EXTREME BODIES

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.

18 SEPTEMBER 2021
2.30-3.30 pm CET

https://www.technischesmuseum.at/scales_conference