



CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF
MEDICINE AND THE BODY
IN THE RENAISSANCE



GESELLSCHAFT FÜR GESCHICHTE
DER WISSENSCHAFTEN, DER MEDIZIN
UND DER TECHNIK



INSTITUTIO SANTORIANA
FONDAZIONE COMEL

UNIVERSITY OF
EXETER



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
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STUDIO FIRMANO
PER LA STORIA DELL'ARTE MEDICA E DELLA SCIENZA

CSMBR
ONLINE
EVENTS

EXTREME BODIES

18
SEPTEMBER
2021
2.30 - 3.30 pm CET

NORM, EXCESS, AND TRANSGRESSION IN WESTERN MEDICINE

Organiser:

Fabrizio BIGOTTI
JMU Würzburg, CSMBR.
University of Exeter

Panellists:

Alexander PYRGES
University of Würzburg

Yijie HUANG
University of Cambridge

Marsha WUBBELS
University of Exeter

Holly FLETCHER
University of Sussex

Long before being measured, the body has been a unit of measurement and a canon in that it defines the norm within which health can be maintained and life can persist. As all in-formal parameters, whose existence and value predate their conceptual manipulation – their apprehension being individual, private, implicit, and prelinguistic – the body-canon has defined the range of what is normal and abnormal in terms of excess and defect. However, the existence of different ways to express

the normal and the abnormal across societies and cultures, in learned as well as in popular literature, inevitably plays a role in how the body is experienced, generating an array of cultural presuppositions, stereotypes, and expectations. In exploring some of them (with regards to anatomy, pulse, fat, body weight, etc.) This panel presents some of these entanglements, showing how the implications of the 'nature vs nurture debate' have been a constant preoccupation in Western medicine and culture more generally.

[HTTPS://WWW.TECHNISCHESMUSEUM.AT/SCALES_CONFERENCE](https://www.technischesmuseum.at/scales_conference)