The Body Multiple: Ontology in Medical Practice

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The Body Multiple

Amennare Mol 2002-12-27 The Body Multiple is an extraordinary ethnography of an ordinary disease. Drawing on fieldwork in a Dutch university hospital, Amennare Mol looks at the day-to-day-diagnosis and treatment of atherosclerosis. A patient information leaflet might describe atherosclerosis as the gradual obstruction of the arteries, but in hospital practice this one medical condition appears to be many other things. From one moment, place, attribute, specialty, or treatment, to the next, a slightly different “atherosclerosis” is being discussed, measured, observed, or stripped away. This multiplicity does not only fragment; instead, the disease is made to cohere through a range of tactics including transporting forms and files, making images, holding case conferences, and conducting doctor-patient conversations. The Body Multiple juxtaposes two distinct texts. Alongside Mol’s analysis of her ethnographic material—interviews with doctors and patients and observations of medical examinations, consultations, and operations—runs a parallel text in which she reflects on the relevant literature. Mol draws on medical anthropology, sociology, feminist theory, philosophy, and science and technology studies to reframe such issues as the disease-illness distinction, subject-object relations, boundaries, difference, situatedness, and ontological change. In dialogue with one another, Mol’s two texts mediate on the multiplicity of reality-in-practice. Presenting philosophical reflections on the body and medical practice through vivid storytelling, The Body Multiple will be important to those in medical anthropology, philosophy, and the social study of science, technology, and medicine.

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Differences in Medicine-Marc Berg 1998 The way different medical practices differently construct their object.

A Heart for the Working Claire L. Wendland 2013-10-01 Burnout is common among doctors in the West, so one might assume that a medical career in Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world, would place far greater strain on doctors. But a recent study of medical graduates appears to refute this: Working in medically underserved areas is associated with positive psychological outcomes. The study suggests that doctors who work in Malawi’s most rural locations are more likely to experience positive emotions, and less likely to experience negative emotions, than their colleagues in large urban hospitals. The study also found that doctors who work in rural areas are more likely to report feeling valued and appreciated by their patients and colleagues, and less likely to report feeling overworked and burned out. The study’s findings have important implications for the recruitment and retention of doctors in underserved areas, and for the design of interventions to improve the mental health of medical professionals.
Improvising Medicine

Pharmaceutical Reason—Andrew Lakoff 2004-06-15 Andrew Lakoff argues that a new “pharmaceutical” view of thinking about and acting upon medical disorder is coming to reshape not only the field of psychiatry, but also our very notions of self. Drawing from a comprehensive ethnography of psychiatric practice in Argentina (a country which boasts the most psychologist/counsels per capita in the world) Lakoff looks at new ways of understanding and intervening in human behavior. He reveals that the pharmaceutical view disavows the globalization of pharmacology, particularly the global impact of US psychiatry and US models of illness, and further illustrates the clashes, conflicts, alliances, and engagements that take place when psychopharmacology and psychopharmacological models of illness and cure meet. Highlighting the social and political implications that new forms of expertise about human behavior and human thought bring, Lakoff presents an arresting case-study that will appeal to scholars and students alike.

Virality—Tony D. Sampson 2012 In this thought-provoking work, Tony D. Sampson presents a contagion theory fit for the age of networks. While memes and microbial contagion theories of Virality do not reach itself to biological analogues and medical metaphors. It instead points toward a theory of contagion assemblies, events, and actions. For Sampson, contagion is not necessarily a positive or negative force of encounter; it is how society comes together and relates. Sampson argues that a biological knowledge of contagion has been universally distributed by way of the rhetoric of fear used in the antiretroviral industry and other popular discourses surrounding sexuality and gender. Sampson’s theory articulates an approach to medicine that ultimately shapes the healthcare community’s understanding of what pain medicine is, how it should be practiced and regulated, and how practitioner-patient relationships are best managed. He offers not only insightful analysis of how healthcare communications in pain medicine is effectively conducted, but also a new way for scholars to examine healthcare communications in other areas that combines aspects of traditional rhetorical theory with multiple ontologies theory as it has been developed recently in the field of science and technology.

