Bodies can be collective, material, medicalized, biological, sexual, queer, trans, normative, political, racial, transnational, ecological, historical, useful, global, affective, gendered, disabled, surveilled, controlled, subjected, transformed, enhanced, engineered, empowered, organized, managed, discursive, aesthetic, translated, theorized, aging, acting, voting, merging, migrating, moving, constructing, creating, performing.

What does it mean to study the body today? How are scholars thinking about them?

The Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh invites abstracts for a transdisciplinary conference:

Doing the Body in the 21st Century
March 31-April 2, 2016

However conceived—as embodied subjectivities or collectivities, as bodies of literature or land mass—bodies remain the sites and subjects of theorizing, engineering, action, affect, art, and control. At this cultural moment with global technologies shrinking distances between some bodies, yet exposing chasms between others, at a time when STEM is transforming the humanities and arts, considerations of how bodies of all types are represented, theorized, studied, and transformed are themselves in a period of transition.

Because the study of the body and of bodies has changed dramatically in the last decade, we propose to gather a group of diverse scholars to talk across traditional disciplines, and to take stock of where these studies are and where they are heading.

Papers considering studies of the body or bodies are sought for a conference to be held March 31-April 2, 2016 at the University of Pittsburgh.

Keynote speakers include:
Ann Cvetkovich (University of Texas, Austin), Michelle Murphy (University of Toronto), Robert McRuer (The George Washington University, Washington DC), Karma Chávez (University of Wisconsin, Madison), Toby Beauchamp (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign).

Submission information:
Please send a 200-word abstract for a twenty-minute paper on some aspect of the body/bodies to bodyconf@pitt.edu by October 15, 2015. Panels of three abstracts on a related topic are also welcome.

While all proposals on the topic are welcome, we plan to have clusters of panels employing diverse tools to investigate affect, migration, disability, transgender corporealities, and the power and products of technologies both established and emerging. We take “technologies” in the broadest sense of the term: digital, medical, media, textual, symbolic, scientific, engineering, nano, micro, macro, global, military, creative, destructive, defensive, constructive, transformative, transgressive.

Scholars with salient book manuscripts to be published in 2015-2016 are encouraged to nominate their work for sessions in which the author discusses pre-circulated work with conference attendees.

For more information please visit body.pitt.edu