

Remembering the Body: Surfacing Critical Insights Into the Body's Role in Organizations

AOM Paper Panel Symposium

Monday, August 8, 2022

9 - 10:30AM

Sponsored by:

Critical Management Scholars Division



Creating A Better World Together

82nd Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management

5-9 August 2022 | Seattle, Washington, USA | A Hybrid Experience

WHY FOCUS ON THE BODY

“Making the body’s involvement in organizing more visible may help management scholars address **today’s grand challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and social unrest related to race, gender and class** since these issues all involve the body or how certain bodies are treated.”

Thomas, Archibold and Stephens, 2022

“THE BODY” AND EMBODIMENT

- What is embodiment?
 - Common thesis: bodily states influence or modify states of the mind
 - Common themes: the body as “situated,” socio-material practices, body as constructed/distorted/transforming
 - We advance:
 - Embodiment is a theoretical lens spanning fields such as philosophy, cognitive psychology, social psychology, neuroscience, and management, among others, that foregrounds the role of bodily sensation, perception and movement in human experience and meaning-making (e.g., Clark, 1998; Damasio, 1999; Michel, 2009; Niedenthal et al., 2009; Sheets-Johnstone, 2008).
- What do we mean by “the body” in organizations?
 - “the lived body” (Crossley, 1996; Merleau-Ponty, 1969)
 - “body work “: the material body, the body’s meaning, the body’s functionality (Lawrence, et al., 2022)
 - “the sensing body” - aesthetics (Stephens, 2021, others)
 - “the gendered body” (Pullen, 2009; Pullen, et al., 2017; Thanem, 2015)
 - “the controlled body” or “the othered body” (Michel, 2011, Thomas & Archibold, 2022)

AN EMBODIMENT MOVEMENT

Contributing to Our Embodied History

- AOM 2020 Annual Meeting (Virtual) – Panel Symposium

Advancing the Body as a “Locus of Inquiry”

- Creary & Locke, 2020; De Rond, et al., 2019; Lepisto, 2020; and others

Our Evolving Contributions: Some of Our Work

- Othered and Obscured Bodies – “Out of Body Experiences”
- Embodiment Methodologies
- Conflict and the Body
- Ritual and the Body
- “The Body” and Coordination in Teams

RUN OF PROGRAM

Introduction and Welcome (10 min)

Paper Presentations (40 min, 10 minutes each)

Organizational Body Work, presented by Rohini Jalan

Striving for the Perfect Ballet Bodies, presented by Joel Gardner

Bodies that Stand Together, presented by Alison Pullen

The Emergence of New Bodies, presented by Alexandra Michel

Discussant Remarks (20 min)

Audience Questions and Comments (15 min)

Concluding Remarks (5 min)