Rewriting the Soul—Hacking 1998-08-23 At Focault once identified a politics that centers on the body and another that centers on organizations and the body, which organizes the human populace, has Hacking now provided a masterful description of the politics of memory: the scientific of the soul and the wounds it can receive.

The Politics of Pain Medicine—S. Graham 2015-11-17 Pain medicine is a complex field that has undergone significant evolution in recent decades regarding not just its treatments but its treatments it employs but in the very definition of the field itself. Pain medicine is practiced by more than 20 different medical disciplines and subspecialties. In particular, there are several areas as subareas of research and practice, one of which can be complicated and contentious, even when addressing questions as fundamental as whether or not a particular pain-related medical condition, for example a pain patient in chronic pain. As Sampson points out, the most immediate and practical issue in this regard is the question of what pain medicine is, how it should be practiced, and how practitioner-patient relationships are best managed. Sampson argues not only insightful analysis of how healthcare communications in pain medicine is effectively conducted, but also a new way for scholars to examine healthcare communications in other areas that combines aspects of traditional rhetorical theory with multiple ontologies theory as it has been developed recently in the field of science and technology.

Ecologies of Knowledge—Susan Leigh Star 1995-01-01 This collection of articles provides a comprehensive overview of personal and public issues related to social change and how they shape scientific and technical knowledge.

Government of Paper—Matthew S. Hall 2004-06-05 “Drawing inspiration from actor-network theory, science studies, and semiotics, this brilliant book makes us completely rethink the workings of bureaucracy as analyzed by Max Weber and James Scott. Matthew Hall demonstrates convincingly how the materiality of signs truly matters for understanding the projects of the state.” – Katherine Verhey, author of What was Socialism, and What Comes Next? “We are used to studies of roads and rails as central material infrastructure for the making of modern states. But what of records, the reams and reams of paper that inscribe the state-in-making? This is an excellent and brilliant book inquires into the materiality of information in colonial and postcolonial Pakistan. This is a work of signal importance for our understanding of the rails as central material infrastructure for the making of modern states. But what of records, the reams and reams of paper that inscribe the state-in-making? This is an excellent and brilliant book inquires into the materiality of information in colonial and postcolonial Pakistan. This is a work of signal importance for our understanding of the projects of ‘the state.’” – Katherine Verdery, author of What was Socialism, and What Comes Next?

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nor a catalogue of substantive themes such as race, community, or space; it also avoids re-hashing epistemological debates, such as grounded theory versus the extended case method. Instead, this volume concisely lays out the predominant analytic lenses that ethnographers use to explain social action—for instance, whether they privilege micro-interaction or social structure, people and places or social processes, internal dispositions or situational contingencies. Each chapter features a prominent ethnographer delineating a distinct approach to the study of everyday life and reflecting on how their approach shapes the way they analyze and represent the field. Taken together, the collection is a practical guide that spells out how different styles of ethnography illuminate different dimensions of everyday social life. As such, Approaches to Ethnography complements and augments—not duplicate—existing ethnographic methods and logic of inquiry texts for undergraduate and graduate courses on qualitative research methods.

Picturing Personhood

Joseph Dumit 2004 Based on interviews, media analysis, and participant observation at research labs and conferences, then author analyzes how assumptions designed into and read out of the experimental process reinforce specific notions about human nature. Such assumptions can enter the process at any turn, from selecting subjects and mathematical models to deciding which images to publish and how to color them. Once they leave the laboratory, PET scans shape social debates, influence courtroom outcomes, and have positive and negative consequences for people suffering mental illness. The author follows this complex story, demonstrating how brain scans, as scientific objects, contribute to our increasing social dependence on scientific authority.

