

## **Body Politics: Foreign Bodies**

Department of Performance Studies  
H42.2032/25523 (Fall 2005)

### **Syllabus**

Karen Shimakawa ([kshimakawa@nyu.edu](mailto:kshimakawa@nyu.edu))

Dept. of Performance Studies  
721 Broadway, Room 635  
212 998 1561

Dept. of Social and Cultural Analysis, Program in Asian/Pacific/American Studies  
41 E. 11<sup>th</sup> St., Room 705  
212 998 9045

### **class meetings**

Wednesdays 12:30-3:15p  
721 Broadway, Rm. 636

### **office hours**

Tuesdays, 3-5p<sup>1</sup>  
Thursdays, 10:30a-12nn<sup>2</sup>  
& by appointment

### **required texts**

Rustom Bharucha, *The Politics of Cultural Practice: Thinking Through Theatre in an Age of Globalization* (2000: Wesleyan Univ. Press)

Lennard J. Davis, *Bending Over Backwards: Essays on Disability and the Body* (foreword by Michael Berube) (2002: NYU Press)

Judith Halberstam, *In a Queer Time and Place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives* (2005: NYU Press)

N. Katherine Hayles, *How We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature, and Informatics* (1999: Univ. of Chicago Press)

Jose Muñoz, *Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics* (1999, Univ. of Minnesota Press)

Lisa Nakamura, *Cybertypes: Race, Ethnicity and Identity on the Internet* (2002: Routledge Press)

A. David Napier, *The Age of Immunology: Conceiving a Future in an Alienating World* (2003: Univ. of Chicago Press)

Soundwalk [<http://www.soundwalk.com> -- link on Blackboard]

### **assignments**

Reading/posting: on the night before class, I would like everyone to post some brief thoughts, questions, concerns re the upcoming material to the discussion group (on Blackboard). The discussion facilitators and I will post questions/challenges that we feel may be particularly fruitful avenues of inquiry w/respect to these readings; you are asked to respond to those prompts, but may (and are encouraged to) post on other issues that "hook" you as well. Posts should be relatively brief and are due no later than **8a on Wednesday morning**.

Discussion facilitation: for each class meeting, 1-2 people will be responsible for co-facilitating discussion with me. In preparation for that, the students on call for a given week should read the material in advance, and compose (separately or collaboratively) 2-3 issues/challenges/questions regarding that week's

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<sup>1</sup> in Performance Studies

<sup>2</sup> in SCA

assignment that I will post on the discussion board, and to which the rest of the students will respond in their posts. These prompts are due to me no later than **8a on Monday morning**.

Papers/presentations: depending on the size of the class, I'd like to have everyone give a brief (10-12 minute) presentation of their research in a "conference" on the last day of class (**12/14**). Final papers are due by **6p Friday, 12/16**.

schedule

date	assignment	on call
9/7	introduction, etc.	
9/14	Sklar, "Bodylore" (BB) Lingis, "The Subjectification of the Body" and "Imperative Surfaces"	Adina & Claudia
9/21	Wainwright and Turner, "Narratives of Embodiment" Hewitt, "Stumbling and Legibility"	Kim & Justine
9/28	Davis, <i>Bending Over Backwards</i> Candlin, "Don't Touch!" (BB)	Michi & Alison
10/5	Hyams, "Over There and Back then" (BB) Hewitt, "America Makes me Sick!" (R) Harvey, "The body as an accumulation strategy" (R) Ali, "Reading Racialized Bodies" (R)	Aniko
10/12	Nakamura, <i>Cybertypes</i>	Leah
10/19	Hayles, <i>How We Became Posthuman</i>	Claudia & Melissa
10/26	Saltman, "Strong Arm of the Law"(BB) Schech and Haggis, "Postcolonialism, Identity and Location" (R) Robinson, "Spaces of Democracy" (R) Gunew, "Technologies of the Self" (BB)	Stella
11/2	Bharucha, <i>The Politics of Culture</i>	Sarah & Anurima
11/9	Muñoz, <i>Disidentifications</i>	Ricky
11/16	Halberstam, <i>In a Queer Time and Place</i>	Tina
11/23	no class (administrative Monday) <b>deadline to talk to me re paper topics</b>	
11/30	Soundwalk	
12/7	Napier, <i>The Age of Immunology</i>	
12/14	student presentations	
12/16	final papers due (email OK) by 6p	