

Séminaire de recherche Laboratoire d'études des sciences et des techniques / STSLab

Mercredi 9 mars 2016 : 15h30-18h

Université de Lausanne, salle 2207 Bâtiment Géopolis. Arrêt M1 : Mouline.

Séance ouverte à toute personne intéressée

Gender Technologies and Medical Practices: On Internal Exams, Uterus Transplantation, and the Aging Prostate

Jenny GLEISNER. “Making the insensitive man: Medical students learning to do private internal exams”

Abstract: Medical students learn to examine the patient body. Some exams are described as more sensitive than other, both to those who are examined and to those who examine. By looking at how two intimate, internal examinations are taught and practiced– the prostate exam and the bimanual pelvic exam – I show how the male and the female medical body are shaped in very different ways. While the gynecological exam is constructed as an emotionally sensitive exam that needs to be handled with care, the prostate exam is treated as any other (rectal) exam. In the research project I bring together feminist science studies and emotions in professional settings to explore how the medical body is known and how it is constructed in practice as an in/sensitive subject. The presentation will focus specifically on the different situations where students practiced doing gynecological exams and prostate exams.

Jenny Gleisner is a post-doctoral scholar at the Department of Thematic Studies - Technology and Social Change, Linköping University. In her research she explores how students within the medical field of practice learn and negotiate norms about the body as well as norms about professional feeling. Currently she is studying medical students learning to do prostate exams and bimanual pelvic exams. Her publications include “The good and normal pain - Midwives perception of pain in childbirth” (2013) in *Dimensions of Pain*, Routledge Studies in Health and Illness and *Negotiating the Normal Birth: Norms and Emotions in Midwifery Education* (2013), Linköping Studies in Arts and Science.

Lisa GUNTRAM. “A gift for life? Tracing notions of “need” in the Swedish development of uterus transplantation”

In autumn 2012, the first world-wide systematic attempt to perform live related uterus transplantation (henceforth called UTx) combined with IVF took place at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Sweden, when a daughter received her mother's uterus (Brännström et al., 2015). In an ongoing project I explore sociocultural, ethical and relational negotiations taking place as this innovation develops in Sweden from the perspectives of various actors – e.g. medical professionals, patients and prospective patients and politicians. Against a backdrop of feminist, philosophical and social scientific perspectives on relational dimensions and discourses of “gift giving” in medical practices such as assisted reproductive technologies (ART) and organ donation it also examines how sociocultural norms are enacted in this this development. In my presentation I will specifically attempt to trace how the notion of “need” take shape across various accounts and tentatively discuss the impact of such “shaping” in the formation of “UTx ethics”.



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Lisa Guntram is a post-doctoral scholar at the Department of Thematic Studies – Technology and Social Change, Linköping University. In her research she takes an interest in embodiment, sexuality and gender and specifically how sociocultural norms and beliefs shapes, and are shaped in, medical innovations and intervention, relationships and sexual encounters. Previously, Dr. Guntram has explored ‘atypical’ sex development and organ donation and she is currently examining live, related, uterus transplantation. Her publications include ‘Creating, maintaining and questioning (hetero)relational normality in narratives about vaginal reconstruction’ in *Feminist Theory* 2013, and “Differently normal” and “normally different”: Negotiations of female embodiment in women’s accounts of ‘atypical’ sex development’ in *Social Science & Medicine*, 2013.

Ericka JOHNSON. “A Constant Torment. Tracing the discursive contours of the aging prostate.”

I will be speaking about a research project which employs Medical Sociology, History of Medicine, STS & Medicine, and Feminist Science Studies in collaborative work around an evocative object, the aging prostate. It looks at the material discursive practices surrounding medical technologies and their roles in how we conceive of and challenge gendered subject positions and bodily knowledges. Each of the projects within this study traces the contours and textures of discourses that produce the aging prostate in different incarnations. Some examine cultural and historical constructions of the prostate as a node of pain, discomfort, and angst, using interviews and archive material. Others explore the medical discourses (including material semiotic practices), which enact the prostate as a discrete anatomical object to be physically examined and surgically removed, using observations, interviews, and analysis of medical discourses. And some projects delineate how the prostate is known and invoked in its absence, after surgical removal, using post-structuralist analysis of interview material.

Ericka Johnson is a lecturer at the Department of Thematic Studies, Technology and Social Change. Her research has looked at medical technologies and their relationship to the patient body and gender. Currently she is working on discursive constructions of the aging prostate. Her publications include *Gendering Drugs. Feminist studies of pharmaceuticals* (2016), Palgrave, *Glocal Pharma. International Brands and the Imagination of Local Masculinity* (with Ebba Sjögren & Cecilia Åsberg, 2015), Ashgate, the edited volume *Technology and Medical Practice: Blood Guts and Machines* (with Boel Berner, 2010), Ashgate, and *Dreaming of a Mail Order Husband* (2007), Duke University Press.

Discutant: Blaise-Julien MEYRAT

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