week 9

The Sick Body

How is the sick body constructed within our society? What we want to consider this week are the frameworks and discourses which define the location of the sick body and what it means. Importantly, we want to think about how very real physical process that relate to illness and disease can be understood.

Essential reading:

Lupton, D. 'The social construction of medicine and the body' from Albrecht, G. et al *The Handbook of Social Studies in Health and Medicine*, London: Sage, 2003

Ogdon, B. 'Through the Image: Nicholas Nixon's "People with AIDS" ' *Discourse*, 23.3, Fall 2001, pp. 75–105.

Further reading:

Bardella, C. 'Pilgrimages of the Plagued: AIDS, Body and Society *Body & Society* 2002 8: 79-10

Corker, M. & Shakespeare, T. *Disability/Postmodernity: Embodying Disability Theory*, London: Continuum

Sontag, S. *Illness as Metaphor*, London: Penguin, 1991

Williams, S. *Medicine and the Body*, London: Sage

Wilton, T. *Antibody Politic: AIDS and Society*, Cheltenham: New Clarion Press, 1992

Williams, S. et al. *Health, Medicine & Society: Key Theories, Future Agendas*, London: Routledge, 2000

Questions for discussion in class:

1. Why is it useful to consider health and illness as social constructions?
2. What does poststructuralist theory contribute to this analytic approach?
3. What makes HIV/AIDS a particularly strong case for analysis in this way?
4. How does the photographic image function for the understanding of HIV/AIDS

Film Screening: *Teknolust* (2002)



Week 10

The Cloned Body

Ever since news of the cloning of Dolly the sheep in 1996 the media has been predicting the potential for this type of biotechnology to transform our bodies and our lives. Although human reproductive cloning did not emerge in this period, therapeutic human cloning has emerged as a scientific practice, and the first UK human therapeutic clone was produced in 2004. Developments in stem cell and cloning research, it is claimed, will offer us the prospect of being able to grow 'spare' body parts and to replace diseased or damaged tissue. This week we will consider this issue to determine what cultural values define the beliefs in such ideas.

Essential reading:

O'Riordan, K. 'Human Cloning in Film: Horror, Ambivalence, Hope' *Science as Culture* Vol. 17, No. 2, 145 – 162, June 2008

Parikka, J. 'Insects, Sex, and Biodigitality in Lynn Hershman Leeson's *Teknolust*' available at:

<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/pmc/v017/17.2parikka.html>, 2007

Further reading:

Baudrillard, J. 'The Final Solution: Cloning Beyond the Human and Inhuman', in *The Vital Illusion* (New York: Columbia UP, 2000)

Harris, J. *Clones, Genes, and Immortality: Ethics and the Genetic Revolution* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998

Peteresen, A. 'Replicating Our Bodies, Losing Our Selves: News Media Portrayals of Human Cloning in the Wake of Dolly' *Body & Society* 2002 8: 71-90

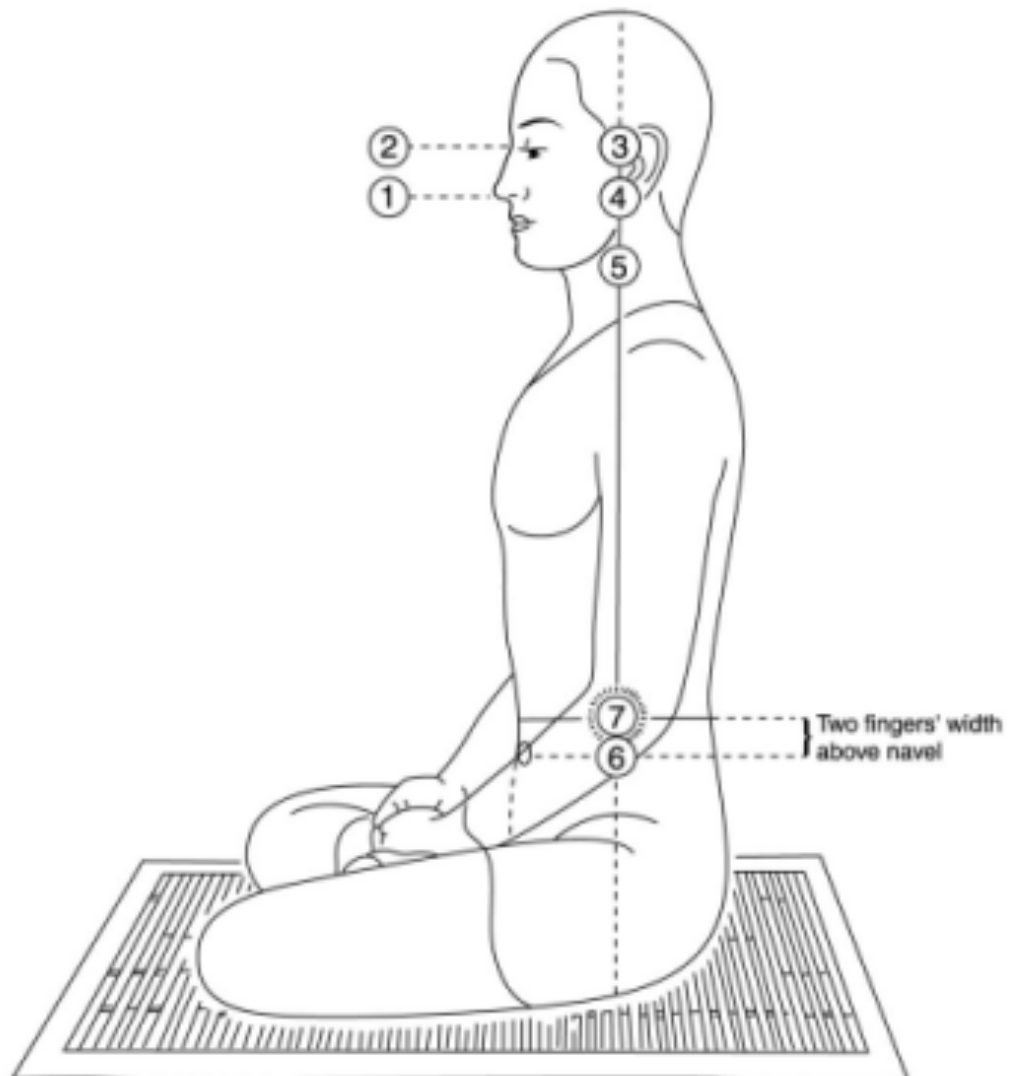
Questions for discussion in class:

1. Why is the fictional portrayal of human cloning framed by a discourse of horror?
2. What is the relationship between the fictional representations of cloning and the media reporting of the subject?
3. How has cloning been portrayed within popular film?
4. What connections does *Teknolust* develop from the cloning process?

Week 11

Essay Preparation

This week is set aside for individual and group discussion of the first written assignment which is due in after the Christmas vacation.



Meditation