Process Selection

K. G. Swift 2003-06-02 The definitive practical guide to choosing the optimum manufacturing process, written for students and engineers. Process Selection provides engineers with the essential technological and economic data to guide the selection of manufacturing processes. This fully revised second edition covers a wide range of important manufacturing processes and will ensure design decisions are made to achieve optimal cost and quality objectives. Expanded and updated to include contemporary manufacturing, fabrication and assembly technologies, the book puts process selection and costing into the context of modern product development and manufacturing, based on parameters such as materials requirements, design considerations, quality and economic factors. Key features of the book include: manufacturing process information maps (PRIMAs) provide detailed information on the characteristics and capabilities of 65 processes and their variants in a standard format; process capability charts detail the processing tolerance ranges for key material types; strategies to facilitate process selection; detailed methods for estimating costs, both at the component and assembly level. The approach enables an engineer to understand the consequences of design decisions on the technological and economic aspects of component manufacturing, fabrication and assembly. This comprehensive book provides both a definitive guide to the subject for students and an invaluable source of reference for practising engineers. * manufacturing process information maps (PRIMAs) provide detailed information on the characteristics and capabilities of 65 processes in a standard format * process capability charts detail the processing tolerance ranges for key material types * detailed methods for estimating costs, both at the component and assembly level

Microsociology

Thomas J. Scheff 1990 Moving beyond the traditional boundaries of sociological investigation, Thomas J. Scheff brings together the study of communication and the social psychology of emotions to explore the microworld of thoughts, feelings, and moods. Drawing on strikingly diverse and rich sources—the findings of artificial intelligence and cognitive science, and examples from literary dialogues and psychiatric interviews—Scheff provides an inventive account of the nature of social life and a theory of motivation that brilliantly accounts for the immense complexity involved in understanding even the most routine conversation. "A major contribution to some central debates in social theory at the present time. . . . What Thomas Scheff seeks to develop is essentially a quite novel account of the nature of social life, its relation to language and human reflexivity, in which he insists upon the importance of a theory of emotion. . . . A work of true originality and jolting impact. . . . Microsociology is of exceptional interest, which bears witness to the very creativity which it puts at the center of human social contact."—Anthony Giddens, from the Foreword "Scheff provides a rich theory that can easily generate further exploration. And he drives home the message that sociological work on interaction, social bonds, and society cannot ignore human emotionality."—Camille Clark, American Journal of Sociology "This outstanding and ground-breaking little volume contains a wealth of original ideas that bring together many insights concerning the relationship of emotion to motivation in a wide variety of social settings. It is strongly recommended to all serious students of emotion, of society, and of human nature."—Neil R. Lusky, American Journal of Psychiatry

Relations

Marilyn Strathern 2010-04-28 The concept of relation holds a privileged place in how anthropologists think and write about the social and cultural lives they study. In Relations, eminent anthropologist Marilyn Strathern provides a critical account of this key concept and its usage and significance in the English-speaking world. Exploring relation’s changing articulations and meanings over the past three centuries, Strathern shows how the historical idiosyncrasy of using an epistemological term for kinpersons (“relation”) was bound up with evolving ideas about knowledge-making and kin-making. She shows how philosophical debates about relation—such as Leibniz’s reaction to Locke—and what became its definitive place in anthropological exposition, elucidating the underlying assumptions and conventions of its use. She also calls for scholars in anthropology and beyond to take up the limitations of Western relational thinking, especially against the background of present ecological crises and interest in multispecies relations. In weaving together analyses of kin-making and knowledge-making, Strathern opens up new ways of thinking about the contours of epistemic and relational possibilities while questioning the limits and potential of ethnographic methods.

Citrus

Pierre Lazlo 2008-10-1 Lazlo traces the spectacular rise and spread of citrus across the globe, from southeast Asia in 4000 BC to modern Spain and Portugal, where explorers introduced the fruit to the Americas. This book explores the numerous roles that citrus has played in agriculture, horticulture, cooking, nutrition, religion, and art.

Murambi

Boubacar Boris Diop 2006 A novel about the 1994 slaughter of nearly a million Rwandans.

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