

New technologies and the way they change existing and introduce new body practices require us to re-think, re-imagine, and re-envision our embodied existence. As the German philosopher Peter Sloterdijk points out in his two controversial essays “Domestikation des Seins” and “Regeln für den Menschenpark”, communication technology and media are always already linked to the question of what it means to be an embodied being. Using technology does not only involve body practices, but these body practices shape body experiences and thus human self-understanding, or as Sloterdijk argues: “What humans become, depends on what they have at hands. Humanitas depends on the state of the art [...] Therefore, nothing alien happens to humans, if they expose themselves to further Hervorbringung and manipulation” (Nicht gerettet, 2001, p. 224).

This research seminar will examine the impact of technologically transformed body practices on the understanding of the human body from an interdisciplinary perspective involving religious studies, theology, philosophy, sociology, and media studies. It is part of a series of seminars in the context of the international and interdisciplinary research project “Commun(ica)ting Bodies” funded by the Austrian Science Fund FWF.

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# Anthropotechnologies

## Technologies and Their Impact on the Understanding of the Human Body

3-4 September 2012

University of Hull  
Department of Humanities / Religion

<http://communicating-bodies.net>



Image: Michael Hedwig

## Program

### Monday, 3 September 2012

9.00 – 9.15: **Opening, welcome, introduction**

9.15 – 10.15: **Messy Bodies and the Human Love of Machines**

Michael Hauskeller

Department of Sociology and Philosophy – University of Exeter

10.15 – 10.45 Coffee break

10.45 – 11.45: **Are Human-to-Animal Chimeras ‘natural’?**

Stella Gonzalez-Arnal

Department of Humanities / Philosophy – University of Hull

**11.45 – 12.45: Proofing the Supernatural. New Technologies and the Construction of Transcendental Bodies in the 19th Century**

Anna-Katharina Höpflinger

Center of Religion, Economy, and Politics – University of Zurich

12.45 – 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 – 15.00: **“You love life, but we love death.” Suicide Bombings and Drone Attacks**

Paul Gilbert

Department of Humanities / Philosophy – University of Hull

15.00 – 16.00: **Theorizing Beyond Technological Change: Agile Agency and Resistance Practices in Digital Networks**

Athina Karatzogianni

Department of Social Sciences – University of Hull

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break

16.30 – 17.30: **Of Imprints and Metaphors. SciFi and the Construction of Stubborn Bodies**

Alexander D. Ornella

Department of Humanities / Religion – University of Hull

### Tuesday, 4 September 2012

9.00 – 10.00: **Animation Technology, Animation Aesthetics: Fleischer’s use of the Rotoscope – and Disney’s Avoidance of It – in Animating the Bodies of ‘Realistic’ Human Characters in the late-1930s**

Amy M. Davis

Department of Humanities / Film Studies – University of Hull

10.00 – 11.00: **Bodies and Anti-Bodies. The Body as Symbol System of Good and Evil in Film**

Christian Feichtinger

Institute of Religious Studies – University of Graz

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 12.30: **Response, final discussion, where to go from here**

Christian Wessely

Institute of Fundamental Theology – University of Graz

**Location:** Wilberforce East, Lecture Room 32 (1st floor)

**Participation:** The research seminar is open to anyone interested, please register your participation with Alexander D. Ornella: [a.ornella@hull.ac.uk](mailto:a.ornella@hull.ac.uk).



Campus Map University of Hull:

<http://tinyurl.com/cdsegzs>